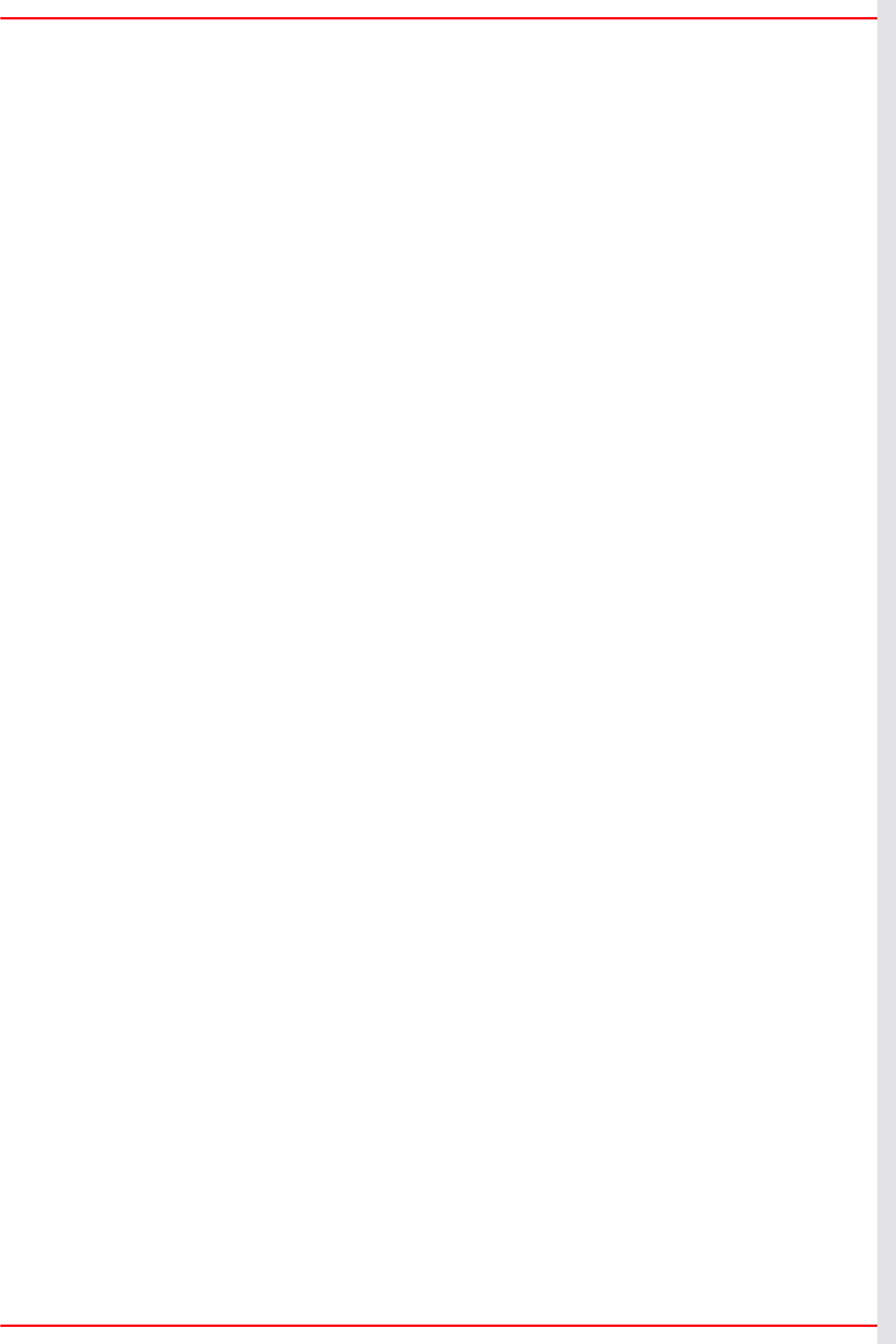




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**RANTS !**



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# **RANTS !**

**Jack the Turtle**

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**RANTS by Jack the Turtle © 2020.**

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Dedication

To the forty-seven percent

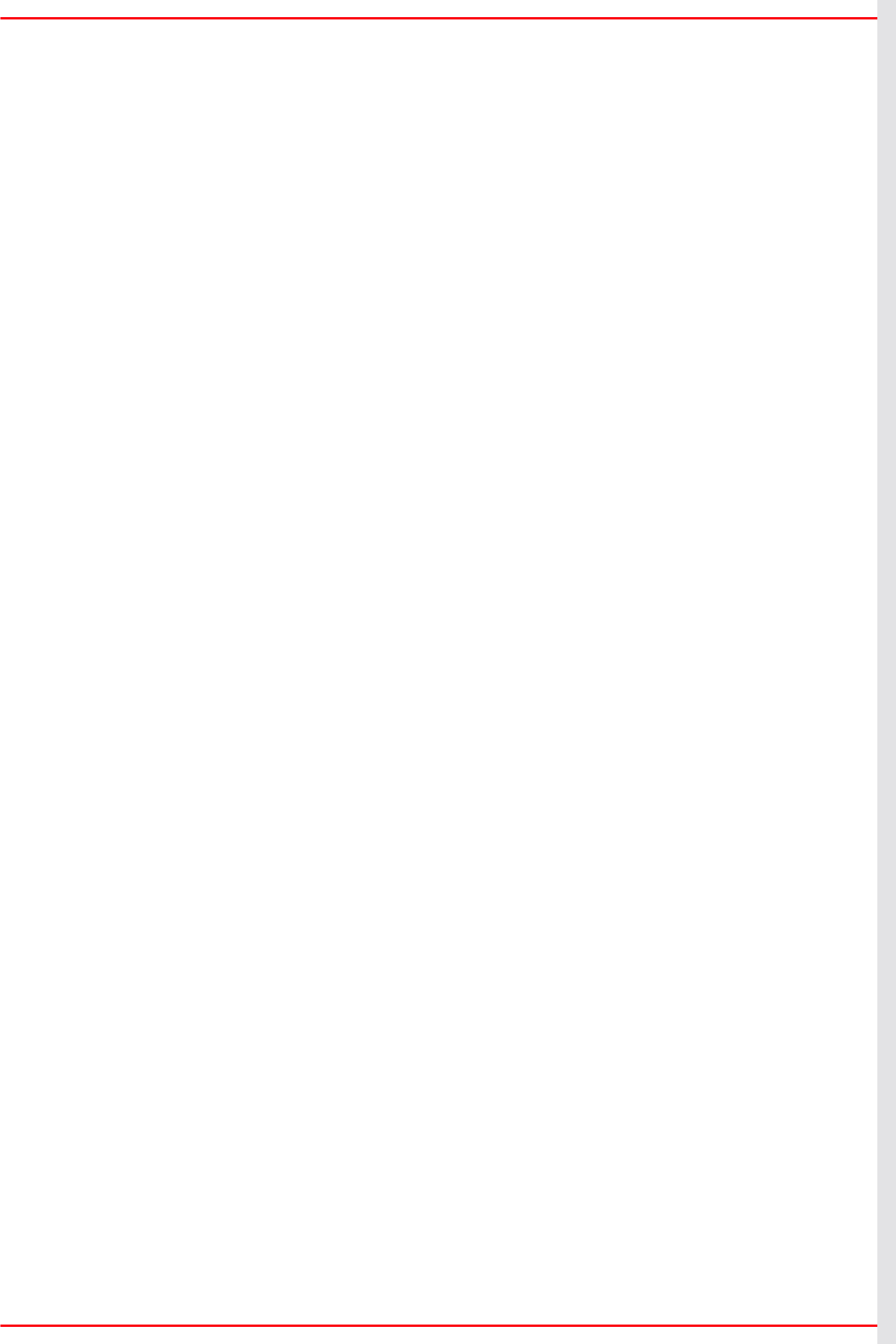
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## FORWARD!

Thanks for looking in on my collection of “Rants.”

You may be wondering why I felt called upon to write a series of short essays about what I felt were the profoundly serious shortcomings of our government.

If so, I would respond by saying that after watching my government favor the few over the many for almost half a century, I just got angry and stopped listening to their lame excuses for discriminating in favor of their friends and campaign backers and letting poverty spread here at home. I’m angry about being lied to by my public servants. I’m angry about having my hard-earned tax dollars spent by my public servants to enrich themselves, their friends, and their wealthy campaign backers, while disregarding the deplorable conditions so many of our citizens are forced to live in. They are corrupt, and it angers me that they proudly parade themselves before us and pretend to be otherwise. And it disgusts me that so many citizens allow them to do it without penalty.

These “rants” are a way I found to vent against the destructive actions taken against the ordinary citizens of America by Democrat and Republican politicians working together, “hands across the aisle,” in Washington over the past 50-60 years’ time.

As you will see reading through any of the rants in this collection, I would rather be shot dead than be labeled either a Democrat or Republican today. I believe that individually and collectively these two parties represent not only the greatest sources of graft, corruption, self-dealing, and duplicity ever assembled under one roof in all of recorded history; but also, that they represent the greatest threat to the “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” promised to us as our God-given rights in our Declaration of Independence.

In my opinion, both of these political parties have long outlived their usefulness and now constitute a threat to the survival of the American ideals so many fought and died to protect in the past.

My collection of rants began back in the mid-1990s.

I had already watched JFK and Lynden Johnson lie to us all for years to keep us involved in a war in Vietnam they knew was unwinnable, in the process unnecessarily destroying the lives of nearly 100,000 young American men (50,000 killed, and another 50,000 maimed and wounded).

Then I watched Nixon and Co. prosecute that same disastrous war further, also knowing all the time there was no way we were going to win. 8000 more lives lost unnecessarily.... plus, another 10,000 wounded and maimed for life.

After them there were a series of Democrats like Carter, Clinton, and Obama, and a few more Republicans like Ford, Reagan, and two named Bush; pretty much all cut from the same piece of whole cloth. And of course, most recently Trump, who claims to be a Republican, but really seems more and more like a reincarnation of Niccolo Machiavelli, or possibly Attila the Hun.

Along the way, we all watched and listened as they all lied to us all about our involvements in Panama, Grenada, The Falkland Islands, Somalia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Libya, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.... and most recently about Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Israel.

But all of these lies regarding foreign involvements combined didn't come close to equaling the lies they all told us about what was going on in our own country.

They lied every single day, and still do, about the economy, unemployment, under-employment, healthcare, poverty levels, illegal immigration, serious environmental problems, the true costs of inflating the currency supply, taxes, war funding, ongoing banker bailouts, and ongoing bailouts of commercial enterprises that were mismanaged to the point of bankruptcy by

their top executives, and to whom we gave trillions of dollars to save their shareholders from the effects of their greed and stupidity.

After the bailouts of the “*too big to fail*” wall Street and Commercial banks, multinationals, automobile manufacturers, and insurance companies, they encouraged us to look the other way and ignore it when the incompetent mega-corp CEOs were allowed to leave with huge (multi) multi-million dollar bonuses as rewards for their incompetence and the damages they inflicted on our country. Some of those incompetent CEOs were later invited to take cabinet posts in our government.

They lied about the reasons they asked us all to believe regarding wars they intended to start, what those wars would cost, what the benefits would be to American citizens if we won (which we never did), how long it would take to be victorious, when they would bring our troops home, and how we would be able to provide good paying jobs for them when they returned.

They lied to us about why they encouraged and rewarded our manufacturing businesses for leaving our country, and then they lied about why they then enacted trade agreements that would *guarantee* that most of the good jobs lost by manufacturing companies moving out of America would never return.

And at every turn they promised to help the displaced and least fortunate among us improve their lives, only to then turn around and funnel most of any available money to the most fortunate among us instead.

So yes, I’m angry, and I think you should be angry too. Hopefully, these rants will reawaken your memory and help make that happen. When you are properly angry and upset and are looking for a way to make things better, read the 69-page plan entitled “Common Sense – Revisited” located at [AmericaII.org](http://AmericaII.org)

Then let’s get to work.

Jack

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Footnote:

While arranging these rants for printing, some of the dates in the individual rants were changed to bring the rant current. Unfortunately, nothing much of substance relating to the topics of the rants themselves really changed in America between the time the rant was originally written and the more recent date when the rants were compiled into this book.

## **2020 Pledge of Allegiance**

I pledge allegiance to the flag,  
Of the red and blue states of America,  
And to the oligarchy for which it stands,  
One nation, divided,  
By two competing self-serving ideologies,  
With freedom and justice for all...  
Those who can afford them.

**A is A**

**(or)**

**The penalty for lying and accepting lies may be the  
death of the American Dream**

We need to stop lying in this country. We need to stop lying to each other and we need to stop lying to ourselves. We need to publicly denounce politicians who lie to us for whatever purpose, and we need to punish them for their lies by removing them from office.

Lying is pervasive in our society, especially in government, and unless it is curtailed, and soon, the penalty for America will be the death of the great American Dream, and the experiment in self-government that gave birth to it. And that, should it occur, would be ranked by history in future millennia as quite possibly the greatest tragedy to ever befall mankind.

America, with all its warts, is still today the last best hope of free men on earth. No other country in the world has even the slightest glimmer of hope of ever becoming what we once were, and with some elbow grease and a bit of luck can be again...the land of milk and honey, where the streets are paved with gold, and the nation by which all others are measured.

As this is being written in September of 2010, America is in the grips of deep and pervasive economic depression. In fact, the depression we are in now is by far the worst our country has ever seen. The professional politicians, media and the “government economists” dance around this truth and instead call our present condition a “great recession.”

In fact, the number of workers out of the total able workforce that are presently unemployed and counted by the government stands at somewhere between 9.5% and 10%. The number of workers out of the total able workforce that are presently unemployed, but not acknowledged as such by the government currently stands at a bit over 10%. And the number of workers out of the total able workforce that are presently severely under-employed and working at multiple jobs for a fraction of what they once earned from one GOOD job (with benefits) that was taken from them and given to 100-200 serfs in another country, another group whose existence isn't acknowledged by their government, currently stands at about 11%.

Each of the displaced workers in the combined (above) **31%** of the willing and able-bodied workforce also has an average of 2 others depending on him/her for their sustenance and support. Like children too young to work, grown children who can't find work, ill family members that are not suited for employment but whose needs must still be met, and parents and grandparents unable to make it on Social Security and Medicare alone and who now need help from their children.

The total number of citizens of all ages displaced from any form of economic security whatsoever in America now stands at over 141,000,000 people. 141 million people represent almost **47%** of the nation's total population. Ladies and gentlemen, that constitutes an economic depression. In the depths of the "great" depression of the 1930's and 1940's, the number of displaced citizens was roughly 1/3 of what it is right now. So, why was it then a great depression, and now, only a great "recession"?

The liars may believe that by understating the scope of the problem the populace in general can be kept from panic, and we may avoid riots in the streets. Some may also hope that by understating the scope of the problem, people will retain a higher level of enthusiasm and positive thinking, which will somehow make it easier to accept the levels of suffering now running rampant through our society. If we give the liars the benefit of the doubt, we might attribute their lies to good intentions gone astray. White lies so to speak, but lies nonetheless.



The thing is this: if we are to eliminate unemployment, restore GOOD jobs to those who once had them but then had them taken away, and in the process restore the soundness of our nation's economy overall, we must stop lying to ourselves and each other about two things:

- 1. Where we are now** - What the present state of the economy really is.
- 2. Where we need to be** - What has to happen to the economy in order for us to reach our goals.

As tragic as the present unemployment circumstances are, they do simplify illustrating the costs not only in dollars, but in lives sacrificed, of having liars in control of the economy, and of having citizens willing to accept an ongoing stream of lies from their leaders, without making any attempt to hold the liars accountable for their misdeeds.

**A graphic depiction of a timely example (graph was generated in 2009, right after the housing crash):**

The chart on the next page shows what happens (actually, what is happening now) when the professional politicians lie to themselves, and to us, about fixing the unemployment situation that exists in America today.

The horizontal line at the top of the chart represents full employment (regardless of the population level at the time).

The next horizontal line, just below the full employment line represents what the government considers full employment. Their assumption is that 5% of those who are unemployed really don't want jobs anyway, no matter how good the jobs might be.

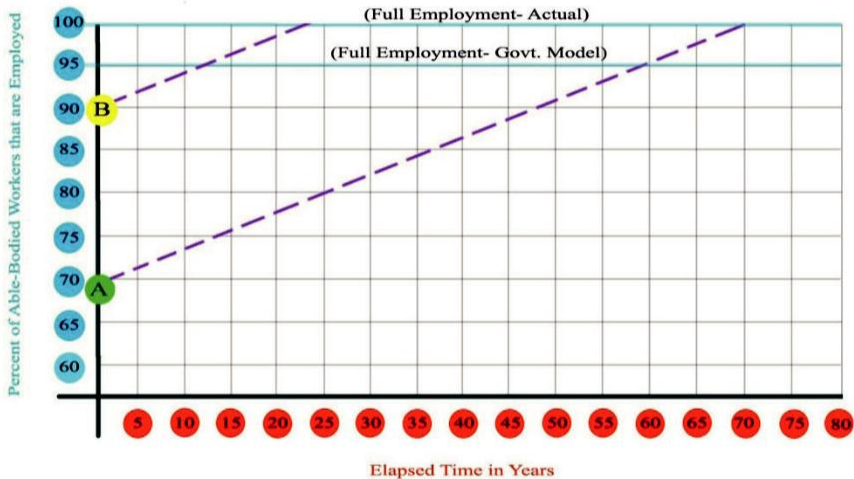
The vertical line on the left measures the percent of the able workforce that is meaningfully employed.

The marker (B) indicates the (false) position the government says we are at now.

The diagonal dotted line represents the plan line the government proposes to bring employment back up where it needs to be if we are to have a sound economy. They propose starting out by creating 4 million jobs over a 5-year period of time. 4 million jobs equals 2.7% of the workforce.

The Marker (A) indicates our true current unemployment/under-employment level. The dotted (government plan) line showing an increase of 4 million jobs over a 5-year period is attached to this point too, so that we can see how long it might take to get to full employment starting from where we really are right now.

The horizontal line at the bottom of the chart denotes years of time passing while the plan is in effect.



- A = Actual combined unemployment and underemployment level (31%)
- B = Government model combined unemployment and underemployment level (9.7%)
- - - - - = Government plan line which equals 4 million jobs created every 5 years.

If we implement the government’s plan to create 4 million jobs and start from where we really are (marker (A), and the government plan works as expected (creates 4 million jobs in 5 years’ time), at the end of 5 years’ time we will still be **43 million jobs short** of having full employment. Actually,

that is only where we would be if the population didn't continue to grow for whatever reason(s). If population growth were to be factored in, the number of good jobs needed would expand proportionally and we might be worse off at the end of 5 years than we are today, when following the government's current plan to reach full employment.

And no matter how far we are behind the truth curve, the government will still be urging us to be patient and stay the course. It will, they will tell us then, just be a matter of giving the present programs more time and more (borrowed) money. The more time needed, according to the chart will be about **70 more years**. If population growth were to be factored in, the timeline shown above to recover from our true position would stretch out even longer in proportion to population growth, in all probability to **100 years or more**. The amount more money needed would turn out to be untold (possibly incalculable) trillions more dollars of borrowed money and debt (to be absorbed and repaid by future generations by way of increased taxes).

All of which is a very high price (for us) to pay for letting the liars continue to deceive us.

The depression we are now in began over 30 years ago and has been steadily getting worse every year since. The government glosses over the things like how many (or few) people still have access to a diminishing number of good paying jobs and tries to concentrate our attention on things that are trivial by comparison. Like costly wars for territory and resources in the Middle East, and costly wars against a whole host of nouns (terror, drugs, ignorance, poverty, illegal immigration) and so on. Once our attention has been diverted from the important things, they feel comfortable letting the economy rest on the back burner and have been content to let the number of unemployed and under-employed citizens continue to expand rapidly and steadily every year.

### **Causes and Effects:**

The overriding law of the universe, and everything in it, is cause and effect. The current deplorable condition of our economy is a perfect example of how cause and effect rule.

Currently we are about 47 million (good) jobs short of having a sound economy.

Some time back the wizards in Congress and various administrations decided that America had too many high paying manufacturing businesses scattered around the country. They decided it would be better for America to convert over to a lower-wage service-based economy. To effect this change, they offered manufacturing companies huge profit incentives, in the way of not having to pay federal income taxes, state income taxes, inventory taxes, personal property taxes, workers compensation taxes, unemployment compensation taxes, Social Security taxes, Medicare taxes, or any other worker benefits like health, dental, and life insurance, paid vacations, or a worker retirement program, if they would just relocate to other countries. So, over the next 30-year period America lost approximately 20 million good jobs that used to pay \$60,000 a year or more (in 2010 dollars), plus full benefits (health, dental, life, 401K and retirement).

The government got its wish; the high paying manufacturing jobs were gone, but the service jobs that replaced them were (as expected) low paying, and the per capita taxes coming into the government were reduced significantly. Unfortunately, the bills coming into the government like unemployment, Social Security, and Medicare, were going up at the same time, and this necessitated borrowing money (lots of money) to make up for the lost taxes. Then the second shoe dropped.

The initial 20,000,000 lost manufacturing jobs that represented some multi-national conglomerates American workforces being put into mothballs, resulted in the permanent loss of another 10,000,000 or so good jobs also paying \$60,000 a year or more (with benefits) which dried up soon after. The reason was that the big conglomerates who abandoned their American workers had previously, collectively, used thousands of outside (manufacturing support) vendors with special tool and skill sets for much of their work in America. Raw material suppliers, machine tool providers, mold-makers, tooling makers, special packaging suppliers, finishing operations, plating operations, maintenance, and repair of material handling equipments, transportation providers, extruders, molders, furniture manufacturers, specialized electronics manufacturers... the list goes on and

on. Huge numbers of these businesses were either put out of business or had to scale back operations dramatically. American workers lost more good jobs by the millions. Then, not too surprisingly another 10,000,000 or so jobs were lost in wholesale and retail businesses because the number of eligible buyers for other things like food, clothing, cars, housing, etc. had now been reduced by the 30 million citizens who had lost their jobs in the productive sector.

The distribution between hard manufacturing, manufacturing support related, and other jobs, lost in this example are (very close) approximations for the sake of illustrating the various categories involved. The total of 40+ million lost jobs however is not an approximation. The United States really lost that many total good jobs over the past 40 years' time, primarily due to the domino effect of some of our largest (and also some smaller wannabe-big) manufacturing companies relocating to other countries.

Finally, topping it all off, in late 2008 the chickens came home to roost in the government-subsidized, overbuilt and over-financed housing market in the United States, and the housing market fell apart completely. In this final event the employment drop-off was so huge (7 million more lost jobs) and so sudden, that the government could no longer gloss over the enormous increase in the number of new unemployed workers, or just ignore it completely.

However the government is still today trying to convince us all that if they can just restore half of what was lost in the last few years (only) due to the housing market's crash, that we should all proclaim them heroes, and along with them just continue to ignore the remaining 43 million workers whose lives had already been destroyed due to their past brilliant moves relating to getting the manufacturing companies to relocate their operations out of the United States. It's called "managing expectations"..... preparing citizens in advance to accept low levels (or perhaps no level at all) of improvement.

There in a nutshell you have a summary of what the cause and effect relationship has been to date between the government's actions in first destroying 40,000,000 good paying manufacturing and related jobs (plus 7 million more related to the housing boondoggle), and the negative effects it

has had on our economy overall. The lost jobs, the destroyed lives, the incalculable quantities of money given to the already rich money changers, and the offsetting incalculable debt being rung up for future generations to face in the way of unavoidable higher taxes..... all speak to the costs of allowing our leaders to lie to us without fear of reprisal.

All of this happened because we allowed ourselves to be lied to, and never once held the liars to account for their misdeeds.

And this is all still going on today, in the middle of the worst depression the country has ever been in (but not yet faced up to), and amazingly, most Americans seem willing to just accept the lies, leave the liars in office, and suffer the consequences. There **MUST** be a better way.

Let me offer the reader this pearl of wisdom:

**Everything that makes life enjoyable and not just a bare existence springs from a sound economy.**

From people having nice homes to live in, decent cars to drive, decent clothes to wear, nourishing food to eat, proper health care, something left over for a bit of recreation now and then, something to supplement their retirement, and the avoidance of the fears that poverty brings.

The government's job is not now, and never has been, the creation (or management) of a sound economy. The government's job is now (and always has been) to protect and defend the economy built naturally as a result of Americans working hard and chasing their dreams.

America was doing great until the polished professional career politicians (egged on by their mega-corps handlers) decided they knew what was best for all of us and decided to re-make the economy along some mythical lines promoted to them by the money changers.

What is infinitely worse is the fact that we have allowed them to do it without penalty; and even worse still, the majority of us are continuing to allow them to do it again and again even as you are reading this.

## What to do? What to do?

It is absolutely the case that the Government could, if it so wished, set in motion today a plan that would without any doubt whatsoever result in the re-creation of 47 million good jobs (minimum \$60,000 a year plus full benefits) within 60 months' time.

Now ask yourself, if by whatever means, 47 million new jobs paying a minimum of \$60,000 a year (plus benefits) were to happen today, what would be the effect on our economy and our country overall when we woke up tomorrow? 47,000,000 jobs times \$60,000 each per year amounts to 4-6 TRILLION new dollars added to our economy EVERY YEAR! \$4 - \$6 Trillion<sup>1</sup>\* of additional earned dollars by newly employed workers (every year) makes \$780 Billion of one-time, borrowed ("stimulus") dollars look like chump change; and instead of creating a debt to be repaid in the future, it would instead create a debt-free surplus of dollars to put to work rebuilding our economy.

For starters, there would be no need for government to go further in debt, because all the things we are paying for now with borrowed money could be paid for using tax dollars, and probably at a reduced tax rate compared to what we are paying now.

Secondly, we could absorb the 30-60 million illegal immigrants already here (nobody knows for sure how many there are) without having to worry about displacing a legal citizen in the workplace. And we could tear down that stupid wall between us and Mexico. It has never worked anyway, and who in their right mind wants to live in a walled-in country?

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<sup>1</sup>\* \$4-6 trillion = \$3.35 trillion paid directly to workers plus \$2 trillion added to the businesses the workers buy goods and services from...the multiplier effect. The total rises to about \$6 Trillion if the effects of filling the 15-20 million lower paying jobs that highly qualified but currently underemployed citizens previously had to accept became available when they quit those jobs to take one of the higher paying jobs that opened up and that they were qualified for. And don't forget, the government taxes on that \$6 trillion would be yet another multiplier to bring into the overall calculations when the government spends the tax income it receives.

Next, we could afford to endow our colleges sufficiently so that any student that could come up with \$1000 a year could go to any college that they qualified for academically.

Next, we could fund Social Security and Medicare sufficiently so that every citizen really got adequate healthcare as well as any prescription drugs, glasses, hearing aids, wheelchairs, prosthetics, etc. needed without having to decide between food and medical expenses (because there just wasn't enough money for both).

Opening up 47,000,000 more high-paying good jobs would also result in opening up another 15,000,000 to 20,000,000 lower paying jobs for our young people to start out at as more qualified workers returned to having one good job and left the lower paying ones they previously had to settle for. This alone could significantly reduce the number of school dropouts and criminal acts committed by young people who don't see any other way out of poverty right now. And when the young people entered the workforce, tax revenues would again swell, making more money available to government without having to resort to borrowing.

Cause and effect ...creating 47 million high paying good jobs for highly qualified workers would at the same time free up another 15 – 20 million lower paying jobs for initial entrants into the country's workforce. That would be called a two-fer. Two for the price of one. Just think about that for a minute. Just think what a difference 62 million new jobs would have on our economy!!!

We could at last not just periodically reduce the rate of growth of our national debt, but actually start paying it off.

We could afford to pay as we go for the wars we are now engaged in and any new wars we might decide to start in the future. However, starting wars to distract the citizens from thinking about having to find a job when no jobs were available might not be as necessary in the event we had a sound economy and full employment. Another two-fer.



So, you are asking, if they know how to do it, why doesn't our government hurry up and re-create the 47 million good jobs? Don't we need them pretty badly right now?

Now here is the part where I come off as cynical.

They know how to do it, but it requires making a choice between what is best for them personally and what would be best for the country overall. What would be best for the country would be to restore (bring back) the 47 million good jobs that have purposely been destroyed. What would be best for them personally would be to have their national party committee bless them with millions of untraceable dollars to help them get re-elected. These are mutually exclusive goals. Unfortunately for the nation, the majority of our fearless leaders are more concerned with getting themselves re-elected, than they are with protecting the interests of the citizens of America.

Shame on them for doing what they are doing. But more shame on us because we continue to allow them to do it without penalty.

Just about every country we trade goods and services with protects their national workforce by requiring that goods sold in their country be made in their country. If imports are allowed into these countries at all, they are taxed upon arrival, and the import taxes are then used to offset the costs of lost jobs in their country. At the same time, these same governments work in concert with American based mega-corps, and some "persuadable" high-ranking congress persons, by both legal and illegal means to ensure that our government provides no similar protections for the workers in America.

If congress voted to tax the imports coming from other countries (as those countries tax goods coming in from America), the mega corps that presently benefit from tax free trade wherein they make things offshore, and then bring them into the United States tax-free for sale to our citizens, would see their profits and management salaries reduced. Some CEOs might have to work for \$10 - \$20 million a year instead of \$25 -\$100 million a year, which would no doubt cramp their style. Some money changers (bankers and Wall Street firms) might see their incomes similarly reduced.

So, these self-interested parties meet with both the Republican and Democrat Committee Party Leaders and let them know that they are prepared to cough up lots of millions (or billions) of dollars for them to promote their candidates, but there will be a quid pro quo. The quid pro quo is that the candidates receiving the campaign support from the national party must support laws that allow the manufacturers to make goods in any foreign country, and exploit any countries poorest citizens, and be allowed to bring the products back into America for sale, without any federal, state, excise, or duty taxes being paid on them or taxes of any other kind having to be paid on any other profits that are generated by them or their foreign subsidiary(s).

That way, no matter which party gets their candidate elected, the mega corps and their offshore government partners and the money changers win. The losers are always the American workers (and their families) whose jobs and lives are sacrificed in the bargain.

For some of you reading this who are too young to remember the Watergate Scandal in Washington (early 70's), where a whistle-blower who came to be known as "deep throat" indicated to the reporters investigating the Nixon White House crooks (burglars) that in order to find the culprit's identities they should "follow the money."

Doing so led to the truth and resulted in the entire Nixon administration being brought down. Nixon had to resign from office in disgrace, was pardoned by his successor, to keep him out of jail (which would be bad public relations for the American government), and most of his closest advisors and co-conspirators ended up in prison.

If we want to understand what has happened to the American economy, all that is required is that we again, "follow the money." It is sad that so many of our elected officials have allowed themselves to succumb to the lust for power and fame and have been able to rationalize destroying the lives of 141 million of their fellow countrymen.

What is infinitely sadder is that so many of those 141 million citizens who they have abandoned and mistreated continue to believe their lies, continue

to endorse them, and in doing so, bring additional hardship on themselves, their families, their neighbors, their communities, and their country.

## A is A

Twenty-three hundred years ago the Greek mathematician and philosopher Aristotle made the convincing argument that things are what they are, and not necessarily what they can be made to seem by polished spin doctors . He further made the convincing argument that because things are what they are, contradictions could not exist in nature.

He started by saying that only A is A. B might look identical to A, and B might otherwise be the equivalent of A in every way measurable, but that didn't alter the fact that only A was really A.

Therefore, anyone that claimed that B was really A was making a false statement. The statement must be false because otherwise it would contradict nature and reality, and nature does not allow contradictions to exist. The proof is that A is still A, no matter what anyone says to the contrary.

Aristotle (who was smarter than anyone reading or writing this) would caution readers to reject out of hand political contradictions. For example: the assumption that a politician was a good person but might inadvertently have committed a bad act against his constituents. Aristotle would challenge us to examine the two major hypotheses (assumptions) to see which was false.

The first major hypothesis was that the politician was a good person. The second major hypothesis was that the bad act was unintentional.

Aristotle would argue (convincingly I think) that at least one of these must be false; otherwise, a contradiction would be present, and in truth contradictions cannot ever exist because A is A.

Things are what they are.

So, if Aristotle is right, then either the politician in this example is not in fact a good person (just creates that illusion), or the bad act was not unintentional (another illusion). If either (or both) of these converses is true, the contradiction disappears, what the politician did is seen in its true light, and all is again right with the universe (even when the country might be damaged in the bargain).

**Key point:** Don't blindly accept contradictory excuses from professional politicians.

Over the past 40-50 years we have been asked to accept at face value an untold number of outright lies from our elected officials. Nixon's Watergate, ("I am not a crook"), Johnson's Gulf of Tonkin, "It's morning in America," (Reagan, 1982), Clinton's "I did not have sex with that woman," (Obama's) "Democrats reduced the national debt under Clinton," House Post Office Scandal, (Bush's) weapons of mass destruction, Warren Commission's JFK assassination report, Johnson's "we are winning the war in Vietnam," the (falsified) Vietnam body counts, Bush's "Mission Accomplished" (Iraq), Obama's Unemployment is 9.7% and falling, Obama's "we are in a great "recession," Bush II in early October 2008: "The American Economy is basically sound," Bush II two weeks later: "the sky is falling, if congress doesn't give me \$800 billion by this Friday with no questions asked the world will end!", "cash for clunkers succeeded beyond our wildest dreams," "healthcare costs will be more affordable," "you will be able to keep your present doctor", etc. The list goes on and on and on.

Americans must be the toughest people on the planet. If it were not so, our country and everyone in it would have perished long ago. We have lived through Johnson, Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Bush I, Clinton, Bush II, Obama and now we are living through Trump. Every one of them has lied to us, purposely misled us, and made our country less than what it had been before they got their hands on it. They have had as accomplices Democrat controlled Congresses, Republican controlled Congresses, and Congresses where neither party controlled both houses of Congress at the same time.

Contradictions cannot (and do not) exist in nature. To vote for and leave these kinds of people in office we must believe at least one of the following:

1. The majority of polished professional career politicians care more about us and our country than they do about getting re-elected.
2. The majority of polished professional career politicians would never knowingly sell us out and rationalize destroying the lives of 141 million of their fellow citizens just for money and/or fame.

Then, we look at where we and our country are now (in the toilet) and realize that at least one of these hypotheses must be false in the case of the majority of professional politicians now serving in government. Otherwise, a contradiction would exist, and our economy wouldn't be in the toilet. But contradictions do not exist in nature. Things are what they are. Our economy is in the toilet. **A is A.**

If we are to profit by learning from our past mistakes, I believe that the lesson is that we must stop lying to ourselves and stop accepting lies from those we elect to serve our interests in government. If we fail in this, I think we will lose all hope of restoring the American Dream to those of our fellow American citizens from whom it has been stolen over the past four decades. We owe both them and our children that much.

Jack

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## **Broken Promises**

### **Broken Promise type #1 – Campaign promises.**

This is the season for making promises that will not be kept. Candidates for elected offices routinely make promises they know they can't keep to get themselves elected. The most visible, because of media attention, are candidates for offices at the federal level.

Some of the promises are just window dressing, and everyone knows it up front. Like presidential candidates promising to revise the tax code to make it fairer and more equitable. Presidents don't have the Constitutional authority to change the tax code and the candidates know this, but the candidates make promises like this routinely anyway.

Later on, after the election is over the candidate making the promise (if elected) immediately starts back peddling and blaming others for the promise not being kept. And it typically all blows over in a week or two, and the populace go back to sleep....which is what the candidate knew would happen all along.

This happens so often and so routinely with elected government officials that no one is really surprised when it occurs, and it is extremely rare when a government official loses his/her job because they broke a promise made to those voting for them. The only one that comes to mind in recent history is George Bush senior who promised "read my lips...no new taxes" when running for office, and then a year later signed the largest tax increase in history into law. He was voted out at the next election. But by then, the damage had already been done, and we are still living with it today.

## **Broken Promise type #2 – Moral promises.**

Government officials talk a lot about moral character as a prerequisite for leadership. They are right. A strong moral code is essential to good leadership. In fact, we are asked to put our faith in them because they claim to have demonstrated that they have the moral standing to lead. And they promise never to let us down in these regards.

At one point in the movie “Clear and Present Danger,” James Earl Jones says to Harrison Ford.... “You gave your word to the people of this country. Your word is who you are.” Sometimes movies do more than entertain us. Sometimes they remind us what it takes to be a worthwhile individual. This was one of those Movies.

Ever so typically, when government officials go back on their moral promises, they have great difficulty owning up to their misdeeds. One fairly recent past president who was married with children was found to be having an affair with a young intern. The affair took place in the oval office. When confronted he first flatly denied it, then said it depended on what the meaning of the word “is” is. He was impeached but was acquitted by his party members in the senate of lying under oath to Congress (which is supposedly a serious criminal offense) and obstruction of justice.

First, he went back on his word to his wife; then he went back on his word everyone in the nation. If his word was worthless, then what does it say about him as a person?

If you were to include lying outright as an indicator of moral character (or lack of it) I think one would find few men or women of character among our elected government officials today.

Some examples of outright lies made by recent presidents:

“We are winning the war in Vietnam.”

“No new taxes....read my lips.”

“I did not have sex with that woman.”

“Mission Accomplished!”

“My first act as President will be to close Guantanamo prison.”

“I promise... You WILL be able to keep your present doctor.”

“Our troops in Afghanistan will be out of there by the end of my first year in office.”

People who lie in this manner, about things that affect everyone in our country are morally bankrupt and unfit to serve in any capacity, especially in a capacity that that is instrumental in establishing national policies.

When we allow people who lack any sort of moral compass to lead our nation, we open ourselves up to outright ridicule by citizens of other nations and put our national credibility at risk.

### **Broken Promise Type #3 – Welshing on legal contractual obligations.**

Almost nothing is more common in our government than welshing on contractual obligations. Going all the way back to the late 1700s, our government routinely made contractual agreements in the form of treaties with indigenous peoples, only to break their word whenever it suited them.

But it should be noted, these were typically just treaties entered into by some department of the government whose acts could be superseded by Congress at their pleasure.

More recently, other agreements, these enacted into law by the Congress and signed by the President, have been targeted for welshing by the same bodies that enacted them into law in the first place. Social Security and Medicare. Both were enacted into law to provide a safety net for senior citizens.



Congress and the administration are currently involved in a marketing exercise designed to mentally prepare the public for the day when the government once again goes back on its word and breaks obligations they willingly entered into that are not only entrenched in the law, but which they promised election after election to keep sacrosanct.

Actually, this will be the third time they welshed on their agreement with the citizens re: Social Security.

The first time was when the Social Security fund was opened up to pilferage by the Congress whenever they needed some extra money for something like prosecuting a war that we started halfway around the world. Congress would take the money and give the Social Security fund an IOU for the amount taken. (No kidding.)

The second time was even more egregious. The Congress modified the income tax laws to tax the Social Security income paid out to retirees. Social Security was always supposed to be income tax free, to maximize the amount going to the retiree.

The rationale for taxing Social Security retirement income was that there were some extremely wealthy individuals drawing Social Security who didn't really need it to get by. And, Congress needed more money for fighting wars halfway around the world...again. Congress' definition of "extremely wealthy" individuals not needing Social Security to get by started with anyone making more than \$32,000 a year (gross) from other sources. \$32,000 a year equals \$2,666 (gross) a month (\$620 a week, at 4.3 weeks to a month). Possibly about 2/3 that amount after taxes, social security, and Medicare get taken out. Not exactly "extreme wealth" by most peoples' standards. If you disagree, try living on that amount.

These laws have both legal and moral implications, but they involve money that the government would now like to spend on something else; and so to quell the anticipated anger of the citizens the government now plans to welsh on (again), the Government is appealing to their willingness to again sacrifice their welfare so that the government won't have to suffer any discomforts.

Even worse, these two legal obligations of the government were in fact always funded entirely by the citizens the government now wishes to welsh on. It's not like the government paid anything in. They just now want more back out of what the citizens paid (and continue to pay) in. Taking someone else's property without their consent and putting it to your own use in legal terms is called "conversion". "Conversion" is a federal crime, tantamount to felony theft, and punishable by a long prison sentence.

But the politicians being clever figure they can avoid prosecution by first amending the law as originally written, so that they can take whatever they want, whenever they want it without penalty. They can spin it any way they want, but it is still theft, welshing on an obligation to the citizens, and breaking their promises.

To effect this particular (third time Congress welshes on Social Security) travesty, the government, peopled almost entirely by polished, professional, career politicians is using two tried and true approaches that have always worked for them before:

1. **Divide and conquer**: They are appealing to the selfishness of the youngest generation, most of whose jobs they already destroyed and who have not much hope of things getting better, by telling them that if the government keeps its promises on Social Security and Medicare to the older generation, there won't be enough left over money for the government to make things better for the younger generation (or to start more wars when they feel a need).

2. **Bait and switch**: They make up front promises about how they will improve things if they are allowed to first dismantle their present legal obligations with respect to Social Security and Medicare, and then when the stolen money runs out (like it always does....there is never enough money for the government) they will (sadly, of course with much hand wringing and apologies), have to break their promises again.

### **Summing up.**

America has become a land of broken promises. Multi-national companies break their bonds with the workers that built the companies and lie about

why they are abandoning their American workforces. The government looks the other way.

The government lies about pretty much everything and breaks its promises at will.

The Congress, Administration, and Courts remake the bankruptcy laws to please the money changers, so that they can hold citizens in bondage forever. ...and then lie about why they did it.

Insurance companies rewrite their contracts annually to make healthcare less available and more costly for the citizens (but more profitable for them and the government). The government looks the other way, and they both lie about it.

Citizens following these government and business role models break their own moral and legal commitments without blinking an eye and lie about it when asked. The message from our fearless leaders is that lying, and law (and promise) breaking are acceptable....just don't get caught unless you have money for lawyers.

This makes planning for the future very difficult for citizens who try to lead lives where their word can be believed and their promises are kept.

But honesty and kept promises are still the best way to go.

As far as honesty in business and government go, I would recommend not doing business with businesses that lie and/or break their promises to their customers, even once. And I would recommend not voting for anyone you know has lied to you and/or broken their promises in the past, even once.

That would include any person in Congress or the Administration who voted for any of the present twenty some "free trade" agreements which allow AMERICAN companies to relocate off shore, exploit without restriction another country's most desperate citizens, and pocket all the money that used to go to things like Social Security, Medicare, worker compensation for workers hurt on the job, Federal Income taxes for national defense and social and physical infrastructure here at home, State Income taxes for schools, police and fire protection, and municipal roads, and enough left over money

to clean up environmental hazards inflicted on the populace by careless commercial interests.

Come to think of it, if the government hadn't chosen to go down the road of encouraging American businesses to relocate to other countries starting 40-50 years ago, and wasn't even at this late date persisting with openly endorsing the job migration to other countries (like sanctioning the new Pacific Trade Agreement...13 more countries our businesses can relocate to) in order to siphon money out of the American economy and increase their profits while escaping all taxes, and all social responsibility....

..... the added income to the treasury from unemployed citizens here in the US again having meaningful paying jobs, would be enough so that the government would not have to break its promises regarding Social Security and Medicare, and government officials would then have no reason to lie about welshing on their promises to protect them either.

Just saying....

Jack

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## **Capitalism vs. Anarchy**

Differentiating between capitalism(s), socialism, and anarchy:

### **Capitalism – present day model**

Survival of the fittest

To the victor belong the spoils

Winner take all, devil take the hindmost

I got mine, let the rest fend for

themselves Might makes right

Make laws codifying these behaviors to protect those at the top

### **Anarchy - any day model**

Survival of the fittest

To the victor belong the spoils

Winner take all, devil take the hindmost

I got mine, let the rest fend for

themselves Might makes right

No laws needed – take from those at the top whenever possible

(continued on next page)

## **Socialism – present day model**

From each according to their ability

To each according to their needs

Make laws requiring all citizens to share any wealth they may have accumulated, and to live at the same economic level as all other citizens if necessary to accomplish social goals

## **Capitalism – Proposed new 21<sup>st</sup> Century American Model**

- Life, Liberty, and the ability to pursue happiness are guaranteed
- Everything else is not
- Work hard, Plan for the worst, Hope for the best, Learn to Live gracefully with the outcome whatever it may be
- When you fall short, figure out why, then try again
- Share any surpluses you have as much as you feel you can without hurting your own family
- Always stand ready to defend your country from any legitimate threat, and to help the less fortunate
- Require of government that all laws treat every citizen equally at all times
- Beware of politicians bearing gifts, and watch government like a hawk. Those guys lie pretty much all of the time

Jack

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## Choices

I've given it a lot of thought over the years, and here is what I have come to believe: It is a matter of who has the ability to choose and what choices they have available to them at the time.

If my choices are based only on personal preferences alone, and they do not in any way negatively affect any other person or persons, any choices I might make should be acceptable to society as a whole.

If my choices are based only on personal preferences, but they result in harming someone based on circumstances over which those being harmed had no choice whatsoever, like their gender, sexual preferences, age, physical disabilities, physical characteristics, race, ethnicity, or if they worship how their parents taught them when they were small children, or if the country they moved to America from either wasn't able to provide them with a decent life, or perhaps just didn't give a damn about them and treated them like cattle, or worse; those kinds of harmful and discriminatory choices on my part should not be acceptable to society as a whole.

We should none of us discriminate against others based on circumstances over which they had/have no control.

We should be better than that.

Jack

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## Citizens, Residents, and Refugees

A lot of conversations regarding illegal immigration are currently going on in our country now, and those same kinds of conversations are currently going on in a lot of other countries around the world too. Some of these conversations rise to the level of rancor, and some conversations end up in violent confrontations between individuals and groups with different views on the subject.

When this happens, some organization officially sanctioned with quelling the dissents usually:

1. Publicly condemns the violence and disorder
2. Asks all the countries of the world to send them some money to pay mercenaries to help quell the riots
3. Orders in lunch

And the pattern repeats endlessly....because nothing is ever changed in these regards. Anywhere on Earth.

Governments in countries all across the world are tasked with finding a way to balance new entrants into their country in a way that doesn't overtax the countries overall economy and existing citizen support systems. Most governments, including our own here in the United States, are currently failing badly in this regard on an ongoing basis.

A primary reason for the ongoing stream of failures on the part of Governments is a failure to engage the citizens in coming up with workable policies to manage the effects of overpopulation in the form of immigrants wishing to enter the country (and stay).

While most governments of the world claim that their existence is primarily meant to serve the interests of their citizens; at the same time, most governments work tirelessly to exclude the opinions of the citizens in every important matter. They have many excuses for doing this, but the main, actual reason is that they really don't want any citizen input. They mostly



just want to keep being elected and have lots of opportunities to sound knowledgeable and act important. Most of these government officials are really just frustrated thespians. They see themselves acting out great dramas on the world stage and dying with a lot of flowery words being said over them.

Since so many of our fearless leaders are actually not too long on reasoning abilities, there are ultimately a lot of bad outcomes from the decisions they make in their respective exclusive vacuums. Especially as regards immigration.

There are three separate types of immigrants, whether legal or illegal:

1. Those wishing to permanently become citizens of a new country,
2. Those wishing to just be visitors for a while, and,
3. Those just trying to get out of Dodge and be anywhere but where they came from...hoping to escape intolerable conditions and lives.... the refugees.

Any (workable) immigration policy must adequately address all three of these categories of new entrants into the country.

**Citizens:** Citizens are listed first here so as to have a basis for comparison; but being a Citizen is the prize of prizes, at least in my country, The United States of America. Citizens of the USA still have the greatest bag of prizes available to them of any people on Earth.

Oh yes, we have our shortcomings too, and pretty much everyone knows what they are. But on balance, America, with all its warts, still represents the last best hope of free people on Earth.

America's citizens live in a country that more than any other provides opportunities for advancement on every level. Opportunities that are currently not nearly as great as the opportunities we once had, but still are better than those available in any other country on Earth.

They get to live in the only country on Earth that was originally founded on the principle that every citizen was entitled to life, liberty, and an honest ability to pursue happiness.

All the other countries on Earth were built on the assumptions that might made right, to the victor belonged the spoils, and let the devil take the hindmost....and they mostly still operate that way.

US Citizens live in a country protected better than other countries by a living document (Our Constitution) that sets forth inviolate protections for the citizens that keep them from being abused by their government. Things like freedom of religion, speech and the press. The right to arm yourself and protect yourself when threatened. The right to a trial of your peers if charged with a crime. The right to no self-incrimination, and the right to not being tried twice for the same crime. The right to protection of self and property from seizure without probable cause. The military cannot stay on your property without your consent. Etc.

They live in a country protected by professional police at every level (Federal, State, Municipal), and by the strongest military the world has ever known to protect their shores and keep them safe.

They live in a country with a sophisticated infrastructure, and the privilege to travel between state jurisdictions freely without passports.

They live in a country that provides free defense for citizens charged with a crime, and habeas corpus so that charged criminals can't be hidden from public view and abused by prosecutors.

In short, getting to be a citizen of the United States of America is like winning the lottery. Better even, because you might (or might not) only hit the lottery once, but for America's citizens, the above noted privileges are yours every day for life.

A prize like that is worth doing whatever it takes to protect it and keep it safe. And, in large measure, these are reasons so many people from other

countries are drawn to America. They recognize our already built-in advantages, and unsurprisingly would like to share in them.

**Residents:** Possibly a better word to describe this group would be “Visitors.” They come from other countries to get a taste of America, and perhaps to see its many wonders. The Grand Canyon of the mighty Colorado River, Mount Rushmore, Disneyworld, Hollywood, Our Capitol, The Great Broadway in New York City, and so many others. Maybe go to the ballparks, watch our athletes perform, drink a beer or two, and have a hotdog. Do some line dancing at a western bar. Maybe go to school for a while. They get into the country with “visas” issued by the government which are good for a specified (fixed) period of time. When the specified visiting time runs out, they are supposed to pack up and leave, and go back where they came from.

Sometimes they like it here so well, that they decide to try and become citizens of America and renounce their citizenship back wherever they originally came from. Sometimes they like it here but not so much that they would trade in their prior country citizenship for citizenship here, but they still want to stay on as visitors. They often request “dual citizenship,” and often it is approved.

Sometimes our government, acting at the request of some of our commercial interests, invites some of them to come and work here for a while. When the work is done, they are supposed to again go back where they came from, if they haven’t become American citizens in the process.

While they are here, they may spend money that they brought from home, and help our economy a bit. When they are given jobs here, they pay taxes (as residents). That can help too, but the job they take was one that could have gone to an out of work Citizen, and that can sometimes produce conflict (and often does).

While here they also wear out our infrastructure, and stress out our citizen support systems, and rarely kick in enough to make up for the added wear and tear on the country while they are here.

Residents (Visitors) are a mixed blessing at best.

In return for whatever benefits the Residents bestow on our country, we offer them disproportionate benefits coming from us like protections under our Constitution that were intended to apply to Citizens only. They don't get to vote, but they do get the benefits bestowed by our Bill of Rights.

Residents get to travel our highways without ever having to finance the building of any of them. They chip in a few cents gas taxes to help repaint the stripes down the lanes, but they never contributed a dime toward the building of any of the highways they travel while they are here....or the airports, or the railroads, or the seaports.

Same thing for the schools their children attend. Their contributions to city taxes help pay for repainting the classrooms and perhaps even help pay a few teachers' salaries, but they weren't around to pay for building the schools, or parks, or any other national, state, county, or municipality features they enjoy while they are "visiting."

Rarely do any of them have ancestors who fought and died (by the hundreds of thousands) in our revolutionary and/or Civil Wars which first gave birth to our nation and thereafter defined it from a personal freedom standpoint.

Bottom line, they really don't have any skin in the game, but they get to live as if they did, in exchange for whatever their contributions may be, for however long they are here.

**Refugees:** Here the water gets muddier and the choices get harder.

....Fast.

In large part the difficulties we face in coming to grips with the refugee "problem" stem from the fact that those on both sides of this political "issue" tend to try to make their respective cases by **exaggerating wildly** to try and make their points. No attempt at introducing verifiable facts into evidence is ever attempted, by either side.

Apparently both sides believe that their arguments are inherently weak, and must be bolstered through exaggeration, in order to persuade the country in general. I have news for them. It isn't working!

Here are some facts that aren't disputed by anyone:

Most (not all, but by far most) of those seeking to enter the country illegally have a bona fide reason for doing so. Among the bona fide reasons are:

- political persecution – death threats for speaking out against oppressors
- lack of any way to make a living for themselves and their families
- literally no way for them to get to a better life for their children...ever

Looking back at our history as a country, aren't those the exact same reasons our forefathers came here in the dead of winter from England to Plymouth Rock four hundred years ago (1620), and stayed against all odds to carve out the country we now live in from a wilderness?

All of the "formulas" being bandied about (parents and children, children but not parents, parents but not children, which "classes" to let in, and which to keep out, and how many of each, etc.) are just smokescreens laid down by the professional politicians to allow them to argue endlessly while they desperately stall for more time to try to come up with an idea regarding what needs to be done long term in the way of immigration policy for the country. An idea that might actually WORK!

They have had over 40 years to figure it out, but procrastination took its toll, and now they are out of time and still don't have a clue. Worse, they don't appear to have learned anything from the past 40 years of delaying, obfuscating, procrastinating, lying, exaggerating, and generally screwing the pooch. They are individually and collectively as ignorant today as they were at the start.

And this is the bunch we are counting on to save our country? Good luck to us.

Sanctuary Cities are a short-term fix for a long-term problem. Border Walls are a short-term fix for a long-term problem. And, neither could nor would work for very long.

To come up with a long term (hopefully permanent) solution to the illegal immigration “problem” we will eventually need to eliminate the “problem” itself. That will require recognizing that the illegal immigration “problem” is not a “problem” at all. The illegal immigration “problem” is actually a SYMPTOM of three other MUCH more significant problems, that really ARE problems:

Problem #1 – overpopulation in the countries the immigrants are leaving behind

Problem #2 – technology (all over the world) replacing human laborers with machines

Problem #3 – Religions that preach unlimited reproduction... continually producing one lost generation after another.

These (REAL) problems can’t and won’t be solved overnight...but they absolutely must be successfully addressed in the near future, or the entire world will suffer the same fate that those from outside America now like Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Venezuela, Argentina, as well as European and Asian countries like Yemen, Syria, and Jordan and citizens of so many other “third world” countries in Africa and elsewhere that are suffering now trying to find new homes in other countries like the USA, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Canada, Ireland, and England, that seem for the present at least to be better off than the country they are trying to escape from.

This “problem” is endemic to the entire world now, and it’s growing daily. Since the mix (citizen, visitor, refugee) is different in every “sanctuary” country, the solutions will also likely need to vary to meet different country’s needs. It is highly unlikely that some organization like the United Nations would or could ever come up with an answer that would fit them all equally well. It’s not a one size fits all type of problem.

As a starting point for making things better, maybe the governments around the world could open their doors (and minds) to ideas from their citizens. At least that way if the policies were decided by a majority vote of all of the citizens, the country could feel that everyone got an equal chance to be heard and their votes recorded and would be willing to live with a majority decision.

That could quell some of the bickering and animosity...at least temporarily.

We will still have to come up with policies to meet and handle each category of visitors and refugees, including some formulas that recognize the ever-present laws of supply and demand impacting the marketplace.

And we will still have to find ways to strike a balance between what we want to do vs. what we actually can do, and still not hair-lip everyone in the country in the bargain.

Can we do it? Almost certainly. Will we do it? That is far less certain.

But, as American citizens, we can't afford not to give it our very best shot.

Why?

Simply put, we have the most to lose by not doing that.

Jack

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## Constitutional Math 101

Citizen preferred governing model:

People (over) = Citizens (over) = Democracy = Equal treatment  
Politicians                  Government                  for all under the laws

Government preferred governing model:

Politicians (over) = Government (over) = Oligarchy = Unequal treatment  
People                                  Citizens                                  for all under the laws

Jack

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# **DESTROYED FROM WITHIN**

## **...AN ABRIDGED CHRONOLOGY OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

### **THE GREAT INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION: 1880 - 1913**

- During this period, there is no “central” bank available to the government...only the Treasury.

- The Gold Standard limits government creation of paper money (in any form) to the value of gold already in the Treasury’s vaults. This limiting safeguard prohibits the government from just having the Treasury print up unlimited amounts of money whenever they want more for some reason.

- During this period, the Government generally avoids “upward re-valuing” the gold in its Treasury vaults in order to allow creation of more money, because upward re-valuing the existing gold causes the value of all dollars printed previously to be reduced by a similar amount, and prices for everything to go up rapidly. So, this is a last resort option in terms of increasing the amount of money in circulation for any purpose. In addition, changing the stated value of the gold in the treasury is a highly visible action (to everybody in the world).

- The upward mobility of people from lower to middle class accelerates.
- The foundation of the economy is manufacturing.
- The economy is strong.
- All classes consider themselves to be upwardly mobile.

## **THE ROARING 20s, WWI, WWII, and THE “GREAT” DEPRESSION PERIOD: 1913-1950**

- The 12 privately owned Federal Reserve Banks are created by Congress in 1913.
- In 1917 America enters WWI and aids greatly bringing the war to a quick end.
- Throughout the 1920's the Fed makes easy money available to the lenders for speculation and to the government to pay its bills, including paying off some of its expenses incurred in fighting WWI.
- 1930 - the overbuilt and over-financed economy crashes – worldwide.
- The government revalues upward the stated value of gold already in the treasury's vaults by 45%. This causes the price of everything purchasable with dollars to increase by 45% almost overnight. But it also allows the Fed to order our Treasury to print up 45% more dollars than they would have been allowed to print before the upward revaluation occurred. Some of the newly printed money sold to the Fed is then immediately borrowed back from the Fed for the governments use in paying their bills.
- The Gold Standard is still in place limiting the amount of paper money (in any form) that the government can order from the Federal Reserve banks, and that the Federal Reserve banks can order from our Treasury for their own use... to the stated value of gold already in the treasury. This built in monetary system safeguard will ultimately serve to limit the downside of the depression in the 1930's and 1940's.

- The foundation of the economy remains manufacturing, which has been set back greatly by the worldwide downturn.
  - The middle class shrinks, and the lower class expands proportionally as a result.
  - All classes still consider themselves to be upwardly mobile, even though the number living in poverty has grown four-fold. Most adversely affected citizens still believe that there will eventually be an end to this depression.
  - 1941 -1945, WWII finally provides full employment (at huge costs in lives and money).
- At the end of WWII, the country immediately goes back again into depression, but we fairly quickly work our way out of it (with the help from still another war).

### **THE GREAT POST WWII MANUFACTURING PERIOD: 1950 - 1971**

- America's manufacturing-based economy grows rapidly. America regains the title of manufacturing capitol of the world.
- Beginning in the 1950's a new war in Korea again provides full employment for American manufacturers.
- The growth in the manufacturing sector causes the most rapid migration ever seen from lower class stations to middle- and upper-class stations for the American population overall .

- During this period, the government further “revalues upward” the gold already in the Treasury’s vaults from \$35 to \$40 an ounce (they had already devalued the dollar by 45% earlier during the “great” depression period, but still more money was needed for paying off WWII and fighting the “new” war in Korea. The Gold Standard remains in place and continues to limit the amount of “money” in any form that the Government can create by way of the Federal Reserve Banks... to the total stated value of gold in the national Treasury vaults.
- The foundation of the economy remains manufacturing.
- The economy grows rapidly in all areas.
- Everybody in the country, regardless of present station, considers themselves to be upwardly mobile.

**THE GREAT PERIOD OF ECONOMIC RE-ALIGNMENT:  
1971 – 1982**

- An ongoing war in Southeast Asia (Vietnam) that we entered in the late 1950’s, and yet another ongoing “cold war” with the Soviets become too costly for the Congress to expect American taxpayers to cover by way of paying increased taxes.
- The government decides to borrow to cover the costs of funding the war in Vietnam, and the costs of funding the “cold war.” But the Gold Standard prohibits printing that much more paper money.
- In 1971, the government repeals the Gold Standard. This frees the Federal Reserve Banks to create unlimited amounts of money, in any

form, for whatever purpose they wish, including lending some to the U.S. Government.

- Congress now only needs to pass a majority resolution increasing the legal debt limit, in order to get unlimited amounts of money through the Federal Reserve Banks, any time they want it, for any purpose.
- 1973 – OPEC countries conspire to reduce oil production causing prices for everything produced by or from oil to effectively triple almost overnight. Government borrowing through the Fed banks escalates even more in order to cover wage and price increases stemming from OPEC actions.
- 1974 - The government tries dictating prices and wages but fails and abandons the attempt. In the process the nation suffers the worst economic depression since the 1930's.
- The government then decides to purposely fuel inflation as a means of increasing tax revenues. The more things cost, and the more the companies make in profits, and the more wages go up, the more taxpayers get pushed into higher tax brackets. This method of money “creation” is used to provide the additional income needed by the government to pay for the various wars and new social programs that continue to come online annually.
- The middle class begins rapidly falling behind the wage/price curve as a combination of increased prices resulting from government borrowing through the Federal Reserve banks (inflating the currency), and higher taxes continue to outpace wage increases by a ratio of two to one. Between 1968 and 1984 the cost of everything in America goes up about 400%. Average wages go up about half that much over the same period of time.

- The foundation of the economy remains manufacturing.
- The middle and lower classes for the first time become uncertain as to future mobility status.

## **THE “NOT-SO-GREAT” DEPRESSION PERIOD; 1982 – PRESENT**

- Between 1982 and 2010, the government expands tax legislation that encourages manufacturers to relocate their manufacturing operations to other countries. The manufacturers gladly take them up on their offer. Tens of millions of factory workers in the United States lose their jobs and benefits. The families of the factory workers also lose their livelihood and benefits.
- By 2002, the foundation of the economy has shifted from high paying manufacturing jobs to low paying service jobs. Citizens are encouraged to seek their fortunes doing things like selling banner ads to each other on the Internet.
- The Federal Reserve Banks make trillions of dollars available cheaply to lenders for speculation in stocks and real estate here in the U.S. and in other countries all over the world. (Just as they had done in the 1920's).
- In October 2008 the bottom suddenly falls out of the housing market in the United States, and the nation tumbles over the edge of the economic cliff fully into the worst depression the country has ever known. This time there is no built-in monetary safeguard mechanism in place to limit the downside of the depression, and the economy continues to grow worse month after month and year after year, with no end in sight.
- In November of 2008, the overbuilt and over-financed worldwide economy crashes – (again)

- Between 1982 and mid-2009, 47% of the citizens in the U.S. return to lower class status from the middle class, just as happened during the depression of the 1930's and 1940's.
- By 2009 the majority of citizens in the lower and middle classes now fear even further downward mobility and many do not believe that upward mobility will again be an option for them and their families in their lifetimes. They have good reason to worry.
- The wealthy continue to see themselves as upwardly mobile.
- In early 2009, the government rushes to the aid of the bankrupted money lenders with trillions of dollars, but largely ignores the tens of millions of citizens already pushed into joblessness, bankruptcy, poverty, mental depression, and worse by their actions.
- In October 2009 the government declares the “great recession” to be officially over, while at the same time each month 100,000 or more workers continue to lose their jobs. In truth, there was no end in sight to the current depression.
- By October of 2009, the U.S. economy ceases to have a private sector foundation of any kind.

<p><b>Summary, a personal observation, and a recommendation:</b></p>
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It appears obvious that neither the “great” depression of the 1930's, and 1940's or the “not-so-great” depression period that began in 1982 and is still going on today, would have been possible without the government's actions in first creating a legal environment wherein they could employ a “central” bank to just create unlimited amounts of money in one form or another

(mostly electronically), anytime they wished, for any purpose they deemed suitable....all without ever asking the citizens of the country (who ultimately pay all the bills the government rings up) what they thought about it.

One significant downside to the creation of a “central” bank like the 12 Federal Reserve Banks scattered around America, is that since these banks are in no way whatsoever connected to the Federal Government, and the language of the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 allows them to also use our Treasury to make up unlimited amounts of US Dollars for their own private uses, they can legally sell or lend our dollars to other countries that may choose to use them in ways that are diametrically opposed to our best interests, up to and including funding terrorist groups if they wish.

Legally, they could even elect to help China or Mexico or India (or any other country) build more manufacturing plants for their citizens to work at, with dollars they took from our Treasury (which they have actually done). They could if they so choose take money from our treasury and give it to an entity bent on our downfall...thereby using our own money to finance our destruction.

At a minimum the Congress should probably change the name of these banks to reflect the fact that they are not in any way whatsoever a part of, or under the control of, the U.S. government.

That way people would not be misled into thinking that the existence of the 12 privately owned Federal Reserve Banks was somehow, in some mysterious way, tied to maintaining a sound economy here in the United States of America. In fact, there is no such connection.

A better name for this group of 12 privately owned, and non-government-affiliated (in any way) banks, and one that more honestly reflects their ownership and operation might be:



*“The Twelve Privately Owned Banks that the US government can use without limit to electronically create money out of thin air with which to pay government bills they incur, but which taxes are insufficient to cover; in return for which money creating service, the government of the United States will grant said Twelve Privately Owned Banks free access to the U.S. Treasury’s printing presses for creating unlimited amounts of U.S. dollars for their own private purposes, without restriction as to what purposes such monies may be used for.”*

But that may be too long a title for some to remember easily, so we might shorten it to something like:

**“Government and Bankers Slush Fund”.... or: GBSF for short.**

How much damage has been done so far? Consider this:

- In 1812 the purchasing value of a U.S. dollar in 1782 dollars was \$1.00
- In 1912 the purchasing value of a U.S. dollar in 1812 dollars was \$1.00
- In 2012 the purchasing value of a U.S. dollar in 1912 dollars was
- 1.5 cents.

At the present rate of devaluation of the dollar’s purchasing value through inflation of the currency, the purchasing value of a U.S. dollar in 2012 dollars will be \$\$ zero within the next ten to twenty years’ time....maybe less.

Perhaps that is the reason our government is currently exploring the possibility of abandoning the dollar as a national currency, in favor of using another “new multi-country” currency altogether.

Too bad. I kind of liked the dollar.

Jack

## Eyes on the Prize

As citizens of the United States of America, our primary goals need to be centered on restoring the once prevalent ideals of equality, justice and fair play to all the citizens of our country. Were these elements still in play, as they once were in the now distant past, *all* of the symptoms of distress now plaguing our society could be quickly eliminated.

For the past 240 years, we have all been required to follow a pattern of selecting our public servants in government based on which of them appear to be the most honest and principled, based on their speeches to us and their performance in “debates,” and who appear to have the soundest moral foundations. Beyond that, once elected, many of them (now a majority) actually act in ways counter to their campaign promises, hiding behind rules they set up for themselves that preclude the citizens knowing when and to what extent they broke their promises to us. And over the past 50-60 years, our country and its citizens have been greatly damaged as a result.

We have now allowed our elected officials and the political process they invented to serve themselves, their friends, and their political contributors to get so far off track here in America, it will now be necessary to re-create a government structure wherein it doesn't matter if the elected officials are really who and what they try to make us believe they are.

As we go about refining the political process itself to make it fairer and more equitable, to the extent possible, we will be well advised to look for solutions that make the politicians' campaign speeches irrelevant, and also make it irrelevant whether they try to keep their promises or not. That is to say it would no longer matter if the politicians were: intelligent or idiots, honest or dishonest, selfless or self-serving, staunchly independent or easily bought and paid for by monied interests, capable advocates for the positions they take, or lying, flip-flopping hypocrites. Some politicians might suffer, but the country and its citizens would still be just fine.

Their self-serving platitudes promising to help us all can't be taken at face value. We should all know that by now. Let's not continue trying to prove over and over again to the politicians that we are as stupid as they think we are, and as easily fooled as they count on us being.

**POLITICS is all about MONEY and POWER.**

If the existing Constitution were to be amended to move a few **money-creating, money-borrowing, money-collecting, and money-allocating** decisions (**money/power**) over from the politicians to the people; equality, justice, and fair play could be restored to our society very quickly, and the present damaging symptoms of decline<sup>2\*</sup> now affecting so many of our middle-class and poorest-class citizens would soon be gone altogether.

This would not be at all difficult to do...in theory. It might however require the citizens to force a Constitutional Convention where the needed changes could be inserted into our existing Constitution.

The existing politicians would likely not be in favor of citizens placing any additional limits on them and could be expected to fight making these changes for the citizens benefit every step of the way.

In the website AmericaII.org is a short book (*Common Sense Revisited*), that elaborates on how the government has been converted over from one promoting "*justice for all*" to a government promoting "*Justice for all those who can afford it*," and how the citizens can take back their government from the politicians and a bloated government bureaucracy they have created to enrich themselves, their friends, and their political contributors and parties, and to protect themselves and hide their self-serving actions from the citizens.

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<sup>2</sup> \*the spreadsheet that follows shows the damaging symptoms of decline now affecting over a hundred million of Americas middle class and poorest citizens, and how the damaging symptoms are linked to the root problems causing the damaging symptoms to continue to exist and grow bigger and bigger year after year. The spreadsheet is excerpted from *COMMON SENSE REVISITED*.

**The Book** : *COMMON SENSE REVISITED* is available (free) separately on the AmericaII.org website.

The *Cause and Effect* spreadsheet shown on the following (4) pages can also be viewed separately on the AmericaII.Org website.

You may find it preferable to view the **Cause and Effect** spreadsheet in the larger versions you can find on AmericaII.org. .... where colors can also be used to help break out different pieces of information. In the hard copy version, the **Cause and Effect** spreadsheet is shown in black and white, to save printing costs.

The *Cause and Effect* spreadsheet can also be ordered as a bookmark.

The bookmark version is an 11” x 17” foldout on very thick glossy paper, folded in two to be the same dimensions as the pages in the “Common Sense Revisited” book. It also works as a bookmark on the “Rants” and “America II” books you see on the website if you have either of them in print versions.

Both the book *Common Sense Revisited*, and the bookmark have some simple instructions on the back sides re: how the spreadsheet can be used to create a national consensus on what our most serious problems are and how we can prioritize and solve them once and for all.

Please give them a look.

Jack

[www.AmericaII.org](http://www.AmericaII.org)

# Their Root

Cause and Effect Matrix ©		#1	#2	
	<b>Their related Symptoms (Effects)</b>	Unsustainable expansion in human population worldwide - and overpopulation related problems in some countries spilling over to become overpopulation related problems in other countries	Systematic devaluation of human labor - worldwide by way of job killing mergers, moving high paying jobs to countries with low standards of living, and replacement of human laborers with machines	
	<b>1</b>	High (real) levels of unemployment - including the 12% of <u>long term</u> unemployed citizens whose existence the government chooses not to acknowledge.	x	x
	<b>2</b>	High levels of under-employment (people forced to work below their skill, education, and training levels - often for poverty level wages - and also often with no benefits), currently running 13%+	x	x
	<b>3</b>	Persistent budget deficits in government at all levels (federal, state, and local)	x	x
	<b>4</b>	High Taxation levels and taxes on <u>everything</u>	x	x
	<b>5</b>	Falling living standards and being forced to incur debt for everyday subsistence purchases (like food).	x	x
	<b>6</b>	Government complicity in destroying jobs and lives here in America through "free" trade agreements, and endorsement and support of job killing mergers between already gigantic enterprises.	x	x
	<b>7</b>	Persistent high levels of violent crime, including mass shootings of innocent children and adult citizens .	x	x
	<b>8</b>	Increased crime related to trafficking in controlled substances (drugs and narcotics)	x	x
	<b>9</b>	Increased instances of unwarranted police brutality against unarmed citizens.	x	x
	<b>10</b>	Increasing numbers of single parent families	x	x
	<b>11</b>	Decline in family values (and loss of time for parental guidance in the home).	x	x
<b>12</b>	Deficits in trade balances between America and other countries having larger populations than America	x	x	

# Level Problems (Causes)

#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	
Citizens being systematically excluded from the decision making process in the most important decisions affecting the outcome of their lives	Ongoing monetary inflation by the government which causes the value of previously existing dollars to fall, which in turn causes prices related to living standards to continually increase much faster than wage gains, and living standards to therefore fall further each year for most American Citizens	American national pride and American national Companies being replaced by multi-national companies	Discriminatory law making - that being the enactment of laws designed to favor one group of Americans over other groups of Americans.	Government failure (refusal) to implement current technology for the purposes of improving the political and economic well-being of American citizens	Our Government controlling the nation's (and world's) economy for the benefit of our government and single interest groups that are dependant on our government - at the expense of Americas poorest and middle-class citizens.	<b>Row Tot</b>
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	x	0

Cause and Effect Matrix ©		#1	#2	#3
<p><b>Their related Symptoms (Effects)</b></p>		<p>Unsustainable expansion in human population worldwide - and overpopulation related problems in some countries spilling over to become overpopulation related problems in other countries</p>	<p>Systematic devaluation of human labor - worldwide by way of job killing mergers, moving high paying jobs to countries with low standards of living, and replacement of human laborers with machines</p>	<p>Citizens being systematically excluded from the decision making process in the most important decisions affecting the outcome of their lives</p>
13	Unresponsive government (gridlock) and government that ignores the greatest needs of its citizens	x	x	x
14	Corruption in Government (bribes, self-dealing, kickbacks, fraudulent dealings, helping friends, lobbyists, and corporations feed at the public trough, etc.)	x	x	x
15	Extraordinary growth in both upfront costs and payouts to "entitlement" programs.	x	x	x
16	Lack of adequate and affordable healthcare for some citizens.	x	x	x
17	A need to provide for a permanent "welfare" class of citizens.	x	x	x
18	Failure of educational systems to cost-effectively meet public needs and expectations.	x	x	x
19	Ongoing high levels of illegal immigration	x	x	x
20	Environmental breakdowns (pollution, global warming, vital natural resource shortages, etc.)	x	x	x
21	Expensive wars for territory and resources	x	x	x
22	Diversions against non-combatants - mostly nouns - (poverty, ignorance, terror, drugs, illegal immigration, abortions, guns, race bias, gender bias, etc. With no identifiable enemy to face.)	x	x	x
23	Loss of individual rights to privacy	x	0	x
24	Fears of terrorist attacks and nuclear wars	x	x	x
25	Eminent Domain - Loss of personal real property to the government - (for later sale to commercial interests)	0	x	x
26	US Governments need to be involved in at least one shooting war somewhere in the world at all times.	x	x	x
27	Politicians arguing over who gets to dictate morality, and constant attempts by government to legislate one-size-fits-all morality for all citizens.	x	x	x
<b>Column Totals</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	
Ongoing monetary inflation by the government which causes the value of previously existing dollars to fall, which in turn causes prices related to living standards to continually increase much faster than wage gains, and living standards to therefore fall further each year for most American Citizens	American national pride and American national Companies being replaced by multi-national companies	Discriminatory law making - that being the enactment of laws designed to favor one group of Americans over other groups of Americans.	Government failure (refusal) to implement current technology for the purposes of improving the political and economic well-being of American citizens	Our Government controlling the nation's (and world's) economy for the benefit of our government and single interest groups that are dependant on our government - at the expense of Americas poorest and middle-class citizens.	<b>Row Tot:</b>
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
0	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
x	x	x	x	x	0
0	0	0	0	0	



# Fixing the Economy

## A revolutionary plan for fixing the economy and restoring the American Dream©

### I. Background - summing up how the economy was destroyed.

Beginning in the 1950's, the biggest Mega-Corps began lobbying Congress – urging them to allow businesses to pay no taxes on income derived from making things in other countries, and then re-importing them into the U.S. for sale, also free of taxes. For 50 years they kept it up, lobbying Congress to allow them to exist free of any contributions whatsoever to the Country that spawned them, nurtured them, and made them great and powerful.

For about the first 25 years of this lobbying effort, Congress told them to go fly a kite. Our Congressmen and Congresswomen said at the time that consciously exporting good paying jobs to other countries would end up destroying the economy of America. It would mean reducing both Federal and State taxes coming in from businesses and eliminating property and inventory taxes and income from business licensing. Not to mention putting thousands, perhaps millions, of American workers out of work.

It would reduce income taxes coming into the government because displaced workers no longer had incomes. It would reduce employer and worker contributions being paid into Social Security and Medicare, endangering those programs. It would increase the amounts of unemployment payments having to be paid out to workers who lost their jobs. It would eliminate workers having a retirement program to back up their social security, and it would put enormous stress on existing healthcare systems because employers would no longer offer health insurance to displaced workers whose jobs were moved out of the country.

Further, the reduced tax base would put similar enormous pressures on states and cities who would no longer have sufficient funds to pay for schools, teachers, roads, police, fire protection, sewers, water treatment systems,

garbage pickups, parks, and all the other state and city services that we as Americans had grown used to over time.

Keeping needed government services at proper levels would, the congressmen and congresswomen said at the time, be impossible without resorting to continually borrowing more money each year to fund what used to be paid for with incoming tax revenues, if we were to allow companies to escape taxation of all kinds by simply moving operations out of the country. And the continual borrowing would eventually lead to tax increases in order to be able to repay the debts being incurred.

No way, they said then. NO WAY!

But the Mega Corps who by this time had already begun to expand some of their operations outside of the U.S. borders were not easily dissuaded. They had the time, and they had the money to keep up the lobbying efforts. And the benefits to the corporate executives and major stockholders were so enormous if they were ever to be successful, that it just made good business\_sense to keep going with the attempt...no matter how long it took, or how much it cost. They built the lobbying costs into the prices of their goods and services, so that citizens would in effect be paying for their own destruction, if they were successful.

By the early 80's things started looking up for the Mega Corps. A lot of Congress members were new and a majority of the new Congresses from both main parties, even including some of the original naysayers, started to believe that the mega-corps might just be on to something that would be good not only for other countries, but for citizens of the U.S. too.

Over the next 25 years' time the pendulum swung back all the way past center to a point where Congress was enacting legislation that essentially allowed multi-nationals everything they had been asking for, for over 30 years...and more. NAFTA, CAFTA, GATT, WTO, IMF, and "most favored nation trading status" legislation, coupled with changing the federal tax laws on offshore businesses to eliminate taxes and employee benefits on products made out of the U.S., did just that.

Now it is late April 2016, almost 60 years after it all started, and we know for certain that the original stalwarts in Congress who foresaw the destruction of the American economy if mega-corp designed policies were allowed to rule the economy of the world, including the economy of America.....were right. Our economy and the economies of most if not all other nations of the world are in the toilet. The mega-corps and their banker friends are loaded with cash and sitting on top of the world.....and sitting on top of us.

Now the bought and paid for professional career politicians that caused all of this to happen on behalf of the mega-corps (we could have stopped them, but we didn't) are telling us that this is the "new reality" and we better all just get used to it. The best they can offer now in the way of making things better is to try to borrow money and spend our way out; increase taxes and spend our way out; or do some combination of these two things while drastically cutting back on government provided services that they previously assured us were absolutely necessary. The fact that these are the only options they see as being available tells us that these are definitely not the best and brightest (or most honest) among us.

## **II. The sole cause of the economic collapse:**

The cause of the economic collapse of America was the mega-corp-planned and government-endorsed moving of good-paying direct manufacturing jobs out of the country.

## **III. The sole remedy for restoring a viable economy:**

Bring back (recreate) the manufacturing jobs that were moved to other countries with the government's blessing.

## **IV. Determining the Scope (size) of the problem:**

Beginning around 1960 the largest American corporations began relocating their manufacturing workforces to other countries. The stated reason was to save labor costs. The real reason was tax and benefit payment avoidance. What started in 1960 as a trickle became by 1980 a flood of jobs leaving.

American workers were told that their competition was someone in some foreign country used to working for 50 cents an hour (or less) with no benefits. This was never true, but it was an effective scare tactic to keep workers in this country from asking for annual raises. In truth the output of the average American worker was enabled by technology, whereas in third world countries everything was bare-bones manual work. A single American worker aided by technology could easily produce as much of a product as 100-200 farm-field workers just brought into a factory in some foreign country.

So, an honest labor cost comparison would be more like 100-200 foreign workers at 50 cents an hour vs. one American worker at \$40 an hour, including benefits. Not to mention the logistics and language related costs associated with operating a business 8,000 miles away from your customer base and putting out inferior products to boot.

Nevertheless, over a 30-year period of time, beginning about 1980, the exodus of good manufacturing jobs eventually reached a total of a bit more than 20,000,000. As those 20,000,000 direct manufacturing jobs went away, another segment of good paying jobs was similarly affected. Workers at businesses that used to support the big manufacturers with things like raw materials of all kinds (plastics, metals, wood, etc.) making prototype components, designing packaging systems, mold makers, die makers, tool makers, and the logistics-related businesses that moved things from the support business to the big manufacturing businesses and their customers also had to scale back drastically, or themselves go out of business or possibly move out of the country.

And so, over the same 30-year period another 10,000,000 good paying jobs were lost. As the 30,000,000 combined manufacturing and manufacturing support jobs went away, the wholesale and retail segments of the workforce lost a similar 10,000,000 jobs, because their potential customer base shrunk with every job lost in the manufacturing and manufacturing support segments of the workforce. Finally, in 2008 the government built and government supported housing debacle claimed another 7,000,000 workers in the construction and housing related segments of the economy.

## V. The government's story:

The government tries to lessen the negative citizen reaction to the loss of 47 million good paying jobs by lying to us. They tell us that there's really only a bit over 9% of the potential workforce that are unemployed and need jobs. Actually, it's less than that, they say, because 5% don't really want to work. A knowledge-free and uncritical media give credence to these government stories, without ever once doing the fact checking they profess to do; and in so doing, propagate complete myths about the scope of the problems we are facing. According to the government and the media, we are currently slowly recovering from a "great recession."

## VI. The reality:

9+% (circa 2010) are unemployed and getting checks from the government.

10+% are unemployed, not getting assistance from the government and their existence is not acknowledged by the government. Most have been out of work for several years.

11+% are severely underemployed and often working at two or more poor paying jobs for a small fraction of what they used to earn. They have lost their good paying jobs, their job-related benefits, their savings, their retirement (401-K) accruals, their possessions, their homes, their credit, and their belief that things will ever get better. The government also does not acknowledge the existence of this group.

Bottom line, 31% of America's qualified potential workforce is in the toilet right now. And each of those 31% has an average of two dependents relying on them for their sustenance and life support. Add it all up (31% of a total potential qualified workforce of about 163,000,000, plus their dependents) and you have **141,000,000** American citizens for whom the dream has long since vanished.

The really bad news is that layoffs at American businesses are continuing to grow and cause all of these percentages to increase even as this is being

written. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are in by far the deepest economic depression this country has ever known.

### **VII. The reward for actually solving the “jobs” problem:**

As we bring back the 20,000,000 direct manufacturing jobs that have been shipped off to other countries, another 10,000,000 or so will also come back online as the manufacturing support segment of the economy swells to meet the increased need for their services. As those 30,000,000 jobs come back online, another 10,000,000 in the affected wholesale, retail and logistics sectors of the economy will be rejuvenated. As the combined 40,000,000 jobs in the manufacturing, manufacturing support, wholesale, retail, and logistics segments are restored, the vastly increased number of working Americans will enable the housing market that lost 7,000,000 workers to restore itself in spades, due to pent up demand.

As once highly paid but now severely underemployed workers leave their current low paying jobs to get a better paying one like they used to have, another 15,000,000 low paying jobs would be opened up for new first-time entrants into the workplace. All told we will have re-created a total of 62,000,000 jobs.

The economic impact of doing this would contribute between 4 and 6 TRILLION dollars annually to the U.S. economy, and not a penny of it would be borrowed.

The impact on revenues to the various federal, state, and municipal governments would see about half of all those amounts becoming available for meeting government needs without cutting services, or borrowing more money, or raising taxes, or screwing over recipients of current entitlement programs.

In short, all of the current money related problems at the citizen level and government levels would simply vanish, as if by magic.

### **VIII. The odds of things getting better:**

Given the current crop of polished professional career politicians serving in our government the odds of our economy ever making it back to a sound footing are just about nil.

However, every one of the current Democrat or Republican gamesmen or gameswomen currently in Congress and the Administration that we get rid of, we can replace with someone who has a different philosophy of governance altogether, who:

- 1) Understands what the problem is, and
- 2) Knows how to fix it, and
- 3) Is willing to do what's necessary to fix it, our odds get better.

If, for example we could replace 33% of the current bunch in Congress and the Administration with some more knowledgeable and dedicated people, we would have about a 60-40 chance of succeeding in 5 years or less. If we could replace 66% of the current bunch with more knowledgeable and dedicated people, our odds would improve to better than 9:1 of getting our economy totally back on track in the same period of time.

If, on the other hand, we continue to leave the majority of the present ignorant, self-absorbed, and completely ineffective bunch in office another term or two, our chances of things ever returning to what we used to call normal are about 550:1 against any positive change taking place....ever in our lifetimes.

### **IX. What is the goal - What's normal:**

What most of us would consider a sound footing (normal by previous decade's standards for Americans), would be an economy that offers as many good paying jobs as there are willing and qualified people wanting and needing one. By, "a good paying job," most would equate that to a job that netted out enough after taxes of all kinds for providing a three bedroom tract home for a family of four, food, clothing, transportation and medical attention as needed for the family, in addition to having a bit left over for

some recreation (movie or a ballgame) now and then, a two week vacation once a year paid for in cash, and a bit more still to save for that rainy day, or to help with retirement when the time came.

Believe it or not, we used to have an economy like that. And, by our actions in electing and re-electing unknowledgeable, unqualified, self-interested civil servants we collectively decided to trade that kind of an economy for the kind we are enjoying now. Go figure.

## **X. When is enough...enough:**

When career professional politicians talk about “fundamental change”, what they are really talking about is changing the name on the government office door from someone else’s name to their name. That hasn’t been a formula resulting in much that has been positive for our country over the past 30-40 years’ time.

For the past 40 years’ time we have continually vacillated between Democrat’s “Tax and spend (bribe) to stay in power,” and Republican’s “Borrow and spend (bribe) to stay in power.” As we have done this, our country and the majority of people living in it have seen things get steadily worse. The rich have gotten richer, and the poor have both gotten much poorer and increased greatly in number.

A nation composed of a majority of rational and logical persons would at some point in time come to the conclusion that continually switching between these two fatally flawed philosophies for governance was not moving the country forward...and would decide to take another course. That has not happened yet.

Presently 47% of Americans (141,000,000) are living on the ragged edge of financial disaster. At some point, possibly when the total reaches some number over 50%, it is likely that the citizens will rise up en masse and decide to “throw the bums out” and try something (anything) that might hold out hope of actually making things better.

## **XI. The good news and the bad news:**



The bad news is that we are still at only 47% of the people hurting. The good news is that 47% of the nation's total population are presently hurting badly, and that number is growing daily. Because of this we quite possibly are within an election or two of reaching a critical mass of citizens desperate to the point where we have the collective will to "throw the bums out" and start over with some new people who are neither Democrats or Republicans, who know what the problems are, and who know what is needed to solve them, and who are willing to do what's necessary to solve them promptly.

## **XII. Hope and Opportunity:**

These words get used a lot by polished professional career politicians. The reason is that people want to believe the politician's stories...and the politicians count on that.

There is an old saying that goes..."hope in one hand and spit in the other and see which hand fills up the fastest."

The moral of the story is that words of optimism and hope by themselves accomplish nothing. Action is required for things to change. And the actions need to mirror the words if things are to actually improve. A government that promises to improve things for a working class that is hurting badly, which government then acts to improve things only for those that are already very well off and need no help at all, is not really interested in helping the members of the working class.

Another saying that has merit is "listen to what people say, but also watch what they do. Their words may deceive, but their actions will always reveal who and what they really are."

We, the working-class citizens of America, haven't applied this old truism very well over the past 30-40 years' time. We have listened to the words of the polished professional career politicians, and when their actions later belied their words, we have then listened to and accepted their excuses.

The result is what we see before us now. A once great nation reduced to begging for handouts from other countries, and unable to provide jobs for its own citizens.

### **XIII. How long do we have:**

Not long. Probably ten to twenty years at the outside, and most likely closer to ten, than to twenty years. It is most definitely time to take back our country from an incompetent and corrupted government. It is after all entirely up to us. The whole is always equal to the sum of the individual parts. The idea that is America is equal to the sum of the actions of all of its individual citizens. We all have a part to play and no-one else can do your share of the work that needs to be done by you or do my share of the work that needs to be done by me. And, we're burning daylight, so we had better get started.

### **XIV. Action this day:**

Winston Churchill said it when we were fighting WWII. It was the battle cry he used to prod his countrymen into action against the Nazi Third Reich who had by that time destroyed much of what had once been the proud country of England.

It seems appropriate to insert it here at this time. We, the once proud middle class of America have seen much of the vibrant economy we created, disassembled by polished professional career politicians whose actions have resulted in crippling the middle class severely. Like England during WWII, we have been badly damaged, but we are not yet out of the fight. And, make no mistake; we are in the fight of our lives right now. In the balance hangs the future not only of us and our children, but the life of America itself.

America was never considered a great country (by other countries) until it developed a strong and vibrant middle class of working citizens. Over the past few decades, as our middle-class stature has diminished, America's stature as a world leader among nations has also slipped significantly. Some nations now are openly contemptuous of America and what they believe it has come to stand for.

The continual debasing of our currency (the dollar) due to government printing up more money to pay its expenses and debts has recently seen some countries refuse to accept the dollar in trade for goods or services. These countries believe that our dollars will soon become as worthless as the ones the Confederacy printed up during our own civil war. If we don't get this mess turned around pretty soon, they may just turn out to be right. America's worldwide image now is of a country whose middle-class citizens have become lazy, apathetic, weak minded, weak willed and unable to control their civil servants in the Government. Those other countries are right about one thing. Our government is completely out of control and drifting aimlessly like a rudderless ship on an ocean of debt.

**Now** must be the beginning of our finest hour. Time is not on our side and the odds are stacked against us. But that has never stopped Americans before, and we must not let it stop us from rising to this deadly challenge...and emerging victorious. Action this day! Time is of the essence.

#### **XV. A Revolutionary Plan of Action:**

First a reminder: It is not enough to do what needs to be done. We must do what needs to be done when it needs to be done. It does little good to close the barn door after the livestock has already gotten out.

Thinking along those lines, note that the plan that follows must be implemented before it is too late. That means it absolutely must be completed in 20 years or less. A tall order? There has never been a taller one in our country's history.

In order to be successful, we will in fact have to muster the same resolve that sustained the patriots who fought in our Revolutionary War to free us from British rule. The words of Thomas Paine seem as relevant now in our struggle to restore the middle class, as they were during the tough times in the winter of 1776 at Valley Forge.

*“**THESE** are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it **NOW** deserves the thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us; that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph.”*

## **The plan:**

Here is a strategic plan that can get everything done in 10 years (or less) that needs to be done to both fix our economy and restore the American Dream for everyone in America.

The plan calls for realigning the Congress in a way that first stops the madness, second implements changes that are guaranteed to fix the economy, and third, institutionalizes the changes in a way that disallows future Congresses and Administrations from easily undoing what has been done to restore both the economy and the American Dream.

In the years 2020 and 2022, we scout and line up the first set of replacements for the present Democrats and Republicans. People of another party or parties altogether. In 2020 we begin voting them into office.

1 – First, get enough Senate seats to stop the madness. Twenty seats should definitely do it. 33 seats are up every two years. (start with 10 seats in 2022 and add 10 more to the total every 2 years thereafter until a veto-proof majority is reached in the senate).

2 – Second, gain control of the House to control spending legislation. Every seat is up for election every two years. (start with 50 seats in 2022 and add 50 more to the total every two years thereafter until a veto-proof majority is reached in the house.).

Use the Congressional majorities to immediately start rebuilding our manufacturing base.

3 – Third, amend the Constitution in those areas where we now know the professional career politicians have found ways to circumvent the original intent of the founders. It is much harder to overcome or bypass a Constitutional Amendment than it is to undo legislation passed by a simple majority vote in Congress. The objective here is to make it really difficult for politicians to change things back to where we are today (once we have fixed the current problems) just because they either have an ulterior motive for doing that, or maybe just can't learn from history.

Finally, sometime down the road, when it's convenient, get the presidency...just for fun. It is not really all that important an office in our government if the Congress does its job properly. The Presidency has been a source of almost continual abuse of power since the beginning. However, when push comes to shove, the Congress can always override a presidential action. Always. The trick is to have a Congress made up mostly of people who are straight talking problem solvers instead of a Congress made up mostly of people who are slick-talking deal-makers and sell-out artists.

## Equal treatment under the laws

*“You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend, is about the end of any nation. **You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it.**”*

~~~~~Dr. Adrian Rogers, 1931

In re: Dr. Rogers above quotation, everything he says down to the last sentence is absolutely true.

### **THE LAST SENTENCE IS ABSOLUTELY FALSE.**

In fact, the most common and most effective way of creating new wealth is to have those with great wealth choose to invest in others whose ideas for producing a new type of goods or service seems promising. When this happens, new national wealth is created. When this does not happen, growth in national wealth stops. It is the concentration of non-productive wealth in the hands of a small minority who have no incentive to gain more that causes national economies to stagnate and deteriorate.

The question of dividing wealth aside, what any government (especially ours) CAN do that would serve to make things better immediately would be to treat all citizens equally under the laws, ALL laws, but most immediately and particularly with respect to taxation.

If one person makes \$ 1 million, while another makes \$1 dollar, and both remit the same percentage to the government to cover its expenses, equality has been served.

It is bogus and an illogically constructed excuse to treat either differently from the other from the standpoint of taxation.

Both rich and poor share equally in the benefits of being citizens of this country. Both have the same access to schools, police and fire protection, military protection, use of roadways, and even “entitlements” such as Social Security and Medicare.

Some argue that the one earning less money gets a better bargain for his tax dollars, since that person remits a lower sum of money. But this is not the case. The one with the higher income also has assets that are worth more and thus gets a greater value protected for the price of his/her contribution.

Fact: It costs more to insure a great mansion, than it does to insure a small bungalow. Following that line of thinking; if a greater value of property receives protection by the government, shouldn't it be the case that the one that has more of value protected, also pays in at least the same percentage of the protected value for the government's protective service, that the one with a property of lesser value pays in?

Jack

[www.Americall.org](http://www.Americall.org)

# **Fool me once shame on you, fool me twice shame on me:**

ORIGINALLY WRITTEN IN 2009, UPDATED IN 2016

I voted “None-of-the-above” in the last general election.

In my judgment, the programs then being promoted by all of the presidential candidates, and for that matter all of the other professional politicians at pretty much every level, and in every party, were and are still seriously lacking.

The existing professional politicians (of every party) are, in my opinion, completely clueless when it comes to understanding the problems that must be solved in order for America to remain a free and prosperous society going forward. So are all of the talking heads we see endlessly on TV. So are all of the think tank “experts” we also see endlessly on TV. So are all of the “pundits” we are exposed to endlessly in print. It’s really depressing!

The professional politicians and their entourages appear to be not only clueless, but also are apparently completely incapable of engaging in a serious discussion re: what needs to be done to alleviate the large number of symptoms of decline that are now causing great pain to so many tens of millions of American citizens. Instead they seem to be capable only of engaging in petty gossip, sniping, bickering, pandering, cheerleading, fear mongering, character assassination, and endless meaningless platitudes.

The “changes” to existing programs that the professional politicians have made in the past, and still are promoting, are for the most part trivial and misdirected and will do nothing at all to solve any of the real problems facing us. So, the real problems facing us are at present being completely ignored.

The Democrats want to enact more subsidy programs for someone or some group they see as disadvantaged and pay for it by increasing taxes. Now that one house and the administration have fallen under their "leadership" (2009) will almost certainly go down that road. Ongoing tax increases will continue to drive American entrepreneurs and businesses out of the U.S., at a time



when we need all of the help from these folks that we can muster. With the exit(s) of the most capable among us (and the highest paying jobs), the engine of America will slowly grind to a halt, and we will ultimately be faced with economic ruin, individually and as a nation.

The Republicans want to cut taxes and force the reduction in payouts to existing subsidy programs (only Democratic sponsored subsidies would be cut of course, Republican subsidies for businesses and the wealthy would remain in place if they were in power). This approach only works if Congress has the will to make the cuts in spending equal in amounts to the proposed cuts in taxes. Both Democratic and Republican Congresses have shown over a 50-year period that with absolute certainty they lack that will.

The result of having only Democrats and Republicans in office for the last eight years is what we are seeing now...lowered tax rates with no corresponding cutbacks in subsidy expenditures, which results in horrendous deficits every year...which are covered by borrowing money from other countries around the world, using the Federal Reserve as the go-between....and driving our economy, and ultimately the economies of a lot of other countries around the world too...into ruin.

The various “third” parties like the Libertarian, Reform, Green, and Constitution Parties are really just scaled down versions of the Democrats and Republicans, and for the most part embrace the same formulas for governance that the two major parties do, but with changes in matters of degree in some of the “issue” areas defined entirely by the Democrats and Republicans.

They don't really bring much of anything new to the table and are rightly rejected by the majority of citizens for just those reasons. So, the Democrat and Republican philosophies continue to rule in our government by default.

The underlying structural defects in our government that have now resulted from having been exposed to more than 60 straight years of only Republicans and/or Democrats in power are sinking this nation, and in fact have now placed the whole world at great risk. The answer to our problems can not and

will not come from either of these parties. Those who are the problem will not be the ones to solve the problem.

So, this past election season, I made a conscious choice not to vote for anyone running for President or any other national office. I simply refuse to continue being responsible in any way whatsoever for helping put someone in an office of great responsibility that will in my opinion, with absolute certainty, act to make things even worse in the future than they already are. We can do better. We **MUST** do better.

I'm looking for candidates who:

1. Know what the problems are that we need to solve in order to make things better.
2. Have the charisma to get Americans to listen to a serious discussion regarding the deadly problems we are now ignoring, and to possible ways of solving them.
3. Have the leadership ability to build and lead a team or teams capable of implementing the kind of fundamental structural changes that must take place if America is to succeed long-term.

Bring to me a candidate (or candidates) with these capabilities and I will gladly return to standing in line to cast my vote in an established voting booth, rather than voting "none of the above," as I did this past election year, from the comfort of my living room, while I was watching TV.

In the meantime, I will continue to act in ways that encourage others to become more knowledgeable about what the real problems are that we must solve.

The website [www.AmericaII.org](http://www.AmericaII.org) can be helpful in this regard. If this sort of thing interests you, and you are among those still looking for answers as to what our problems really are, how these never-talked-about problems create the deadly symptoms of decline that are presently destroying the lives of 141 million of our fellow citizens, how the problems might actually be solved,

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and how we can keep them from returning to harm us again in the future, I recommend checking it out.

I will also continue to encourage others to join me in refusing to vote for “lesser-of-evils” candidates. By refusing to vote for the lesser-of-evils candidates, we can hopefully take away the legitimacy of their claims to be representing the will of the majority of the middle-class citizens of this nation...when in fact they are not doing any such thing.

Finally, I will also work to help create a viable alternative to the present two majority parties and will actively seek out and promote candidates that I consider to be truly worthy of my vote. With a bit of luck, and some elbow grease, maybe next presidential election season will find me standing in line at an established polling place near my home.

I hope so.

Jack

[www.Americall.org](http://www.Americall.org)

## Fundamental Change

In the upcoming (2020) elections at the federal government level, EVERY candidate at both the primary and national election level will be emphasizing the need for “*fundamental changes*” in how our government is doing its job.

1. The first kind of fundamental change they will emphasize as being important, is changing the name of the present incumbent for whatever position they’re running for, to *their* name.
2. The second kind of fundamental changes they will offer up is how they propose to get the government to give you some more money...by taking it from somewhere it is currently being spent and moving it over into an account that can personally profit *you* more than now.

The catch of course, is that some other politician also running for the same office in another state will be promising some other group pretty much the same kind of thing, that is, giving them some more money by taking it from somewhere it is currently being spent, over into an account that can personally profit *them* more than now. And their account and your account may not be the same account.

With the possible exception of getting themselves elected, most, if not all, of these promises of “fundamental change” will never be kept. They know that up front....and so should you.

Politicians are smart enough to know that, like them, most of us are primarily interested in ourselves and our families, and will reluctantly sacrifice the needs of others, if it means that the government will do something to improve our personal positions in life money-wise.

They COUNT on **our self-interest** making us want to believe their stories as they pander to us.

For the most part, we don't think much of them because they are that kind of people. And, for the most part, they don't think much of us, because they believe that most of us are really no better than they are.

For the last 50-75 years, most American citizens have, seemingly, been trying to prove them right. And the politicians have been *so* successful at using these ploys, that they now don't even *try* another way of getting elected. And it is still working for them.

It is now late June of 2019, and most of us just suffered through listening to 20 **Democratic** Wannabes for President make one promise after another about how they would “*fundamentally change*” the government if they were elected. The shows were billed as “debates,” but in truth they were just a way for 20 people to test their talking points on National TV before they go out in earnest stumping on the campaign trail.

During these “debates,” individually, one or more of them promised at some point to:

1. Provide free education up through college to everyone
2. Reduce your taxes
3. Make the rich pay (a lot) more in taxes
4. Solve the immigration crisis
5. Provide free first-dollar healthcare (of every kind), to everyone
6. Protect women's rights to control their own bodies
7. Raise the minimum wage up to \$15/hour
8. Provide increased paid time off for persons due to maternity or injury
9. Greatly Increase the number of “good” jobs (i.e., those paying \$60,000 or more annually, with benefits)
10. Take guns originally built specifically as weapons of war away from citizens
11. Provide prompt and complete relief from natural disasters
12. Prop up and save Social Security for future generations

If we were to, in each instance above, propose doing the **opposite**, we would have a list of what we can assume the **Republican** candidates would (and will soon) be proposing to do for us.

It should be noted that in either the Democrat or Republican scenarios, none of these promises, even if they were to be kept, would constitute a “*fundamental change*” in how our government functions.

Instead, they propose to, once again, shuffle the deck chairs on the Titanic, and then challenge you to try and find which chair your personal reward is under... before the ship sinks.

In effect, they are just proposing rearranging the shells differently in an *already existing* shell game. The shell game *itself*, however, is the same all the time, year after year, decade after decade, election after election... and the suckers (losers like us) invariably go along with the charade always agreeing to play by the politicians’ rules.

So, if the present political system they all want to “*fundamentally change*” is all glitter and no gold, is not working well for most of the citizens of our country, and year after year everybody agrees that it needs to be changed, (but year after year it never actually changes) WHAT IS the answer to making things legitimately better? What WOULD actually constitute “*fundamental change*” in our government?

Back in 1776, Americans had their backs to the wall and were fighting to keep their lands and properties from being taken over completely by a monarch (King George III of England) and his toadies (the Lords and Nobles) living on an island 3,000 miles to the east. That monarch and his toadies had the world’s most powerful army and navy, at the time, and had already decided that America, and Americans, were both theirs to do with as they pleased.

To the Americans, the king was a tyrant. To the King of England, the Americans were so many serfs, and needed to learn their place under him, or possibly pay with their lives for complaining about his perceived mistreatment of them.

Our founding fathers knew that if we were to exist as a separate country, independent of England, something would have to “*fundamentally change*”

in their relationship. Ultimately it was decided by a war. Ours, for Independence.

**In 1782**, after we won the War for Independence, while starting work on what would ultimately become our Constitution, our Founding Fathers believed that **“fundamental change”** meant changing the balance points of power between the government and the citizens, in a way that was directed at protecting individual citizen’s rights under any government and assuring that the government was the servant of the people rather than the other way around.

In 1788, our Constitution’s primary goal was to first stipulate which powers the government could assume for itself, and second, to place firm, unbending limits on how far the government could go in enforcing its assumed powers over the citizens.

Now, it is 2019, and all the entrenched politicians and their wannabe replacements can only agree about one thing. That is, that we, again, need **“fundamental change”** in our government.

However, to the politicians and the wannabes in 2019, their interpretation of **“fundamental change”** invariably comes down on the side of giving the government more power over the individual and passing laws to punish citizens who disagree with their power grabs.

None of the entrenched politicians or the wannabes ever suggests actually changing the game to fit changing circumstances. None seem to have noticed, for example, that our country is not now as it was in 1782. And none seem to have noticed that the present-day rules of the game are now grossly unfair and damaging to a majority of the citizens living in America today.

There is an old saying to the effect that *“you can’t beat the other guy, playing his game, by his rules, in his ballpark, in front of his fans.”*

In order for **fundamental change** to occur, the field must be leveled and made neutral; the game must be ruled by a reliable and honest referee; the rules of the game must be changed so as to not be slanted toward the game-master or any one participant; and the ballpark must be expanded to hold everyone in the country.

About the only thing that both the politicians and CITIZENS can agree on is that in 2019, just as was the case in 1776, is that it is again time to **fundamentally change the balance points of power between the government and the citizens.**

And, just as in 1776, the politicians and government want the citizens to know their place as servants of the government, while most of the citizens want to move the country in exactly the opposite direction.

*The upcoming fight for the free spirit of America hinges on the citizens success in again fundamentally changing the balance points of power between them and their government.*

Elsewhere in the AmericaII.org website, you can find a booklet-sized plan for implementing **fundamental changes** to our government in a manner that would allow us to actually once again have a government “of, by, and for the people.” As things now stand, what we have is a government of, by, and for the professional politicians, their personal friends, and their campaign backers. It's almost as bad now as when we were subjects of King George III and his toadies.

The plan is titled:

*COMMON SENSE REVISITED*

**Credit where credit is due:**

The Original 48-page Common Sense booklet by Thomas Paine was published in January of 1776, at a point in time when the American Revolution was not going at all well for our side. George Washington's army had repeatedly been beaten and Americans were discouraged, many were ready to quit, and all were very much afraid of what might become of them if King George's minions were successful in their attempt to subjugate all of America.

In America's darkest hours, Thomas Paine penned Common Sense to rally the citizens to a just cause, and Americans responded by redoubling their



efforts, and then redoubling them again, and we drove the British from our shores. It was triple hard, but against all odds, we did it.

And when we finally won, we brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all citizens are created equal... and whose major premise was that all citizens were entitled to life, liberty, and an honest pursuit of happiness.

America was the only nation of its kind on Earth at the time, and now, 240 years later, America still is the only nation on Earth founded on those principles.

The original Common Sense by Thomas Paine saved America in 1776.

So, when you are toasting the flag on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, lift a glass to Tom Paine too. His indescribably great contribution in the form of Common Sense<sup>3\*</sup> not only helped set us free, but it also changed the entire world for all time.

Jack

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<sup>3</sup>\* “Common Sense” was first published (anonymously) on January 10th, 1776. It was anonymously published because Thomas Paine believed that if the King knew he wrote it he would be singled out by the English troops and killed outright. (He was right about that too).

Over the next couple of years over 500,000 copies were produced. Considering that the whole North American continent only had about 3 million people living here at the time, that meant that just about every citizen who could read had a copy.

Later it was reproduced in several languages and was a significant reason the French had a similar revolution in 1792.

Thomas Paine never profited personally from Common Sense.

# General Bullmoose

## “What’s Good for General Bullmoose is Good for the USA”

Most readers will not be familiar with the saying that introduces this essay. The reason is that it was made famous in a comic strip called “Lil Abner” back in the 1950’s. In the comic strip a super tycoon by the name of General Bullmoose was able, by virtue of his immense wealth, to force things to happen that even the entire government of the USA (including the military) couldn’t make happen.

Sometimes the General helped the country by paying for things that were needed, but which were too expensive for the government to handle. Most of the time though, he did things that were decidedly against the public interest, just because he wanted to, and because it increased his wealth even more. When questioned about why he indulged his self-interest at the expense of the public good his standard reply was, you guessed it, “What’s good for General Bullmoose **IS** good for the USA”.

It usually got a laugh when he said it. After all, it was a comic strip. When the author of the strip (Al Capp) passed away, the strip was discontinued. However General Bullmoose’s view of the world lingers on today. In fact, it has taken over the corporate and government worlds to a much greater degree than what General Bullmoose ever envisioned possible in his wildest dreams.

All the truly “great” Captains of industry all around the world today have adopted this view, but most of the “new” breed of Captains use their wealth much more frugally than the original General Bullmoose did.

Whereas the original General Bullmoose mostly used his own money to accomplish his nefarious goals, the more sophisticated Captains of industry around the world today use just enough of their own money to buy politicians, who then pass laws to extort taxes from the citizens, and pass laws that allow their government’s printing presses to be used to inflate the total amount of the county’s currency in circulation (mostly in the form of debt instruments that the citizens are obliged to pay off with higher taxes

when the time comes), to make up the rest of the money needed to carry out the Captains' orders.

A few decades back a cadre of the biggest of the big-deal Captains in America paid off enough politicians to get laws passed that allowed them to not pay any taxes of any kind on the things they manufactured outside the USA.

Then fearing that the tax-free items they produced by exploiting desperate citizens in other countries might have a tariff enacted against them when they were imported back into the good old USA - for sale to the citizens whose jobs they'd taken away - the same cadre of Captains paid off the politicians to get a whole bunch of "Free Trade Agreements" enacted. Each "free trade agreement" enacted specified that for the country involved, no duties or tariffs could be collected on any items imported into the USA from that country.

End result: the Captains were able to escape legal ramifications related to their offshore operations entirely (like paying any taxes whatsoever, protecting the environment, or providing money for the exploited workers healthcare, retirement, or compensation if the employees were injured on the job, etc.), and just as importantly, were able to more than double their corporate after-tax income, and not insignificantly to draw enormous pay and bonuses for helping their corporation rake it all in tax free.

The captains stressed (for public consumption) that they really had no choice, because their competition was using cheap foreign labor, and they therefore had to do the same. It wasn't entirely true, but it worked really well.

Most Americans actually felt sorry for the "helpless" Captains and excused their actions.

Of course, Middle America took it in the shorts with each transfer of a manufacturing operation offshore.

But hey, *"you can't make an omelet without breaking a few eggs"* the politicians were quick to note.

In this instance the number of eggs broken (read families destroyed) was almost 40 million wage earners, and each wage earner had an average of two

dependents counting on their lost income. A total of almost 140,000,000 destroyed American lives...were sacrificed at the altar of “free markets” solely for the benefit of the captains and their lackeys in the government...and the total number being sacrificed is growing every day in America.

Accomplishing the legal rape of the American middle class by these means was not easy, and even if most of us think they are the lowest forms of scumbag life on the planet, we can all still appreciate the diligence and persistence of the captains involved in getting it all done.

Raping an entire country is not an exercise for the uncommitted. You really have to want it!

At the same time, we should all despise, shun, and ostracize the scumbag politicians that sold us out to do their bidding. These pieces of trash have no shame. Many of them are still in the Congress and are still extolling their efforts in creating the present “free market” economy that has all but destroyed the middle class in America. I guess they are believers in the theory that if you tell a lie long enough, eventually people will accept it as the truth. These sellout artists won’t be happy until the entire once vibrant middle class in America has gone the way of the dodo bird.

We might in a perverse way even respect them for their cleverness in selling us all out, and using their spin-meister’s to convince us that they were really doing it out of a desire to help us and their country .....except for one thing..... they sold us all out so cheaply. They really are just low-priced, small-time whores, and we can hardly be expected to show respect to such a bunch of small time prostitutes.

A few were clever enough to negotiate deals where the captain they were working for not only provided an untraceable route to funnel money into their re-election campaigns, but they also got the captains to slip them some added money on the side...also cleverly untraceable. Like making them owners of an untraceable (blind) trust fund and helping the trust buy some valuable real estate for \$1 an acre...or an interest in a mine in Afghanistan ...or something of the kind...that could be cashed in later without anyone being the wiser.

Others sold us out for just barely enough untraceable money being funneled to people who would use the money to help them get re-elected to their precious positions in the Congress (or the administration). Those are the worst of the worst of the worst. These losers could have profited even more money-wise for their treachery, but they were too stupid or cowardly to even do that. Might as well make some money on the side once you've already sold your soul to the devil to get elected to something.

As things now stand, the Congress and Administration are working hard to finish off what's left of the middle class here in America. The society model they favor is a "have vs. have-not" model.

They know how to stop the bleeding and restore the economy to full robustness, but none of them will lift a finger to do anything along those lines. Why? Because their campaign funding would dry up overnight. That's why. And they will have more excuses than Carter has little liver pills for not actually working to make things better. After laying all their lame-ass excuses on us, they will then quickly return to their favorite "talking points" and go back to business as usual.

All the politicians (and their Captains) spin-meister's whining to the contrary notwithstanding, there was nothing "inevitable" about the demise of the American middle class.

That was just an easy scare tactic thought up by the captains to cover their misdeeds. It also gave the captains' politician flunkies something they could use as an excuse when going back home every year or two to press the flesh with the people that were dumb enough to help them get and stay elected.

The real reason for the exodus was the ability to totally avoid all kinds of taxation on income, and the ability to avoid covering things like retirement, healthcare, compensation for on the job injuries, property taxes, use taxes, etc. etc., etc.... Labor costs in highly-automated manufacturing plants that relocated were already almost nothing as a percent of sales, so there wasn't much there to save.

On the other hand, by avoiding all taxes and payments for worker benefits, they could effectively double their after tax profits.

Ever since the sellout started, the Government has had to borrow more each year to make up for the lost taxes they would have received if the corporations had stayed in the country. The more jobs (and companies) that are lost each year, the bigger the spending gap is that has to be covered by borrowings due to citizens being out of work to the tune (now) of about 40 million lost jobs; and the greater the amount is each year that the government is called on to pay out in subsidies to the workers whose jobs the government has destroyed.

The solution is obvious to anyone with a rational mind, whose vision has not been clouded by sellout money. All that has to happen is to reverse the tax giveaway legislation and cancel the “free trade” agreements that allow the captains to continue raping our citizens and our country. The captains might have to go back to only making 10-20 million dollars a year, and that would definitely not make a “true-21<sup>st</sup> Century-Captain” happy.

However, in each of the same corporations the sellout Captains are now heading up, there are likely more than 100 other workers who are more qualified than they are, that would gladly take their job for a couple million a year, be happy to have it; and in all likelihood would do a better job of running the company than the present “captains” have been able to do.

If and when the American middle class wises up and stops treating the scumbags in Washington who sold them out (Democrats and Republicans alike, working together, “hands across the aisle”) with totally unearned and undeserved deference and respect, and sends them home in shame for their treachery, and begins electing public servants from some other parties altogether - candidates with an honest interest in restoring the jobs the government has destroyed - we may be able to reclaim the American Dream for those of our citizens from whom it has been stolen over the past 40 years’ time, and pass it along intact to our children and grandchildren.

The “new” Captains that replace the present ones will need a new mantra. One that goes like this:

**What’s good for America will be good for General  
Bullmoose... but America profits FIRST.”**

And we don't have forever to get it done. If we don't move to reclaim our country from the Democrat and Republican "parties" within the next 10-20 years, America will quickly thereafter be relegated to the graveyard of once great nations who in the past once ruled the entire known world, but who through the aftereffects of corruption in the government were ultimately reduced to just tourist destinations...like England, France, Spain, Greece, Italy, and Egypt.

The decision is ours. What happens to America is still under our control and will be for a few (**very few**) years yet. If the middle class is able to shake off its apathy and ambivalence and actively work at making things better, we can save our country from being tossed on the scrap heap of once great nations, with visions of past glories lost, whose citizens' dreams, be they great or small, just don't matter anymore.

One action is worth a million words. Seek out a worthy individual (not a Democrat or Republican), and actually work to get him/her elected. We have at the most ten to twenty years to get the whole thing done. And the clock is ticking even as you are reading this. In 2020, make a new year's resolution to do your part in cleaning house in Washington. And that has to be one resolution that you must keep!

Your present representative(s) may be one of the only good ones there, but you can't assume that. First off, they probably aren't actually all that good now and may not have been all that great in the past either.

Spin has a lot to do with the good-bad comparisons we hear coming out of them. Their sad stories to the contrary notwithstanding, if they sold you out before, they will again. Secondly, the odds are that if they have been there more than two terms they have already been corrupted by the process and need to be replaced anyway. That is the smart way to bet, and the best way to vote for the country's sake.

In the process we may, in fact, throw out a (very) few congress-babies with the bathwater, but hey.....

*"You can't make an omelet without breaking a few eggs".....*

Right?

## **Governor Bob – Ending the Era of the Do-Nothing Governors**

As this is being written in May of 2012, it can be factually stated that for the past 4 decades the governors of the various state have been, to put it mildly, useless. Not just useless, but dangerous. Dangerous to the welfare of their states and our country overall.

All of the present ones should be fired and drummed out of their offices in disgrace. They are without question absolutely useless. Every one of them. They are not up to the jobs they have gotten themselves elected to. In my judgment, every one of them is a useless, ignorant, cowardly, under-qualified, pandering wimp.

If even one of them was honest and had any brains or balls, things in our country would likely not be anywhere NEAR as bad as they are today. But not one of the ignoramuses among them has been able to grow a set over the past 40 years' time, and because of that we are all paying a very heavy price for their indolence, and their lack of caring about making things better for the citizens in their state and in our country.

Instead, they spend the bulk of their time posturing for the cameras and the press. They find things that are trivial to work on and talk about and avoid at all costs ever actually saying or doing anything significant that might actually make things better for their state's citizens, their states in general and our country in general. What a bunch of losers.

Every one of them has stood around with their hands in their pockets and kept their mouths shut, as the federal government destroyed first the country's economy, and then the economy of their states. And, all the while, they did NOTHING!

And every one of them has more excuses than Carter has little liver pills regarding why they are powerless to do ANYTHING meaningful to help right the wrongs that the Muppets in Washington have committed over the



past 40 years' time. You know, the wrongs that cost us our economy and our country.

They already know that the sole reason for us and our economy being in the toilet right now, is because the sellout artists in Washington gave away 20 million direct manufacturing jobs to mega-corp businesses in other countries around the world (and are feverishly working even as this is being written on giving away the rest that are still here).

Every job giveaway endorsement by the federal government results in more people's jobs in each of the Governor's states going down the drain every time the Washington crowd applauds some mega-corp flushing another 1,000 or 2,000 direct manufacturing jobs down the toilet.

The Governors also know that that 20 million job sellout of workers in direct manufacturing jobs, caused the evaporation of another 20 million jobs here at home that were directly linked to the direct manufacturing jobs... like manufacturing support businesses in raw materials, tool and die makers, machine tool providers, specialized electronics manufacturers of digital controllers, packaging suppliers, and medical supply manufacturers, not to mention all of the wholesale, retail and logistics based businesses that have been destroyed along the way.

And let's not forget decimating the construction and homebuilding industries and putting 7 million construction workers out of work, in addition to forcing a few million families out of their homes and out into the streets.

They stood by with their hands in their pockets while more than 1 in 4 American citizens sunk into poverty...and they did NOTHING!

So, what DO the Governors choose to talk about and "work" on? They talk about and "work" on things like illegal immigration, breaking the unions still in existence in government and elsewhere so they can force government employees to work for less, rationalizing cutbacks on social and support services for the poorest among us, scaring their citizens into paying more taxes, blathering on about whether or not to allow gay marriages, and of course primping for their photo ops.

In short, they choose to concentrate their focus (and attempt to concentrate our focus) on things that are utterly TRIVIAL. At least trivial when

compared to working on restoring the lives of 141 million citizens in their state and other states who have had the rug jerked out from under them by the Muppets in Washington over the past 40 years...and working on restoring their own states economies so that their citizens didn't have to worry about when their job would be the next one shipped off to China or India or some other state or wherever.

If any of them had a lick of intelligence and/or even just some small amount of common sense, they would understand that stealing some company's workforce in another state by bribing the company with offers of tax exemptions in order to get them to relocate their workforce to the bribing Governor's state - doesn't really constitute job creation. It only constitutes job re-location. It doesn't help the country's economy one bit. It only redistributes it a bit differently. No new jobs are created. Creating jobs means adding new jobs to the workforce. It doesn't mean stealing existing jobs from another state.

Is it possible that the Governors individually and collectively are so stupid that they don't already know that if we brought back on line the 47,000,000 jobs that have been sacrificed over the past 40 years' time by the Muppets, that taxes at current rates on the re-instated incomes to the 47 million now unemployed and underemployed citizens in this country, and some small but reasonable level of taxes on the businesses that employed them (with their state getting its fair share of the total) would almost instantly restore the nations, and their states economies; thereby making further raising of taxes, borrowing of more money, and cutbacks in services for the poorest among us unnecessary, while at the same time restoring the soundness of long standing programs for an aging population, like Social Security and Medicare?

Hell, if we restored the sold-out 47 million good paying jobs, there would probably be enough of a tax surplus at every level so that both the states and the Feds could come up with medical insurance programs for the really poor among us, without having to break the backs, banks, souls, and spirit of every citizen in the country doing it (bye-bye Obama care). The rest of us could, if we preferred, be covered by group health insurance provided by our employers, just like it used to be in the good old days before the Muppets took over.

But our Governors apparently either aren't smart enough individually or collectively to figure these things out. Or perhaps they are just so enamored with themselves and feeling important, that they just can't take time out to understand what the fuss is all about with the middle class and poor folks.

These guys really are the bottom of the barrel.

Actually, we don't really have a pressing need to create any new jobs in America right now. We have already created all the jobs needed to fully restore our economy, and the lives of every American citizen who has been screwed over by the Muppets in the federal government over the past 40 years' time.

Unfortunately, our weak-minded, weak-willed, and self-interested public servants in Washington chose to sell out 141 million of the citizens they were supposedly going to Washington to protect and serve, and they gave those already-created good jobs away to mega-corp operations in other countries.

Why? Because the money providers for elections showed them how it would be in their personal best interests to do it. And the money providers promised that they would provide all the rationalization the public servants needed when anyone questioned why they were selling out their fellow citizens and neighbors. End result: endless increasing unemployment and under-employment here at home.

WAHOO!

And now, after watching the Muppets in Washington continually commit rape of the middle class for 40 years, without once having been brought up on charges for their violent acts against the citizens they took an oath of office to protect and serve; the Governors, all thinking that one day they might be running for president, (or at least be able to get a cabinet seat or Judgeship) have chosen to go along with the sellout artists in Muppet-Land on the Potomac. No sense making waves at this point in the game.

Right Gov.?

But what might one State Governor do to ACTUALLY make things better? Let me paint a scenario for you about what a real governor (i.e., an honest

one with both brains and courage<sup>4\*</sup>) might do to actually make things better for the people in his/her state and the country overall.

### **Meet Governor Bob...**

#### **Picture this:**

Governor Bob, Governor of (Let's say the state of Confusion, just to put a name to the State) whose state is in the toilet, and has been for more than 20 years, finally gets a belly full of the sell-out artists in Washington and decides to make some waves. Waves that will put lots and lots of people in his state (and the rest of the country too) back to work at GOOD jobs.

First Governor Bob announces that he won't be running for ANY public office when his term is up. He therefore doesn't need business related financial support (or anyone else's financial support) for his next campaign, because there won't be another political campaign for him. He will have completed his stint at public service and plans to retire and do something else with the rest of his life.

He is now free from outside influence. He is truly free for the first and only time in his career as a public servant.

Next Governor Bob has his assistant get him the names, phone numbers (office and cell), and business and residence address of all the other State Governors. He uses these to build a contact and database system for purposes of recording his contacts with the other Governors around the country.

Next, he uses his States treasury money, already allocated to the Governor's Office, to build and maintain a website suitable for providing a means of communicating his plan and progress to everyone in his state and the country who has an internet connection. Cost...a couple thousand dollars.

Now, Governor Bob is ready to go to work.

He dictates a memo to all the other State Governors outlining his plan for forcing the Muppets in Washington to reverse their prior bad acts, namely excusing mega-corps from paying any taxes and/or providing any employee

<sup>4\*</sup>there has not been one of these anywhere in America for over 40 years.

benefits whatsoever, if the products were made in countries where we had a “free”-trade agreement in place.

He reminds them that those acts on the part of Congress were 100% responsible for the destruction of our nation’s economy and the various state economies and the lives of 141 million of their fellow citizens and neighbors. The memo is sent by e-mail and registered mail to the other Governors business and home addresses. The database and web-site are updated so show that these activities have occurred.

The plan is simple and straight forward.

All of the Governors (every state) will meet in person and hold a National Governors Conference with the sole topic to be a plan for forcing the federal government to restore the jobs they gave away. It will be made very plain that the mission is not to talk about creating more jobs to later be shipped off to other countries. The mission is to force Congress and the Administration to restore the ones we created earlier and then watched the Muppets give away. We want them back! All of them!

Now!

The Conference will be held in the open on the steps of the Capitol with all possible media in attendance, filming and capturing every word that is spoken and everything that happens. The conference will last until Congress and the Administration sign into law a foolproof means of restoring all of the gifted-away jobs within no more than 5 years’ time, start to finish.

The Governors will live, eat, sleep, and toilet on the steps of Congress until Congress acts (not just promises, but acts irreversibly) to restore the jobs, and with them our economy, and the American Dream that was stolen from 141 million of the nation’s citizens.

The public would be invited to meet and talk personally with the Governors while the conference was in session. It would be an ongoing media event like no other. The Governors would all get more face time with the national media than they ever had received before. CNN could dedicate 10-20 reporters and photographers 24-7 for the duration.

Prior to sending the memo to the Governors, Governor Bob calls a press conference and invites the media to publicize his plan. During the press conference he informs the people of his State of his intentions and asks for their support. He also lets them know the website URL, so they can log in daily to see how it's going.

At the Governor's conference, Governor Bob is possibly selected to be spokesman for the group when addressing Congress and the Administration. This makes sense because he was the one smart enough to figure out a way to get the jobs back; and someone smart will be needed as spokesman to keep the members of Congress and the Administration focused on what has to be done. Absent someone keeping them focused, the individual members of the Congress and Administration will just naturally drift off into their usual mode of talking about trivial things and getting nothing important done.

Every contact with the individual Governors, House of Representative Members, Senate members, and Administration members will be recorded in the web-site. In addition to seeing and hearing the goings on of the Governor's Conference, citizens would be able to review the activities online.

All of the Governor's office phone numbers, cell phone numbers, office addresses, and home addresses would be maintained for citizen contact use on the website, and changes would be updated daily. Governors who declined to participate in the conference would be identified separately in a separate list on the website. Another separate table could have the same information for all members of Congress and the Administration.

In essence the Governors would be exercising their Constitutional right to freely assemble for purposes of petitioning the Federal Government for a redress of grievances, on behalf of the citizens of their states. Congress and the Administration would be powerless to break up the conference and would disregard the assembly at their peril.

Congress and the Administration could, and would, if the Governors remained steadfast in their demands, be forced to act in a way that brought back all of the jobs that had been gifted away over the past 40 years' time. In the process all of the money problems we have been experiencing at both the

government and individual levels for the last 40 years would all disappear, as if by magic.

Just one honest Governor with intelligence and courage\*, whose desire to do something that would restore his/her state and his/her country was greater than his/her desire to remain in office, could make this happen.

As a first step, I will test the process myself by sending a copy of this essay out to every sitting governor in the United States. If I can contact every governor in every state and propose a plan to bring back the jobs, so can each of them. But will even one of them take me up on my offer and try to do something really useful that would, with absolute certainty help the economy of their state and the economy of the country, and improve the welfare of 141 million of their fellow citizens who are hurting badly right now?

Or will I just get another string of excuses for inaction generated for the governors by their media consultant handlers?

The odds are long that any of the existing Governors will take me up on my offer, but I think I should at give it a try. Actually, so should you. You can contact the governor of your state, can't you? Feel free to just send them a copy of this essay if you want to. If they get a few thousand copies from citizens in their state, it more than doubles our chances that they might at least read one of them.

Right?

Maybe together we can prod just one of them into actually trying to do something really useful and meaningful for their state, our country, and for their fellow citizens and neighbors ....for once in their lives.

Jack

[www.Americall.org](http://www.Americall.org)

## How Many Undocumented Immigrants Live in the U.S.?

The government has consistently stated for the past 40 years that we have an estimated total of 10-12 million illegal/undocumented immigrants living somewhere in America.

Every year they use the same number (10-12 million).

Beginning in (or maybe before) 1980, we (our government) were reporting an estimated influx of 232 illegal immigrants per hour, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The number they said was alarming, and we should, everyone agreed, do something about it.

But nothing was done to stem the tide, and approximately that many continued to stream in every year for the next 40 years (up until now).

And now, every year, we are reminded by our government, that there are still an estimated 10-12 million illegal/undocumented immigrants living somewhere in America.

How likely is it that the government's "estimate" is accurate?

Consider this:

232 per hour (times) 24 hours a day equals 5568 a day.

5568 per day (times) 365 days a year equals 2,032,320 a year.

2,032,320 per year (times) 40 years (since 1980) equals 81,292,800.

Is it possible that we actually have more than 80 million illegal/undocumented immigrants living in America now? Probably not. It is probably equally unlikely that we have only 10-12 million living here now. The correct number will be somewhere between these two extremes. Nobody knows the correct answer for certain. That's one reason a census is conducted every ten years. But the census numbers are flawed as well.



Possibly as many as 5% of our population avoid participating in the census for fear they will be tracked down and deported. That is 15 million to 16 million right there that are not counted.

Possibly as many as 5% (or more) of our population avoid participating in the census because they believe that the government is asking questions not related to head counts that are of a personal nature that is none of the government's business. More millions uncounted.

Of the 81 million that may have crossed over into America, possibly 90% originally entered the country legally at a border crossing with a temporary visa. That would account for about 72 million of the 81 million that came into the country.

The rest crossed the border illegally. Sometimes they got caught, sometimes they didn't, and just vanished into the woodwork, protected from detection by friends and family. Nobody knows how many of these there are. Nobody.

Of the 72 million who initially crossed the border legally, and then chose to stay here illegally after their visas expired:

- Some were old and sick and died over the intervening years. Nobody knows how many of these there are. Nobody.
- Some sneaked back across the border after a length of time staying here illegally, after their visas expired. Sometimes it was due to being homesick, sometimes if was to take care of family members on the other side of the border. Sometimes it was due to just being tired of being constantly afraid and viewed as second class people by the citizens living here who weren't the same as them. Nobody knows how many of these there are. Nobody.
- Some married and had children. Those children automatically became legal American citizens by way of being born in America; but were never counted for fear that

their parents might be traced, found, and deported due to an illegal entry into America many years before. Nobody knows how many of these there are. Nobody.

- Some surrendered to authorities, and went back across the border, hoping to legally re-enter for purposes of becoming legal American citizens. The government knows who these people are, and their children too. Getting a chance to re-enter legally for purposes of becoming a legal citizen, after you have been found to have entered illegally once before, is a real crap shoot, and the odds are definitely against those trying this approach of becoming American citizens.
- Given all of this, it is likely that half (or more) of those entering or staying in the country illegally since 1980, are still living here illegally today.
- That would be somewhere in the range of 40 million undocumented immigrants living illegally somewhere in America today (2020). Nobody knows for certain how many there are. Nobody.
- The government is charged with controlling the input of people entering the country from other countries. They have done an incredibly poor job in this respect for nearly half of a century. The ad hoc, half-baked ideas for handling immigration periodically coming out of Washington are laughable. At least they would be laughable if the subject itself were not such a serious one.
- The politicians in Washington are playing with real people's lives and using the people involved as if they were pawns in a live, for-real game.... not of chess....but of feeding their political ambitions. These idiots really need to be replaced by their constituents.

- Throughout this piece I have repeatedly indicated that in terms of most of the various categories an illegal/undocumented immigrant might be part of, that NOBODY really knew the correct answer. That includes me. And it MOST CERTAINLY includes our representatives in government at the federal level.

Our political leaders are clueless about:

1. How to define the problem
2. How to calculate the scope of the problem, and
3. How to solve the problem in a way that implementing the solution doesn't destroy the country in the process and so that the problem does not come back to bite us again in the future.

Illegal/undocumented immigration is not a problem in America, or any other country around the world either. Not even in those 70+ other countries presently stringing chain link fence and razor wire across their borders to halt the flow of unwanted immigrants into THEIR countries.

Illegal/undocumented immigration is a symptom of overpopulation in the countries the immigrants are coming from; combined with a lack of a workable immigration policy in the countries they are trying to immigrate into.

The same problems causing excess immigration are facing every country in the world now, but the politicians seek only to treat the symptoms and ignore the problems themselves. And then they lie about how much success they have had, so that we will hopefully vote them into office again, so they can do more and more damage in the future.

In large part, this is the case due to:

1. The very great majority of politicians being unknowledgeable about the root causes of illegal immigration, and

2. The politician's fears of being revealed to be incompetent when it comes to solving these types of problems in general.

They are right on both counts. The great majority of politicians are NOT up to the job. But the catch comes when it comes time to face up to these realities.

The thing is....they all want to stay in office....for as long as possible.... whether they have what it takes to solve the hard problems or not.

So, they resort to gross exaggeration and outright lying when it comes to dealing with their constituents and attempting to convince them that they have a good bead on things and are making real headway in getting the problems under control....as a mean of getting re-elected.

Instead of a congress and administration comprised of deal makers and con artists, what is needed now worldwide, and certainly here in the U.S., is a Congress and Administration comprised of people who know how to define and solve problems, and who are not concerned with being continually re-elected to Congress or the Administration.

**It is time to fundamentally change the balance points of power between the government and the citizens.** In those areas of government most subject to graft, corruption, and self-dealing; and those areas where the politicians have demonstrated over decades of time that they don't know what's going on, we need to revise our Constitution to provide for all of the citizens votes to be counted when making laws that are life altering for everyone in the country.

Immigration policy would, I think, fall in this category.

-Jack

Please also take a look at *COMMON SENSE REVISITED*, on the [www.America11.org](http://www.America11.org) website... for a practical plan as to how to make this happen.

## **Ignorance and Enthusiasm**

**(a very dangerous mix)**

Ignorance and enthusiasm will only stretch so far. Then reality sets in. And, as has become all too obvious recently, reality can be a pretty sobering experience if you aren't prepared for it.

Right now, today, there are 141 million citizens in our country facing some terrible realities that they never thought could happen in America. They have lost their good jobs, their homes, their savings, their credit, their health benefits, and worst of all, their hope for a better tomorrow.

Our government has vastly understated the scope of the work that needs to be done in order for us to not only stop the bleeding but restore the lives and livelihoods of those already damaged in the past. This depression we are in now started almost 40 years ago and has now insidiously claimed the lives and dreams of almost half of all of America's citizens. It was brought to our attention suddenly and vividly in 2008 in a way we could no longer ignore by way of the total collapse of the housing market. But the loss of the good paying jobs and the ongoing devaluing of our shrinking labor force had been going on for almost three decades by then.

The housing bubble was really just the straw that broke the camel's back. Until that happened the 53% of citizens whose heads were still above water were able to shrug off the fact that 47% of their fellow citizens were suffering greatly. Now those in the 53% are starting to look at their hold cards, because deep down inside they now know it can happen to them too.

Government spokespersons are busy attempting to put a positive spin on any small thing they can find to draw our attention away from the fact that they really don't know what is going on. It doesn't appear to be working as well this time around as in prior years.

Judging from the level of rancor currently being directed at the federal government in general, it appears that a large and rapidly growing number of citizens have come to believe that the same government that created the mess we are in now will not be smart enough to get us out of it.

Movements like the “tea party” and “MAGA” are giving a voice to the level of anger and frustration of the 47% who have had their lives severely disrupted, if not destroyed completely, by the actions of their government over the past forty or so years’ time.

While it may seem obvious to a lot of us that no-one in government has a clue about what needs to be done, or where to start, or much of anything else, we citizens in the middle can’t afford to remain as ignorant as our fearless leaders appear to be individually and collectively. If we willingly choose to remain as clueless as our leaders are, we will most assuredly lose our country, and everything that once made it great.

Education is the key. Not math and science but educating ourselves as to how the mess we are now wading around in really came about over time, so we won’t get fooled again.

Right now, today, most of us get our information about the condition of our country from professional career politicians, news media that reports on what the professional career politicians say and do, talk show hosts on TV and radio that discuss what the professional career politicians say about this or that, think-tank experts that also appear on TV and discuss what the professional career politicians say, and a whole slew of authors and pundits who also discuss in print whatever the professional career politicians are talking about.

The common thread in all of these information sources is that they all start with what some clever polished professional career politician or group of clever professional career politicians want to talk about. That may be titillating and entertaining, but it also limits the information content being handed out to the citizens to just those topics the professional career politicians want us to concentrate on.

In the movie “The Wizard of Oz” the wizard is a flim-flam artist who uses illusions and trickery to maintain his position as leader of the community. He has no special powers as claimed, but through illusion and bluster convinces the citizens that he is in fact a real wizard. The Wizard of Oz in many ways resembles our current-day government leaders. They may be clueless and even dangerously ignorant of what is needed to either protect or advance our society, but they are very skilled at creating an impression that they too are wizards.

The transformation of the fourth estate (once known as the press, now referred to as the media) from organizations seeking to enlighten the citizens about the condition of their country.... into organizations focusing only on improving their ratings so that their income from selling commercial time and space increases each year.... has essentially left the majority of citizens in the dark about what is going on in the government.

The media (both right and left leaning) fawn over the professional career politicians like so many lap dogs, picking up and spreading around the tidbits that the politicians drop. It never seems to occur to those in the media that they are really just helping spread propaganda for one side or the other. Perhaps in the rush for more money, they lost sight of what they were supposedly there for.

Over the past couple of decades, the media have gone from indispensable to completely useless. It appears that we will just have to get along without them.

If the condition of your country is important to you, and you want to be in a position to make a positive difference not just for yourself and your immediate family, but maybe also in a way that helps a few of the 47% get their country back too, you may have some work ahead of you. It all starts with gaining an understanding of how we traveled all the way from “justice for all” to “how much justice can you afford”?

Aristotle (a way smart guy that lived in Greece about 2300 years ago) established what we today refer to as “the scientific method of problem

solving”. In 2300 years, no-one has been able to improve on it. Like I said, he was way smart.

His approach to problem solving started by assuming that the conventional wisdom of the day might well be wrong. Then he was free to consider all alternatives to solving a problem. It worked for him, and it can work for us too. This is not to imply that conventional wisdom is always wrong, only that it shouldn't be accepted blindly, regardless of the source. Especially if the source is a professional career politician or a high-ranking government official (bureaucrat).

Today's conventional government wisdom says that in order to help people who have no jobs, no credit, and perhaps a foreclosure or bankruptcy on their record thrown in for good measure: what is needed is for the government to give the money changers more (almost free) money to lend.

The money changers aren't going to lend it to these kinds of people (the law won't let them), and the fact that so many citizens are now broke and broken spirited means they aren't going to try very hard to buy things they don't absolutely need in order to “get the consumer based economy back on track”.

Without good jobs creating good credit and spendable income from some source, there can be no sustained recovery. And, without a sustained recovery there will be no good jobs, or restored credit, or spendable income. It's Catch 22; and it is some catch, that Catch 22. And it has caught our government and our country in trap that will be very hard to escape from this time around.

Having a government populated mostly with clever polished professional career politicians who are primarily schooled in, and in love with, the “art of the deal”... at a time when what is needed is a government populated mostly by people who know how to define and solve problems... is a classic mismatch.

And for those of us caught in the middle it is a mismatch that can cost us everything we have now or ever hoped to have in the future, including us and our children and grandchildren being able to continue living in a free and prosperous country.



For about 30 - 40 years now, at our government's request, the majority of us have been living like there was no tomorrow. We spent more than we should have, borrowed more than we should have, and allowed incompetent people to have and hold jobs of real importance in our government. Those incompetent people made a lot of bad decisions over the years.

Bad decision after bad decision, we let them stay on and keep doing more and more damage. The accumulative total of those bad decisions has brought us to where we are now.

But, at some point we have to stop pointing fingers at the incompetent, and probably also corrupt, clever polished professional career politicians and admit to our own complicity in creating this mess we are now struggling to get out of.

We put them there, and we allowed them to stay on even when they did things like passing laws primarily designed to get manufacturing companies to move their manufacturing operations out of our country. When the manufacturing jobs disappeared, we listened to their lame excuses for having to borrow money to make up for lost tax revenues and didn't hold them accountable. When they used the privately-owned Federal Reserve Banks to flood the world with devalued dollars in order to pay government bills that never should have been incurred in the first place, we looked the other way and let them keep doing it. They are still doing it today to make the richest among us (worldwide) even richer.

But it's not only the incompetent and/or corrupt polished professional career politicians who are to blame for what has happened.

Half of the blame is ours.

The question is, what (if anything) are we going to do about it?

One approach would be to just keep blaming the existing bunch of clever polished professional career politicians. The clever polished professional career politicians are easy targets, and they make really great scapegoats.

And, that way we would never have to accept any of the blame ourselves. Besides, it's fun, if not very productive, to shake our fists, shout slogans, and parade around with signs letting them know that we think that they are a bunch of corrupt, weak minded scoundrels.

More than nine out of ten of us middle class citizens, whether we are now or were Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Libertarians, or members of the Green Party, Reform Party, Constitution Party or perhaps even unaffiliated "Tea Party" activists, have been badly mis-informed about what our government has been doing for us (and to us) over the past 30 - 40 years' time.

That is the main reason that we and our country are in the toilet right now. And that's where we will stay, and how our lives and our children's lives will end, unless a majority of us wise up pretty quick and decide to implement for ourselves what the polished professional career politicians like to call "**fundamental change**". Most of them probably wouldn't like it much if we were to ever actually do that.

Education really is the key. Not just how the God-awful mess we are in now came about over time, but what our options (really) are in terms of fixing things for the better once and for all.

The whole is always equal to the sum of the individual parts. The idea that is America is equal to the sum of the actions of all of its individual citizens. We all have a part to play.

And it all starts with you, right here and right now. No-one else can do your share of the work that needs so badly to be done. If you choose to remain clueless, and don't mind losing your country and your children's future in the bargain, be my guest. It is after all still, at this point in time, a free country. If instead you would like to try and make a positive difference, **first read** the book you will find by visiting the website at the bottom of this essay. It talks about what our problems really are, and how we might solve them in a way that keeps them from coming back to haunt us again and again in the future.

Then get up off the couch and get back in the game. Right now, in football terms, we are down two touchdowns in this game of all games, and we are in the final quarter. We can still win the political game, and get our country back, but it is going to take a serious effort from a majority of us in the middle and those at the bottom to do it.

And, we don't have forever to get it done. Maybe 10-20 years. Perhaps a couple more, but more likely a couple less. If we don't take our country back from the current mix of clever, polished, professional career politicians in that length of time, we may not be able to get it done in any length of time after that. It might just be too late for us to restore what has been lost. Time is definitely not on our side.

More than two million American military men and women have died over the years fighting to give you the right to choose for yourself how you want to live your life and also to choose what kind of a country you would like to leave behind for your children and grandchildren.

So, choose.

And if you choose to do nothing, like a clear majority have done most of the time in the past and decide to remain part of the problem rather than pitching in and trying to be part of the solution, then, please, at least stop complaining.

Complaining is not a right. It is a privilege. And the privilege belongs to those who have earned it. In this instance, earning the privilege involves first spending whatever amount of time and energy are required to gain an accurate understanding of what our problems really are, and then actively using that knowledge to help make things better for this and future generations. Those who have earned the privilege are a relatively small group right now.

If you are not a member of this group yet, I hope that you will decide to invest the time and energy needed to become a member in the near future. Your country needs your help.

## IT'S ONLY FUNNY MONEY

As our population has grown, the federal government's size has grown disproportionately more.

This is potentially a problem in that every dollar the government takes for its own operations is a dollar that a citizen cannot spend on things that the citizen needs for himself/herself and his /her family.

Given the number of people in our country now, and the many competing needs of the population, some government is necessary. But a serious discussion is also long overdue regarding which present government functions are actually necessary, and which ones we might be able to do without. And even more importantly, which ones could, through re-engineering of workflows and application of current technologies, be made more efficient; requiring fewer full-time employees (and less overall time and cost) to get all necessary work done. If the employee count goes down over time within the government, the overall cost of running the government would go down proportionally.

This is an area where we can learn something useful from successful businesses.

In business, the non-productive areas that the business spends money on are called "operating expenses".

Some examples of operating expenses might be, payments made for facility leases, heat, lights, cooling, janitorial maintenance, insurance, shipping, receiving, as well as money spent on purchasing, research, furnishings, supplies needed in the office, telephone operators, workers involved in accounting, administration, information technology workers, planning, fleet maintenance, refuse cleanup and delivery to a landfill, legal services, tax preparation, advertising and promotion, etc. In short, all the expenses not having to do with directly providing the goods or services that are the company's primary source of income.

In every society (and country) the various governments' expenditures comprise the "operating expenses" of the country or state or county, or municipality. Governments make up the non-productive segment of all societies at all levels. In our society, The United States of America, the

various levels of government are intended to support the productive sector, but not be a part of it. Which is probably a good idea.

There are some societies around the world that roll everything into one big ball and treat the support functions as if they were in fact productive functions. However, throughout all past centuries, and still as of today, these “all-in-one” countries have not proven themselves capable of keeping up innovation-wise and productivity-wise with the countries that separate support and productive functions.

We can go back a long way and there are dozens of examples, all of which turned out the same, but a recent and ongoing example of this on a large country scale would be Russia. They get by OK, but nothing much of value has come from Russia in the years since it elected to follow a completely socialist/communist path.

|                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Anyway, the main topic of this short essay is government OPERATING EXPENSES, and their relationship to the overall annual income (Gross Domestic Product) of the country. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### **A private sector comparison:**

In a manufacturing business, operating expenses typically shrink as a percentage of gross sales as the company grows. In fact, it is typically the case that operating expenses grow at about 1/3rd the rate that production costs grow, in an expanding and well-run company.

While the company may triple in size sales wise, it does not necessarily follow that operating expenses must also increase at the same rate. A manufacturing business using aluminum bars could require three times as many bars from their supplier as the company grew, but it would have no effect at all on purchasing and accounting functions. The purchasing agent would simply increase the number of bars ordered on the purchase order, the computer would make the price extensions, and a single purchase order would still print out, but with bigger numbers printed on it. Likewise, when it came time to pay the invoice for the increased quantity of materials, a single check with a bigger dollar amount would be printed and mailed out, probably by the same accounting person that previously mailed out checks with smaller amounts on them. No increase even in the cost of postage.

The purchasing and accounting functions would also not need more space or a bigger building since the number of employees, (and desks, and computers,

and lunchrooms, and rest rooms, etc.) didn't change or need to be expanded. So, heat, lights, and janitorial, and maintenance services would not change either.

And almost certainly, the administrative staff would not increase in size. The company doesn't need two presidents, two executive vice presidents, two controllers, two legal departments, two sales departments, two marketing departments etc. just because the company was experiencing increased sales. In fact, companies typically reward the administration of companies that are able to hold down operating expenses.

Administrators employ efficiency experts and ever-more computer technology to identify more efficient and cost-effective ways of performing support functions within the business as a way of holding operating expenses to a minimum.

Growth in some administrative functions is probably inevitable in the private sector as the company grows. For example, product liability insurance costs go up (hopefully) proportional to the increase in sales. Employee health and retirement premiums also increase, not proportional to sales, but largely by government and insurance company dictates. Currently healthcare and retirement costs are increasing at approximately 3 times the government-stated rate of inflation.

Because of the differing growth rates in Support and Production costs, most businesses of good size will have one "executive" vice president that reports to the president, who in turn reports to the board of directors of the company. The "executive" vice president might then designate two other lesser vice presidents: a vice president of operations, that oversees the productive segments of the company, and an administrative vice president that oversees the support functions of the company.

Within this hierarchy, depending on total company size, each lesser vice president typically has an "assistant" or two reporting to him/her, that oversees specific sub-functions of the entire administrative or productive sections of the company. The fewer the better from the Board's and CEO's standpoints.

Bottom line though, operating costs in pretty much any decently run business grow much less than do the businesses' production related costs overall.

Now, let's take a look at the biggest business in the world....the economy of **the United States of America** ... to see how well it fits the efficiency model.

Since 1950, the total US economy (Gross Domestic Product) has grown from a total of \$300 billion in 1950, to a total of \$18.3 trillion dollars total (in 2018)... or roughly **61** times as big in 2018 as it was in 1950.

About half of that difference can be attributed to Monetary inflation (**FUNNY MONEY**) printed up by our Treasury Department, working in concert with the 12 privately owned Federal Reserve Banks scattered around the country to help us distribute it after we printed it up.

Since 1950, the federal governments operating expenses have risen from \$47.4 billion in 1950 to a total of \$3.898 trillion dollars (as of 2012...it's over \$4.0 trillion now)...or roughly **82** times as big in 2012 as it was in 1950.

Again, about half of the difference has been paid for by way of Monetary inflation (**FUNNY MONEY**) printed up by our Treasury Department working in concert with the 12 privately owned Federal Reserve Banks scattered around the country to help us distribute it after we printed it up.

If our country were well managed, the expectation would be that operating expenses would, over this period, have shrunk as a part of the GDP and the GDP would have grown at a faster rate than the operating expenses.

But instead, operating expenses for America's government **GREW** as a percent of the GDP, rather than shrinking, and America's GDP growth lagged further and further behind the growth rate of the operating expenses (government spending).

None of this happened by accident. It was planned by our biggest commercial interests, including the multinational conglomerates and their Wall Street backers, and executed by bought and paid for politicians who were seeking favor with the big commercial interests as a way of insuring that their next political election campaign was funded to the max.

In other words, a majority our politicians in both the Democrat and Republican parties actively worked to sell out their poorest and middle-class

constituents in order to gain fame and fortune for themselves. And then they lied about it. And they will probably always lie about it.

### **Opening the barn doors to let the stocks escape and run wild:**

The biggest and longest lasting sellout was the government's rolling over to the commercial interests and their Wall Street backers and changing the tax codes to allow them to relocate their productive operations to other countries and not be subject to taxation of any kind.

No income taxes; no state taxes; no Social Security taxes; no Medicaid/Medicare taxes, no workman's compensation for employees injured on the job, no labor unions to worry about, no pesky environmental laws to think about. Just rake it in and keep it all for the CEOs and stockholders, after paying off the politicians for their treachery of course.

...and screw everyone else.

### **Closing the barn doors after the rape of the economy to keep the citizens held hostage.**

Not stopping there, the commercial interests and their Wall Street backers then requested, and our politicians then agreed to a number of "free-trade" agreements with the countries that most American companies were choosing to relocate to, which guaranteed that goods now made offshore could have no duties (tariffs) attached when being re-imported back into the good old USA... to be sold to the very SOL unemployed and under-employed American citizens whose jobs the American businesses "offshored" their production activities to when they deserted their American workforces.

The added extra benefit of this action was that it virtually assured that the big companies that abandoned their American workers (the workers that were responsible for building their companies in the first place) would never move those relocated offshore operations back to America.

**They had us coming and going.**

### **Actions have Consequences:**



Since the big sellout started, there have been NO years when America's government did not have to just print up some more **FUNNY MONEY** to pay the government's bills annually. The average amount printed up to cover these costs over the past ten years' time has been in the \$500 billion a year range. In four past years, the amounts printed for these purposes has actually exceeded a trillion dollars each year.

The exodus of manufacturing jobs to other countries not only reduced our GDP significantly over what it would have otherwise been, but it also seriously diminished our ability to bring in enough taxes from our decimated workforce to keep up with expanding government expenses.

And thus, OUR TOTALLY ASS-BACKWARD and UPSIDE-DOWN RATIOS between government operating expenses and the growth of the overall economy here in America.

While the Democrat and Republican politicians and their talking heads on TV like to spend their time blaming the other side for the destroyed economy....while saying out of the other sides of their mouths that the economy is actually the best it has been in over fifty years....(and it IS the best **for HALF the people living in America**)... there is more than enough blame to go around.

Ronald Reagan and both Bush Boys did all they could to facilitate the transfer of wealth from the middle and poorer classes in America up to the super rich at the top; but the Republicans actions actually paled by comparison to what Democrats, Clinton and Obama, did.

Clinton and Obama together more than doubled the number of offshore countries that American businesses could escape to in order to siphon money out of the United States economy and keep it all (tax free) for themselves.

And now they are out on the rubber chicken circuit, raking in even more money for telling their fake stories about how hard they struggled to make things better for everyone in the country....not just the rich and powerful. It's amazing how they can say things like that with straight faces. They must practice a lot.

Altogether we have had over forty years of being sold out by the two major political parties.

The thing is, all of these sellout artists were fun to listen to on TV. You could actually empathize with them, even as they were selling you out. They all had great spin doctors. You came away thinking that “heck, I’ll bet he would be a good guy to have a beer with”.

Right! Just have someone else taste the beer first before you drink any coming from any of these guys.

Individually and collectively, they were, and are, bad news for our country and its citizens, especially any citizens that are not in the multi-millionaire class.

The fact is that our country has not had its affairs mismanaged for the past 50-60 years’ time. Our country hasn’t been managed at all over the past 50-60 years’ time. By anyone. All the politicians have been so busy staying away from their desks in chambers, and not doing the nations work they were elected to do, that all the actual work has been turned over to an army of bureaucratic regulators that get paid mostly for avoiding direct responsibility for their actions, using their power to intimidate citizens, shielding those above them from direct criticism, and growing the size of their fiefdoms.

In our Federal Government, the more people you have reporting to you, the bigger your paycheck will be. And the more money you will receive each month for life at retirement time. There is absolutely NO INCENTIVE to be efficient. Actually, quite the contrary. INEFFICIENCY is what gets rewarded in our Federal Government. (Not all departments....a few like Social Security and Medicare are actually fairly well run, but they are in the minority).

If we as citizens want things to change from the way they are now....we citizens will have to take back some of these management functions from the professional politicians.

A good place to start would be reigning in both the Democrat and Republican professional politicians and the overstuffed, overpriced, and underachieving bureaucracies they have surrounded themselves with to shield themselves from having to get their hands dirty working on any of the immensely damaging STRUCTURAL problems facing our society.

In order to achieve this, the citizens will need to dictate to the politicians how much money from the total GDP, that the government can have annually for meeting its expenses, and how much can be borrowed.

Were we to be successful in accomplishing this, the country would definitely be better off, and the operating expenses (governments annual money requirements) could be significantly reduced as a percent of the overall economy (GDP). Taxes could be reduced, and more of the nation's economic wealth could be directed to more productive uses.

Knowing the politicians and their wealthy backers, it will be a struggle, but it is a fight we must join together in and win, if we wish to restore COMMON SENSE to our government, and a **truly** great economy to **every** citizen in America.

And we're burning daylight, so we better get started.

Jack

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## Job Descriptions for Congressmen and Senators

As I watch the goings on of the 535 public servants comprising our federal congress, and the handful of elected and appointed citizen servants comprising the executive branch it occurs to me that there should be citizen generated job descriptions for each position (representative or senator or president (or whatever)).

Along these same lines, each of our public employee-servants should be given a list of expected accomplishments each year from their employer (us) and they should receive an annual evaluation against those annual goals each year, just like all the other workers in the country. Their jobs are very important. A lot of people's lives are affected by what they do. It isn't fair (and shouldn't be acceptable) to their employers (us) that they just do whatever they please each day and are never really held accountable for the end result of their actions.

Oh sure, we hold elections every two years, and for about 6 months before the election date the various elected servants occasionally come back to the state that sent them there and spend most of their time overstating their effectiveness and blaming everything that didn't get done the way they promised it would on the other party.

And, if our disgust is great enough with their lack of performance and excuses, we may vote to send them home at that time. More often though, we let them stay, even knowing they are ineffective, because the other party could only field a candidate that we figured would be even worse.

In the meantime, especially for members of the executive branch and the senate - and to a slightly lesser extent, house members too - they can do incredible amounts of damage if they are not doing what we sent them there to do. If you need proof of this, just look around you. Our country and economy are in the toilet. That's what happens when we allow them to make up their own job descriptions, set their own goals, and when we don't monitor their performance often enough.

It sounds incredible I know, but I think the reason for this disconnect is that they don't really understand why they are there, or what they are supposed to be doing for the country while they are serving in those various positions. We the employers need to generate job descriptions for them, and set goals for them, and evaluate their progress against those goals annually. That way if they go off half-cocked in some direction opposite the goals we have set for them, we can step in and correct their behavior before it damages too many of the citizens they are supposed to be serving.

For starters, we should make sure they can read. And we need to make sure that they have read and fully understand our Constitution. We should test them on their understanding of the Constitution.

The citizens of each state might want to consider requiring their representatives to stay inside the borders of their state and not be allowed to travel to or participate in the activities of whatever federal governing body they have been elected to until they have proven themselves proficient in their understanding of the Law that underlies all others in our country.

And we need to know that they understand the difference between what representatives, senators, and executive branch members are supposed to do when operating at the state level vs. at the federal level. Too often people are elected to the federal houses of congress based on their performance at the same type of job in the state government of the state they now want to represent at the federal level.

This is usually a mistake on the part of the people that voted for them. It is easy to understand how such a mistake happens. Many citizens assume that understanding how the congress operates in their state would be valuable experience to have for someone representing their state in the congress at the federal level.

But it can be a big mistake making such an assumption. And making this mistake can be, and often is, responsible for getting newly elected federal congress members off on the wrong foot, and inadvertently pointing them in a direction that will end up hurting the country they supposedly went to Washington to protect and serve.

When this happens (and it happens very often) it is our fault for not giving them better directions at the outset.

Government at the state level nowadays is government of selfish interests at its best. Members of the state legislatures mostly argue over how to spend

whatever money is available or can be borrowed. Especially lately, what with the country being smack dab in the middle in the worst depression it has ever seen; and the federal government repeatedly abandoning its responsibilities and passing them down to the states by way of unfunded mandates, in order to create the illusion that the federal budget is in better shape than it really is; there often isn't enough (state) money to do everything that needs to be done.

So, legislators at the state level wrangle over every dollar available like hungry wolves fighting over scraps of rotten elk meat. They get elected by promising individual constituencies that they will put them near the head of the line when whatever money is available is being handed out. In return, the single interest constituents that believe their interests will be met (funded) agree to get out the vote for the candidate making the promises (usually by underwriting campaign expenses).

Government at the federal level now has become government at the state level on steroids.

It was never supposed to be like that. Government at the federal level was always intended to be government where problems of national stature were deliberated on by members of congress and decided based on what was best for the country overall.

State Governments could behave like selfish children if they liked, but the Federal Government was obliged to consider matters of national importance with an eye toward promoting the GENERAL welfare (like it says in the first paragraph of the Constitution).

In other words, legislators at the federal level were expected to rise above petty money matters relating to a specific constituency and consider how to do what was best for the country overall...not just their state, and not just any single constituency in their state.

The unseemly groveling for handouts from the treasury to help a single interest was supposed to be beneath those who would aspire to hold offices at the federal level.

But it certainly hasn't worked out that way, has it?

Personally, I don't blame the professional career politicians for acting like so many prostitutes at the federal level. I blame us. We haven't let them know that that kind of behavior is unacceptable and won't be tolerated.

Rather than working to discourage this type of behavior at the federal level, too many of us have looked the other way and given it a back-handed endorsement when we thought the groveling might benefit us a bit personally...no matter the damage to our neighbors or to our society overall. And, what does that say to the rest of the world about us as a society?

With a wink and a nudge, we allow our elected officials to profit from prostituting themselves to anyone they think will help pay for their campaigns. Yet we nod knowingly when they humbly remind us that they are really working for us. Now let me think. What is the word we use to describe someone a prostitute works for?

Oh yes, I remember now.

We call them pimps.

If we don't wish America to go down in history as a nation comprised primarily of prostitutes and pimps, we need to work diligently to correct this present shortcoming in our federal government's legislative chambers.

A good job description for each elected federal official should probably include that in its overall makeup.

Jack

[www.Americall.org](http://www.Americall.org)

## Law of Supply and Demand – 2010 (The mathematical representation)©\*

$$M = (D/S)*A$$

Where:

M = the logical market price

D = demand by qualified buyers

S = total supply available

A = asking price based on past history

The law of supply and demand works for everything. From Labor costs, costs of homes, automobiles, foodstuffs, commodities of all kinds, and money (interest rates) to services of every kind... it works every time.

Negating the natural effects of the law of supply and demand requires **artificially** manipulating either D or S.

When (D) is reduced, the market price (M) goes down, regardless of (A). To see how true this is, look at the falling sales prices of homes in Detroit during the most recent (current) depression.

When (S) is reduced, the market price (M) goes up. For example, look at what happens when the banks run out of money to lend. The interest rate (cost of money) increases proportionally.

The government and banking industry routinely artificially manipulate the supply of money to achieve their goals. The government causes additional money to be printed up and forced into circulation whenever they need wages /prices to go up so that they can collect more in tax revenues to pay for their activities. The banks cause artificially induced fluctuations in actual demand by increasing or decreasing the interest rates they charge borrowers. However, once the government and bankers do their thing, the law of supply and demand immediately goes back into effect to balance out the equation.



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Government and banks count on the law of supply and demand being immutable and balancing out the equation after their actions. Unfortunately, for most citizens, both the banks and the government make their artificial adjustments in (S) solely based on what is good for them, without any regard whatsoever as to what would be good for the country overall.

That is why the creation of money, in any form, (altering the supply level) should never be left entirely up to either or both of these two self-interested groups.

Jack

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## Macro-Micro Mismatch

The political “leaders” of America have set their goals so low that they are almost certain to achieve them. Instead of reaching for the stars they are satisfied to reach only for the lowest hanging fruit....and once they have secured a piece of low hanging fruit...they start raving on and on about how great an accomplishment it was not only for them personally, but for the entire country as well.

Our government has been taken over by game players. They study and practice only how to play the political game better. First priority is getting elected. Second priority is staying elected. Third priority is.....well.... really there is no third priority. It pretty much takes all of their time and skill just meeting the first two priorities. This mentality permeates the entire government, including the great majority of the members of both houses of Congress, every member of the administration, every wannabe justice in the courts, and of course it also applies in spades to the herd of elephants in the room...the nameless, faceless, bureaucracy. At both the national and state levels.

The would-be leaders in our government are in truth all just followers. Any wind will blow them. As Augustus McCrea said to Woodrow Call in Larry McMurtry’s “Lonesome Dove,” they are much too leaky a bunch of vessels for anyone to store their hopes in. They get elected by saying whatever is popular at the time and pandering to every group of citizens with a special wish list of their own. Leadership is a word they like to bandy around when making speeches, but leadership is also a word who’s meaning none of them really understand or practice. They talk endlessly about character but display none. We are supposed to all do as they say, not as they do.

Whatever it takes to get elected/promoted to some office... and then stay there. That is the name of the game for them.

To be fair, America is not unique in this regard. The political climate of the entire world today revolves around would-be leaders getting elected to offices they are unqualified to fill, or strong-arming their way in, and then spending the rest of their lives trying to justify their existence in a position of real responsibility. If you want proof, just look at all the bankrupt countries around the globe (including ours). That is where “modern day” political leadership ends up. The Peter Principle is certainly alive and well in America’s Government.

Most world “leaders,” including those in America, are seriously out of touch with what is going on around them in their own countries and the rest of the world. They are very much like the Wizard in the “Wizard of Oz”... all illusion, bluster, bravado, and ignorance masquerading as knowledge; all the while praying to God almighty that the people in their country never find out how truly inept and inadequate they are in their jobs.

At every government level worldwide, we are faced today with “leaders” who are Micro (small) level thinkers, in a world that increasingly needs Macro (big) level thinkers as leaders.

Micro-level thinkers in our government concentrate their full attention on relatively small symptoms of distress (“issues”) that their minds are capable of grasping. This provides a base of pandering for them...and hopefully also a way of staying elected in future years, since the “issues” that they associate themselves with never go away or ever even truthfully get better, so they always have something to bluster on about and feel important.

Macro-level thinkers (if there were any) would most likely concentrate most of their energies on defining and solving the underlying (root level) problems that cause the symptoms of distress (issues) to exist in the first place. They would have little interest in pandering to groups of self-interested individuals presenting them with their wish lists. They would rather just identify and solve the underlying problems, thereby eliminating the symptoms of distress permanently, and move on. They wouldn’t be looking for a place in the history books. They would be satisfied just to be doing something useful with their time on Earth.

If only there could be even ONE Macro level leader anywhere in our government. Sadly, today there are none. But that could change if the citizens were ever to insist that their leaders be capable of thinking at the Macro level. Unfortunately for us middle class citizens and our country, that has not yet happened here in America.

### **Micro Level Thinking currently dominates our government:**

**Micro** level topics discussed endlessly in our government’s chambers include such “issues” as unemployment, underemployment, failing school systems, lack of ability to adequately fund programs needed to care for the poorest among us, lack of ability to fund contractual obligations due to

citizens like Social Security and Medicare, constantly being involved in shooting wars around the world, fending off terrorist threats, citizens by the millions losing their property in foreclosure and/or bankruptcy actions, sizable groups of citizens unable to obtain decent healthcare and/or medicines, enormous government spending deficits, how to go about setting different tax levels for different segments of society, crime levels, trafficking in drugs, single parent families, gridlock in government, corruption in government, environmental breakdowns, and coming up with money needed for wars against nouns where there is no clear-cut enemy to engage (ignorance, poverty, terror, illegal immigration, etc.).

All of these topics are legitimate sources of concern and distress for far too many of our country's citizens. But none of these is a root cause of anything.

Currently pretty much everyone in our government spends any time they have left over from campaigning thinking about how to juggle all of these balls (the politicians call them "issues"), find a way to mitigate these symptoms of a country in decline and stressed to the max, and somehow keep the country afloat for another year. Thinking about anything that might happen more than an election cycle away in time isn't practical, so it just never happens.

### **Macro Level Thinking currently does not exist in our government:**

**Macro** level thinkers (if there were any) would busy themselves with looking for a way to eliminate the symptoms of distress by getting to the root level of what was causing these "problem" areas to keep coming back to haunt us every year. Understanding that we live in a universe governed entirely by the laws of cause and effect, they would look for root level causes (problems) with an eye toward solving them and making the damaging negative effects go away altogether. Once the root level causes went away, the damaging effects of those causes would also vanish.

Two of the most significant root level problems that we as a nation have to face up to and solve if we are to continue on long term as a free and prosperous society are:

1. The human population of the planet is expanding at an unsustainable and unsupportable rate, creating enormous numbers of new citizens around the world who need good paying, life-sustaining jobs.

2. Technological advances in every area are continually making it possible for all needed work to be done by fewer citizens per capita, thereby aiding and abetting the devaluation of human labor worldwide by creating an environment where there are ever fewer **good** jobs per capita available to do all the work that needs to be done....both here in America, and worldwide.

These two conditions compete with each other creating a vortex eventually sucking every citizen in our country, and indeed in the whole world, into it. None escape forever...not even the very rich.

These two currently problematic conditions by themselves are responsible for more than 90% of all of the symptoms of distress (“issues”) that the micro thinkers wrestle with each day. These two things taken by themselves, especially in prior days, were/are neither bad nor good. But they are inescapable facts of present day life, and they must be taken into account when formulating national policies designed to move our country forward in the future....IF those policies are to have any chance whatsoever of actually working as planned.

There are some other root level problems we will ultimately have to contend with to reach the utopia the politicians like to promise us but getting a handle on just these two would be enough to save our economy, our country, and the rest of the world as well for a hundred years and would almost certainly buy us enough time to address the remaining root problems that we will ultimately have to solve.

### **Compromises:**

Politicians talk a lot about the need to compromise, and such a need certainly exists. However, the politician’s view of compromise is entirely limited to arguing over money-based issues related to allocating existing funds in a way that mitigates the seriousness of the damage caused by the politics-based “issues” they choose to deal with on a daily basis, always for a short period of time; and, of course, repaying those who helped them get elected.

The greater need for compromise however is deciding between how much time and money should be spent continually putting Band-Aids on the “issues” the politicians are comfortable talking about, and how much time and money should be spent addressing the underlying root level conditions that cause the “issues” to keep surfacing each year. Once the underlying root

level problems are successfully addressed, the “issues” go away forever. When that finally happens, we will indeed be on the road to utopia.

### **Who is up to the job?**

We have an over-abundance of middle manager (competence level) micro level thinkers in our government. Certainly, enough to handle the daily tasks related to doling out available funds in order to hold the various symptoms of distress at bay for a few months, or possibly with luck even a year or two.

They wrangle and posture a lot, and the great majority of them seem to be more concerned about being popular and getting re-elected.... than they are about doing something really useful that would benefit their country over the longer term.

However, at this point in time, having already let things slip so far out of balance, we will need both for the present, and possibly for some time into the future, to have a lot of people competent in operating at the micro-level working in government, if for no other reason than to buy some Macro level thinkers enough time to come up with a plan to solve the underlying root level problems that are continually driving the resurgence of the always damaging symptoms (what the politicians call “issues”).

The biggest single problem in our country today may be that NO ONE in our government is even thinking about the root level problems. And the result is that the root level problems, being completely ignored, continue to grow and expand daily, making the damaging symptoms they create on the surface harder and harder (and more expensive) to hold at bay... even temporarily.

Every four years, we suffer through the wildly exaggerated claims made by candidates for our country’s highest office. And every four years for the past 40 or so years at least, we are confronted in the end with having to make a choice between two individuals incapable of addressing the largest problems facing us as a society.

With the assistance of the media, our choices have essentially continually been reduced to choosing between a pair of micro level thinkers seemingly unable to break away from talking about short term fixes (for every “issue”) and pandering to every self-interested group they meet in order to get themselves elected.

The micro level thinkers who have been elevated to positions of leadership over the past 30-40 years’ time have been unable to press forward with

educating the country's citizens about what the biggest problems are that we face as a society and enlisting the aid of the entire citizenry in confronting those problems head on and solving them.

Both of which are steps that absolutely must be taken if our society is to both be secure and advance economically over the long term.

Fixing the underlying root level problems facing us will be a big job, and we don't have forever to get it done. Furthermore, we must do what needs to be done when it needs to be done. It does little good to close the barn door after the horses and cows have already escaped.

I fear for the future of my country, my children, and my grandchildren if we as a society continue to settle for micro level thinkers as our leaders over the next dozen years. Beyond that time, our country could well be too far gone to be redeemed.

We must not let that happen. Over the next four years' time, we must all work together diligently to find and elect the first few leaders capable of thinking at the Macro level. In a relatively short time, the macro level leaders will, like cream, rise to the top, and help the others understand what we have to do to solve the underlying problems that are dragging our country down into ever greater depths of mediocrity, insecurity, and economic depression.

Once the level of discussion in our society and our government is elevated:

**FROM:** how to put a Band-Aid on a particular symptom of distress that is damaging the lives of large numbers of our citizens.

**TO:** how to solve the root level problem that gives rise to that particular damaging symptom, we will be on our way back out of the depression that an ever growing number (currently holding at about 47%) of our citizens have been pushed into, and been suffering from, over the past 30-40 years' time.

Can it be done? Absolutely. Will it be done? That is far less certain.

In the final analysis it will be up to you and me and a sizable majority of Americans comprising the "middle" class and poorest classes in America, and what we do over the next dozen or so years' time.

I will do my best to hold up my end of the stick and seek out and promote at least one leader capable of thinking at the macro level for national office and one leader capable of thinking at the macro level for state office between

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now and election time in 2020....and every election thereafter, until we have reduced the micro thinkers in our government to a minority, regardless of political party affiliation.

How about you?

Jack

[www.Americall.org](http://www.Americall.org)



## Managing Expectations

**Managing expectations** – definition - setting goals so low they will certainly be met and convincing the audience in advance that achieving the low set goals is an acceptable level of performance.

### **Example - Spring of 2011:**

Democrats and Republicans “working together” to reach an agreement on how much to reduce spending in 2012, in order to avoid a “government shutdown.” Before the “great compromise,” the Republicans had pushed for total spending cuts of about \$60 billion. The Democrats objected to any cuts at all, claiming the cuts would “gut” necessary government programs. After the “great spending compromise,” both Democrats and Republicans took center stage on all the news channels to brag about the gigantic scope of the spending reductions they had accomplished.

### **Details of the “great spending cut compromise”:**

Based on the fiscal year 2010, which is the only one for which dollar amounts were actually known, the elements of the “great spending compromise” would be approximately as follows:

**Government spending on “mandatory” items in the budget:  
\$2.184 trillion**

Mandatory expenditures are things like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, disaster relief (\$11 billion), interest on the national debt (\$160 billion), and “miscellaneous” government expenses like government employee pensions, etc. (\$571 billion).

**Government spending on “discretionary” items in the budget:  
\$1.368 trillion**

“Discretionary” items are things like defense (\$671 billion) and all other departments like education, transportation, agriculture, housing, etc.

**“Overspending” borrowed money spent mostly “off the books”:  
\$1.400 trillion**

Spent on things like wars on nouns, where there is no known enemy or territory to defend... i.e., wars on drugs, terror, ignorance, poverty, illegal immigration, etc., and of course the bank bailouts, insurance company bailouts, mortgage lender bailouts, auto manufacturer bailouts, U.S. government bailouts, “miscellaneous foreign banker or government “accommodations,” etc.

**Adding it all up and putting things in perspective:**

|                                                    |                  |        |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------|
| Mandatory spending<br>\$2184 billion               | \$2.184 trillion | equals |
| Discretionary spending<br>\$1368 billion           | \$1.368 trillion | equals |
| Overspending (borrowed/creative)<br>\$1400 billion | \$1.400 trillion | equals |
| Total government spending<br>\$4952 billion        | \$4.952 trillion | equals |

“Great compromise” spending cuts agreed to: **\$38 billion**

\$38 billion equals .007 of the total... or stated simply:

**7/10 of ONE percent** of \$4952 billion

All that hoopla over a spending cut that is totally, completely and in every other respect **insignificant!**

Adding insult to injury, we find that the senators and congressmen and congresswomen have been purposely lying to us with respect to where the cuts would be made. In many instances the “cuts” they took credit for making were to last year programs that were being phased out anyway, so nothing was actually intended to be cut at all. But they took credit for these “cuts” anyway. And they knew exactly what they were doing when they did it... the lying bastards.

**Summing up the “great spending cut” compromise:**

1. The cuts, even if they all had been real, would only amount to a little over ½ of one percent in government spending. And all of this is going on amongst the great thinkers in Washington while millions of families all over

America are struggling to make do with cuts in income that at that time routinely amounted to **50% or more**, and who, after a foreclosure, a bankruptcy, a job loss, plus the loss of their cars, savings, and possessions, and loss of credit have no such... ***“I know...let’s just crank up the money printing presses and make ourselves enough more money to pay our bills”*** ...alternatives open to them.

2. Our government lied to us (again) re: where actual dollar cuts could be or would be made, knowing all the while that they were lying to us... and expecting us to both believe their lies and congratulate them for their dishonesty. That is not just despicable, it is immoral. If they will lie to us about this, we have to ask ourselves what all else have they lied to us about?

### **The Reality...where we really are right now:**

In all there are now over 141 million American citizens whose lives have been, if not completely destroyed by their government, then at minimum been permanently severely damaged by their government.... and their government, judging by its actions, could care less.

Over the past 40-year period of time, the government destroyed their jobs and income, destroyed their ability to take care of themselves and their families, took away their dignity, took away their self-respect, and worst of all took away their hopes and aspirations for a better world for themselves and their children in the future.

Then, that same government, peopled by the same ones that committed these acts of violence against the very citizens they swore to protect when they took their oaths of office, want us to anoint them as heroes for the insignificant “great spending compromise” act they were then parading before us.

And of course, as typically happens...when this money runs out, which it will (there is never enough money for these baboons), they will just order in lunch and take a vote to expand the debt limit so more funny money can be printed up so that their spending can continue on forever.

Pardon me a minute while I go outside and puke my guts out.

Would that this were an isolated instance... an aberration that would soon fade from our memories and be recorded in history as a singularly rare event in American politics.

But it is not a rarity at all. This kind of thing goes on multiple times every single day in Neverland on the Potomac. Just think back a (very) few years: (this is a **VERY** limited subset of all that could be shown).

(1968) “We are winning the war in Vietnam”... future losses will be minimal. The war will be over within the year.

**Skip to.....**

(2003) “Mission Accomplished”: future losses in Iraq will be minimal. We will be totally out of there in 2 years or less.

**Skip to.....**

(2008) George Bush – Early October 2008 – “The economy is basically sound!”

**Then..... two weeks later...**

(2008) George Bush – Late October 2008 – The sky is falling! If Congress doesn’t give me \$800 billion by this Friday, with no questions asked, the world as we know it will end!

**Skip to....**

2008 (Obama) – Campaign promises... “My first act as president will be to close Guantanamo Bay”. We will be out of Iraq in one year, and out of Afghanistan in two years.

**Skip to....**

(2010) Obama – we may need to keep some troops in Iraq indefinitely.

(2011) Obama – we may need to keep Gitmo operational indefinitely.

(2011) Obama – We may need to keep some troops in Afghanistan indefinitely.

(2011) Obama - we are creating jobs at the rate of over 200,000 per month.

**Big deal !...** First of all, what kind of jobs (minimum wage)? We would have to create (good) jobs at the rate of more than 750,000 **a month every month for the next 5 years** in order to just get all the unemployed and severely under-employed now suffering in America back to work in 5 years’ time. And, because of ongoing population growth we also need to create another

160,000 new jobs a month every month in the future (forever) to make room for newcomers in the workforce. Creating 200,000 jobs a month is setting the bar so low that we will never again in our lifetimes see full employment of meaningfully paying jobs in America. It may seem acceptable to those few lucky enough to get one of the few good jobs that do trickle down and miraculously become available....but in truth, that rate of job creation will spell certain doom for America over the next decade or two if that's the best our government can do.

(2011) Obama – “America’s job is to invent and create the products of the future”.....

(Finishing his sentence for him...”so that we can continue sending the new products off to other countries to be manufactured once they achieve success in the marketplace here in America”).

(1980 – present) – Democrats and Republicans (all) – The “Free” Market paradigm is the wave of the future that will ultimately propel America to the top of the economic heap, worldwide.

The “free” market promoter’s argument goes something like this...  
“Yes...we will lose a little on each transaction and with each American job lost in the short term...BUT...we will also more than make up for it somewhere down the road in the future because of the sheer volume!”

Makes perfect sense, doesn’t it? The really scary part is that a significant majority of the ignorant blowhards comprising our government actually believe this simple-minded line of bullshit.

### **Game Plan for Restoring America’s economy and workforce:**

Our duty is clear. We have to replace them. They are way too far gone to be trained in how to think logically and rationally, or to act honestly....and we don’t have that much time left to straighten things out.

*In 2020, let’s replace 10 Republican and/or Democrat Senators with someone of another party, and let’s replace 50 Republican and/or Democrat Congressmen with someone of another party. We can go after the Presidency later. It is not that important anyway, if the Congress does their job properly. Then in 2022, let’s do it again. And in 2024 let’s do it again...and so on.*

The Democrats have always been, are now, and will always be, the party of “tax and spend.” The Republicans have always been, are now, and will always be, the party of “borrow and spend.”

Neither of these governing philosophies, is workable over the long term. If you need proof, look at where America is right now. “Working together” the Democrats and Republicans have destroyed the once vibrant economy of the United States by switching back and forth, over the past 30 years’ time, between these two fatally flawed and unworkable philosophies for governing.

The reason is that both philosophies for governing call for spending money now that hasn’t yet even been created... based on the (false) assumptions that we can always borrow more or print up more... whenever we want to, and that the rest of the world will just be glad to get our dollars even when they have been devalued to the point where they are totally worthless.

The rest of the world will probably not be willing to go along with that philosophy over the long term, and in fact we are dangerously close to reaching the limit where most other countries will no longer continue to take our “dollars” in exchange for goods and services. Some already won’t.

### **What is needed:**

First, we need to replace the Democrat philosophy of “tax and spend” and the Republican philosophy of “borrow and spend” with a New Party philosophy of “earn and spend.” This new party would place its primary focus on first bringing back the 20 million good paying jobs that have been given away to other countries. Then the other 27 million good jobs that were lost here at home because the first 20 million in the manufacturing sector went away would also come back online. That in turn would revitalize our economy and solve all the problems in both the public and private sectors.

There have been almost no good jobs (by American standards) created to speak of elsewhere in the whole world over the past several decades. The good jobs “created” in China for example, were not created in China. They were created in America, and then given to China as a gift. Actually, since one highly trained American worker using high tech equipment can make as much of a product as 100-200 Chinese ex-farmworkers on a manual push line, the loss of the one automation backed American job may have served to “create” 100-200 low-skill worker positions in some company in China, but

the equivalent production output and overall labor cost per unit produced didn't change at all.

American businesses abandoned their American workforces to avoid having to pay any taxes or employee benefits whatsoever, of any kind, (typically 10-15% of their total income) and to be allowed by our government to keep all of that difference for themselves. American jobs didn't move to other countries to save labor costs. They moved because of greed at the corporate and banker levels; stupidity, indifference, and dishonesty at our government's level; and indolence, apathy and laziness at the citizen-worker level. Reduced labor costs (which didn't really ever exist) were just a story easily sold downstream to a dumbed-down and in-shock worker population here in America, and to a not very bright media who couldn't (or wouldn't) do the math well enough to see what was really happening.

In the short term, we can't count on any reduction in greed at the corporate/banker levels, or any increase in intelligence or honesty at the government level, or at the media level. We can however, if we so choose, overcome all of these obstacles by changing our own attitudes at the citizen level.

If we choose to get personally involved, stop making excuses for our own past willingness to choose between clearly marginal candidates at every level, and seek out, promote, and elect better leaders (i.e., ones who really care about the poor and middle class's problems), we can turn this mess around before it gets so bad we can't bring it back to what it was before the Muppets took over.

This started out to be a discussion about managing expectations. And so it will end. We first have to raise our own expectations up to where we want to see America placed on the totem pole of nations. Then we have to elect leaders who are capable of defining and solving the kinds of problems that are keeping us from achieving our goals. We need to see our raised expectations met in an expeditious and timely manner, and if the present bunch aren't up to the task, we need to replace them with someone who is.

There should not be any place in American government for spin doctors and politicians who spend most of their time trying to find the right words to use in order to get us to accept their low (or non) levels of achievement and making excuses for non-performance and broken promises.

The first step in solving any problem is to define the problem. If the would-be "leaders" approach to defining the problem calls for:

1. **Denying that the problem exists** (therefore he/she shouldn't be expected to spend time working on a solution to a problem they won't admit exists).

2. **Minimizing the scope of the problem** (like stating that we only have 9% of the able-bodied workers that are unemployed, and further that 4% don't really want to work anyway, so the government really only needs to create jobs for still unemployed 4% of the workforce... when the reality of the situation is that 31% of the willing, trained, and able bodied workforce are either unemployed or severely under-employed, all need good jobs, and all want good jobs... just so that the government can get us to accept a 4% result when a 31% result was what was called for).

3. **Making advance excuses for non-performance** – (...how about this one.... “It took decades to create this mess, so it may also take decades to make any real improvements”... )

We need to find a replacement for them in our government and invite them to seek employment elsewhere. Some of these people may be attractive, charming, well spoken, and in a few instances (perhaps) even well intended, but if any of the above relate to them, they are not up to the job, **and THEY already know it.** **That's** why they are hedging their bets, so let's pass them by.

We have routinely excused the non-performers inability to accomplish anything worthwhile for 3-4 decades now, and the result is what we are seeing in the decline of America the country, and the reduced welfare of 141 million American citizens who are suffering greatly right now.

Time is not on our side, and the odds are now against us. We have in all probability less than 20 years left to save America and restore the original luster to the American Dream. Every single one of us who cares about our country has a role to play, and no-one can do your share of the work that needs to be done by you, just as no-one can do my share of the work for me, and we are burning daylight, so we'd better get started.

Let's find the first group of candidates in 2019 and 2020 and elect them in 2020. And do it again in 2022 and 2024. By 2026 we can turn this thing around. By 2030 we can bring back the 20 million manufacturing jobs of the 47 million total good jobs we lost over the past 40 years. When we accomplish this, the future will finally look a lot brighter not only for all those who the government has chosen to leave behind in the past 40 years....



but also for those who will follow us in time...our children and grandchildren.

**Postscript:**

A few months after the above was written, the government again was back arguing over how much more to raise the debt limit and borrow. The strategy agreed to was to do another temporary fix... this time for a little over a year. That would get us past elections in 2018. The result was a promise by Congress and the Administration to continue increasing the national debt by spending a trillion more borrowed dollars each year going forward, while guaranteeing the creation of **no meaningful paying** new jobs at all. **None. Zero!**

Both parties stressed that doing this was the absolute best that could be made to happen under the circumstances.

**Talk about managing expectations!**

Now... in 2019 they are taking the same old show out on the road AGAIN. We the middle class who pay all the bills, REALLY need to reign in this bunch of incompetent sellout artists.

STARTING NOW!

Jack

[www.AMerica11.org](http://www.AMerica11.org)

## NDP vs GDP

When you read the term **GDP** in the newspaper, or hear it referred to in radio or TV programs we are told that the GDP stands for Gross Domestic Product. It is supposed to be the barometer of the health of the overall economy. Every “developed” country has a GDP of its own.

The generally accepted definition of the American GDP is:

Consumption + investment + **government spending** + (net of exports over imports) = **GDP**.

For purposes of determining if the economy is in recession, experts add up these components of the economy, and, for a given three-month period out of any year, if the average GDP for the three-month period is lower than the previous quarter, and this happens two quarters in a row, the economy is determined to be in recession. If on the other hand in any given quarter the GDP average is equal to or greater than the GDP average for the previous quarter, and that happens two quarters in a row, the economy is said to “officially” **not be** in a recession.

If you look closely at the individual components of the GDP equation, you will see that all are measurements designed to tell us how well the most well off among us are doing. There are no indicators measuring unemployment, under-employment, impacts on the general citizenry of governments inflating the currency supply and/or running up the national debt in order to pay their own bills, or how many people in the country are living below the poverty line. \$28,000 per year (less Federal and State income taxes and Social Security and Medicare) is what the government has defined as a poverty level of income for a family of 4.

### **Figures don't lie...but liars do figure:**

One glaring defect in using this (GDP) method to determine the overall health of the economy is how easily the government, filled to the brim with polished professional career politicians, can manipulate the outcome to show that we are not in recession... when in fact we are in one up to our eyeballs.

For example, when the government experts measure **consumption** (how much those still having jobs are buying) they are free to include in the measurement only those individual categories that appear to be doing above average for the period, thus distorting the overall consumption measurement. Currently they include durable goods like autos (new autos only, not used autos) non-durables like food and fuel (both going up in price all the time), and financial services (bank interest), and healthcare (always going up, up, up).

When the government experts measure **investments**, they again get to choose which types of investments are included. Currently they exclude housing re-sales, which is a pretty big thing to exclude especially since housing re-sales are doing so poorly. Stocks, on the other hand, being traded back and forth between businesses like Mutual Funds, get counted every time a trade occurs, and if the stockholders are doing well, it is assumed that the rest of the country is also doing well. In addition, commercial real estate under construction, even when no-one occupies or uses the buildings, is counted towards the total.

When it comes to **government spending** each “bailout” amount authorized by Congress (foreign or domestic entity being bailed out) increases government spending and distorts (raises) the overall outcome of the GDP. As do wars. And, even borrowed money that the government spends counts in this regard.

For a recent example as to how this works consider that in 2009, shortly after belatedly acknowledging that we were in fact in a recession, the government officially spent \$800 **billion** (borrowed) dollars (unofficially they spent almost **\$17 trillion**), and *Voila!!!!* The GDP measurement went up two consecutive times, and the government declared the “great recession” to officially be over. Ta Daaa!!!!

And topping it all off, the government experts decide which things to measure when they are measuring net imports and exports component of the GDP equation. By selecting export categories that are holding their own, while excluding categories where we import much more than we export, the trade balance can be pretty easily manipulated to increase or decrease the GDP measurement as needed to sell downstream to an unwitting public.

## **NDP – a more accurate and more honest indicator of national economic health:**

Most of us don't base our purchasing actions on our gross pay levels. Before we ever see a dime, our gross pay is diminished by way of deductions for Federal income taxes, State income taxes (in most states), Social Security contributions, Medicare contributions, and (if we are lucky enough to work for an employer who provides employee benefits) our contributions towards health insurance, life insurance, and maybe (if we can afford it) a 401K contribution too. In short, we all base our economic decisions on our NET pay. That is the actual amount we have available for paying our way through life on a daily basis.

In a well- run national economy, the government would also operate from a NET financial condition, that being expenditures based on how much the government received from the citizens in taxes.

Our economy is not well-run, and therefore the politicians feel a constant need to increase their (pretend) NET position by supplementing the taxes they collect with borrowed money. Because of this, a new indicator of the nation's national health is needed. An honest indicator would include not only indicators relating to how well the most well off were doing but would also factor in components showing how the country OVERALL was doing, taking into account the governments (and citizens) borrowings to finance their operations.

What is needed for the great majority of citizens is a way of measuring the nation's NET position financially. What is needed is a replacement for the GDP. A much more reliable and honest indicator of the country's economic condition would be a **Net Domestic Product** indicator, or **NDP**.

Here is how it would work:

Take the GDP in its present form, **letting the government select which things to include or exclude as they like**, and then make adjusting entries after the fact as needed to show the impact on the overall citizenry of unemployment, underemployment, inflationary spending on the governments part, debt level increases, cost of consumer credit, and advances and/or declines in the overall poverty level in the country. The end result would be a much more honest indicator of the OVERALL condition of the country with the good things, not-so-good things, and bad things all included in and averaged out.

## GDP to NDP Adjustment Factors

| Adjustment category (formula) identifier | Adjustment Category Title                                                                                                                                                                      | Current accepted rate            | Source                                                                                                      | 100% minus the current accepted rate                                                                                                 | Adjustment factor to apply to the GDP |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>A</b>                                 | <b>Unemployed</b> - and getting a check from the government                                                                                                                                    | 3.9%                             | US Labor Department                                                                                         | 96.10%                                                                                                                               | <b>0.961</b>                          |
| <b>B</b>                                 | <b>Long term unemployed</b> - unemployment ran out but are still unemployed - completely ignored by the government                                                                             | 10.10%                           | extrapolated down from the prior <b>(20+%)</b> that existed in 2009                                         | 89.90%                                                                                                                               | <b>0.899</b>                          |
| <b>C</b>                                 | <b>Underemployed</b> - working beneath skill and education level for low wages -often hold two or more jobs to get by. This is mostly where the reduced 10% from Category <b>(B)</b> ended up. | <b>6.5%</b> - reduced from 13.1% | extrapolated up from long term unemployed moving to take whatever jobs were available - at any wage offered | 86.9% but divided the rate in half to <b>93.5%</b> to include and acknowledge some workers entering the workplace for the first time | <b>0.935</b>                          |

|          |                                                                                                        |    |               |       |              |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------|-------|--------------|
| <b>D</b> | <b>Government monetary inflation</b> to pay its bills for which taxes alone were insufficient to cover | 3% | US Government | 97.0% | <b>0.970</b> |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------|-------|--------------|

|          |                                                  |       |                                                             |        |              |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------|
| <b>E</b> | <b>Average interest rate</b> of credit card debt | 15.0% | Estimated - possibly too low, but better to be conservative | 85.00% | <b>0.850</b> |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------|

|          |                                                          |       |                                   |       |              |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| <b>F</b> | <b>Percent of citizens living below the poverty line</b> | 21.0% | US Government acknowledged number | 79.0% | <b>0.790</b> |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|--------------|

## Formula for determining **NET DOMESTIC PRODUCT**:

$$\text{NDP} = \text{GDP} \times (\text{A}) \times (\text{B}) \times (\text{C}) \times (\text{D}) \times (\text{E}) \times (\text{F})$$

For this example: Assuming a government calculated GDP of 10 trillion dollars. *(It's actually more than twice that but using 10 trillion keeps the "example" arithmetic simpler).*

**NDP** = Beginning GDP (\$10 trillion) x .961 x .899 x .935 x .970 x .850 x .790 = \$5.26 trillion = the "adjusted" GDP which we have chosen to call the NDP. The difference between 10 trillion and 5.26 trillion is 4.74 trillion, and that expressed as a percentage of the original 10 trillion **(47.4%)** would be the overall adjustment to GDP to come up with a **NET DOMESTIC PRODUCT**.

## **Translating the adjusted NET Domestic Product (NDP) figure into a true indicator of the country's economic condition:**

We (the citizens...not the politicians) would need to come to an agreement regarding a way to translate the adjusted number into something meaningful for people to consider when they were evaluating politician's proposals to "fix" the economy. In order to know how to fix the economy, a key consideration would be to know how badly it was broken, and further, which specific parts of the economy were the most in need of fixing if that in fact were the case.

## **Applying the NDP adjustment factor to make sense of the true state of the economy:**

Following is a sliding scale that might work well for translating the NDP adjustment factor each month into a statement of the **true** condition of our national economy:

If NDP is less than GDP by 0-8%, the economy is doing well

If NDP is less than GDP by 8-16%, the economy is starting to slip

If NDP is less than GDP by 16-24% the economy is in mild recession

If NDP is less than GDP by 24-32%, the country is in severe recession,

If NDP is less than GDP by 32-40% the country is in a stage one economic depression\*

If NDP is less than GDP by more than 40%, the country is in a stage 2 severe economic depression<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> *What exactly officially constitutes a "depression", and how does a "depression" differ from a great (or even a not-so-great) "recession"?*

While the GDP can be manipulated (used or mis-used) by official professional career politicians, to signal when we are in a "recession" and when we are not in a "recession"; as of the time this is being written (October, 2018) there is no generally accepted definition relating to when a "recession" turns into a "depression". Some economists say that a "depression" exists when a "recession" stretches on for a protracted period of time. However, there is no clear definition of what constitutes a "protracted period of time". The one we are in right now, by NDP standards, has been going on for more than 30 straight years. "Protracted" therefore must mean some number greater than 30 years (to professional career politicians).

The NDP would factor in the cost to the overall economy of running the economy on borrowed money, including war related borrowing and spending, where the borrowing was done primarily to make the rich among us even richer, and where unemployment and under-employment were allowed to grow each month for the benefit of the commercial interests, and where poverty was allowed to increase unchecked by any government actions designed to benefit those who were long term unemployed and under-employed.

Additionally, this method would work on a month-to-month basis. There would be no need to wait 6 months for an “official” tally. And it would give an undisputable time frame signaling the exact month a recession or depression started or when (hopefully) it ended, as well as allowing citizens to determine on a month-to-month basis whether the economy was actually improving or getting worse, and by exactly by what the amount of improvement or worsening was for each of the adjusting categories being measured.... every month. No more political spin.

Finally, it would facilitate targeting new programs that really had a chance of helping those most in need. It would appear that the only way any meaningful positive change to the NDP could occur would be if the same polished professional career politicians that worked so hard to divest tens of millions of their fellow citizens of their jobs and livelihood would now admit to their past destructive acts and work to bring those jobs back.

Sadly, that is not likely to happen in a government comprised of (bought and paid for) polished professional career politicians who are mostly Democrats and Republicans. Those who are the problem are unlikely to also be the ones to solve it.

It would seem that the first thing that would have to happen to restore our economy would be to eliminate the Democrat and Republican Party majorities in all areas of government. Once that is accomplished, the path would be at least cut to grade, if not cleared completely, in preparation for moving the country forward once again.

Jack



## **Perceptions vs. Realities** **(and Majorities vs. Pluralities)**

As this is being written in July of 2020, countries all over the world are struggling with a powerful virus pandemic, and countries all over the world are also struggling to find the right formula for meeting the needs of the country's citizens, while at the same time meeting the needs of the country's government.

In those instances where the needs of the citizens and the needs of the government diverge, it has routinely been the case that the outcome favors meeting the needs of the government over meeting the needs of the citizens.

In authoritarian ruled countries favoring the government over favoring the citizens is a given.

In countries that are intended to be non-authoritarian, the decision over which side to favor is left up to a favored few individuals who are elected by the citizens to represent them in all matters of importance. These countries initially start out favoring the citizens over the government, but over time inevitably shift their emphasis to favoring the government over the citizens.

Today, worldwide, virtually every country is in the mode where the government favors the government over the citizens. These governments attempt to stay in power by convincing enough citizen "constituencies" that they will vote for programs the individual constituencies favor... in order to create a **plurality** at election time, and thus remain in power in the country's government.

### **Pluralities almost never lead to majority rule.**

A **plurality** is almost never a **majority**. If out of 100% of eligible voters, only 60% vote "formally," (about the national average) and a candidate gets 51% of the 60% who voted, the candidate still only captured the votes of 30.6% of the voters who were eligible to vote. That means that 69.4% wanted someone else to win... yet there sits the "winner" in congress having received the vote of confidence of just 30.4% of the constituents in his or her district.

Given the wide adoption of **plurality** voting as a preferred governing model worldwide, dissent on the parts of the constituencies that are excluded in the policy-making areas is inevitable... and constant... as we are seeing now in the riots spreading all over the world.

The larger the society, the greater the opportunity for dissent to manifest itself in the way of marches, sit-ins, riots, etc.

In large part, this is the result of **plurality** voting in Congress. For the past 50+ years perhaps 1 or 2 out of the total of 535 congresspeople could legitimately claim that he/she was elected by a **majority** of eligible voters in his/her district. All the rest “won” their seats by way of **plurality** voting.

That being the case, in every instance except perhaps a very small handful, all votes taken in Congress are decided by at least 99% congresspersons who could not legitimately claim to represent a majority in their district. The result is that in all votes taken in Congress over the past 50-60 years’ time each congress person’s vote typically only really represented on average about 30% -35% of his or her supposed constituents.

It is perhaps not surprising that dissent is greater in numbers and scope now than in most prior years. Citizens in the 69% who did not want the representative now pretending to be their representative to be sitting in the congress are not happy with the outcome... Many such excluded citizens prefer to assume the worst about who is supposedly casting votes on their behalf, and do not trust or accept the outcomes of legislation enacted by a congress made up entirely of people who were elected by only a **plurality** of eligible voters.

## **Reality vs. Perception in Authoritarian Societies**

Most of the world’s authoritarian governments are ruled by people who in the majority represent themselves as “conservative” in philosophy. Implementing their brand of “conservatism” centers on daily employing disciplinary activities against their citizens that would be considered on the harsh side of strict. Their primary means of enforcing control typically include torture and murder. This is a problem that has to be addressed if a more constructive attitude is ever to prevail in these countries.

However, this is not likely to occur anytime soon in the majority of authoritarian ruled countries, since rulers in these countries have already decreed that they own and rule the people that live in the country; and from the “rulers” standpoint, nothing whatsoever could be gained by changing a single thing.... except maybe the perceptions on the part of those being ruled, that the ruler is a ruthless, murdering sonofabitch.

The first order of business for a new ruler in authoritarian societies is how to find and kill off anyone and everyone who doesn’t grovel enough at the

ruler's feet. Eventually these rulers are overthrown by another promising to better serve the needs of the citizens, only to reveal after control has been solidified, that he/she is just like the ruler that was overthrown. Only the ruler's names change in these societies... never the governing practices.

We see this all over the world in authoritarian societies. Russia, China, virtually every country in the Middle East and Africa as well as many in South America and Central America are all infected with "RULER-ITIS"; and while they all have puppet legislatures for showing to the world how "democratic" they are, the reality is that they operate purely and simply as authoritarian regimes.

The Realities never change in these societies, and for the most part, neither do the perceptions.

## **Searching for Reality in Non-Authoritarian Societies**

In societies claiming to be non-authoritarian, the possibility may exist to implement a better governing model. Large societies falling in this group might be The United States of America, England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Japan, and India (who claims to be a democracy, but really isn't one). Other smaller countries may also fit this label, but I have chosen to concentrate on the larger ones, because they may hold the possibility of becoming models for change for the others, assuming a better model for governing can be found and implemented in any of them.

America's national government has long since fallen prey to being a government that is beset by self-interest domination in the political arena and has seen its previously most prestigious institutions like the Congress, Administration, and Supreme Court corrupted by those leading/running the institutions. Since we are still, at this point, officially non-authoritarian, positive change should still be possible here in America.

Most of the world's non-authoritarian governments are ruled for periods of time by elected officials who in the majority represent themselves to be "staunchly liberal," "staunchly conservative," or "staunchly progressive" in philosophy. This condition is true in spades for America.

***This is a huge problem that must be successfully addressed going forward.***

The amount of time, effort, money, needless antagonism, and strife wasted in continually changing back and forth between competing political ideologies is astounding in our country. Especially when the competing ideologies are really (after the elections are over and the hype dies down) mostly just mirror images of each other, and even more especially because nothing ever changes under this governing model, except to make things worse for ever more citizens living in the country.

On average every eight years, governing in America changes over completely from being run by one major political party, to being run by the other major political party. In giant measures of spite, the incoming party must (because of their campaign rhetoric) now move to set aside as much as humanly possible of what the other party did while it was in control.

Typically, the resulting actual changes are not monumental at all. But they are VERY time consuming and VERY expensive. The tax system is tweaked to restore it to what it was when the incoming party was last in control. The end result is always that additional taxes need to be assessed to keep the government going. Incremental changes are fought over endlessly and implemented in a compromised manner for things like social programs. The compromises in the area of social programs typically result in social programs that are more complex and require more government employees to administer and that are less effective from the citizens standpoint. By the time these two areas have been addressed by the incoming party, their time is almost up, and everything must again be put on hold to make way for the next season of elections.

About the only big areas that remain during any government “changeover” will be addressing the needs (wishes) of the Military Industrial Complex and of course the financial institutions, who may be vilified in public (for show) by both parties, but after a year or so of cowering before Congress, brush themselves off, smile, order in lunch, and go back to business as usual.... which was the plan all along..... and one other super important item, namely coming up with enough money to grow the bureaucracy even bigger. These areas will NOT be touched, because they are the bedrock of BOTH parties’ welfare. ...and both parties know which side their bread is buttered on.

But wrangling over how to put the government back “the way it was” before the “bad” party got its hands on it, ends up costing us zillions of extra dollars that could have been spent advancing the goals of our society.... and totally wastes the **time** of everyone involved.... especially the citizens affected by these time wasting exercises.

**The Goals of Our Society**...now there is a great catch phrase. But what exactly are the goals of our society?

It appears that no elected official in our federal government knows what they are. Not a single one of them knows. But they will strut around in their \$2000 suits and \$1000 dresses pretending to all of us that they have the answers. They can't tell any of us what our goals as a society are, but they want you and I to trust that they have a good bead on these goals and are working in our best behalf to achieve them.

The politicians can however, recite from memory the **buzzwords** to be used when someone asks the question.

They bandy around words like freedom, equality, and justice as if just by saying them, these things will appear as if by magic. Mostly the idea they want to convey is that they want you to think that they believe these things are still important, and that they are constantly working to make sure that they remain alive and well in America.

The reality is that these things are not at all alive and well in America now, and we are getting further away from realizing them as each day passes. The politicians and their parties have had over two **centuries** to make these ideals a reality in America, and we are still virtually no closer to realizing them today than we were in 1788.

Of course, if the country's goals include making sure the country is constantly involved in at least one shooting war somewhere in the world, we may be said to have achieved one of our goals. But if that wasn't really one of the country's goals, it would constitute just one more failure of government along the way, with the time, energy, and money spent, detracting from meeting one or more of our real goals.... if anyone in government knew what those real goals were..... or cared.

## **Who should decide?**

For the past 232 years, America's citizens have depended on elected officials to make all decisions relating to their welfare. This approach worked better during the first 100 years after America became a sovereign nation than it has worked since then. Over the past 60-70 years that system has crumbled under corruption as the elected officials have almost universally succumbed to self-interest at the expense of the majority of the constituents in their districts.

Gridlock is common, where congress persons spend inordinate amounts of time arguing over how many angels can dance on the head of a pin, or something equally unimportant, while the needs of the country's citizens are not being met.

That is, except for the perceived needs of very wealthy citizens. Congress can be counted on to act very quickly in every instance to meet the perceived needs of this group.

For the most part, the only noteworthy decisions made in Congress relate to helping the wealthy become even more so. Other matters of interest to ordinary citizens, like healthcare, minimum wage levels, homelessness, and the country's crumbling infrastructure, can always go on the back burner for a while longer. Say, 4-5 years longer?

As this is written, healthcare has, with the recent exception of Obamacare (an attempt by the Democrats to fatten the wallets of the insurance industry, the drug companies, and the service providers, under the guise of supposedly helping ordinary citizens), mostly been on the back burner for about 60 years now, and only a tiny handful of congress persons have at any point in time expressed a desire to resurrect the issue and move it forward. Every 4-5 years the subject comes up again, usually during election debates, but ends up being talked to death and buried by the congress... for another 4-5-years.

However, should the occasion arise where congress has spent all its money and needs more to pursue its own personal goals, and a "continuing resolution" and increase in the debt limit would be necessary to cure the insolvency, Congress and the Administration can be counted on to meet in special session immediately, same day if necessary, to keep the politicians flush with money to spend buying votes.

Is that a great system or what?

Currently there are NO Constitutional limits on politicians banding together to help themselves and their friends at the expense of everyone else in the country. None. Zero. Zip. Nada.

The end result is what we are seeing today, corruption running rampant, because of the lack of any limits whatsoever on politicians running the government for their own benefit, at the expense of a majority of citizens, and using their **plurality** voting processes and spin doctors to create a (false) impression that they represent a majority of citizens in the country.

## That needs to change.

For things to truly get better, a fundamental change in how the biggest and most important government related decisions get made has to occur. If we want to change our government model back from the present “of the politicians and their friends, by the politicians and their friends, and for the politicians and their friends” to the original model of a “government of, by, and for the people” as envisioned by the founding fathers; our Constitution will need to be amended to provide citizens with the ability to vote directly on all matters that have a potentially life changing level of importance and which have repeatedly shown themselves to be most prone to political corruption.

## It will be necessary to change the balance points of power between the citizens and the government.

Elsewhere, in a short book entitled *Common Sense Revisited*, is a plan showing just how we have deviated from the original government Model put forth by our Founders, to the one we are suffering under now; and specifically, how we can go about restoring government of, by, and for the people to the United States.

Please give it a look.

232 years ago, on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1788, the day our Constitution became the law of the land for America, we made a promise to ourselves, and promised all the rest of the world, that from that day forward **America** would be managed by and for the benefit of all of its citizens, and that the ideals of freedom, equality, justice, and an honest ability to pursue happiness would be fully implemented in America, forthwith, and would forever thereafter remain the rights of every American Citizen.

Those promises have never been fully kept, and even in a much diluted form, are not being kept today for a significant majority of America’s citizens. For some of America’s citizens, they have never been kept. Not even partially.

After 232 years of stalling, obfuscating, denying, and excuse making; it’s time to shit or get off the pot. Either America **is** fit to be the vessel to hold the hopes and dreams of all mankind, or **it isn’t**. If we really have no intention of

implementing the ideals we have been professing for 232 years, we should stop pretending that we really care about doing so. If we really DO mean to implement these ideals, we need to let our actions speak for us. No more platitudes and meaningless election season bullshit. ACTION!

The choice is ours alone. Fixing all that is presently wrong with America's government will admittedly be hard to do. The corrupt forces lined up who favor keeping things just as they are now are formidable, and VERY well-funded.

**But that was true in 1776 too.....** and through sheer will, and against all odds, we converted America over from a few disjointed colonies ruled by the world's most powerful king and his armies and navy, into the democratic republic it is today. And we can change our Constitution NOW to provide the means once again for the citizens to decide the outcome of their own lives, even when faced with a government that daily attempts to usurp more of each individual's rights, and takes for itself more of what every individual earns...

**...Just like we did in 1776.**

Please join in this fight to return America to its citizens. It promises to be one hell of a battle.

Jack

[www.AmericaII.org](http://www.AmericaII.org)



# Philosopher Kings

## (and our Constitution)

Most people of adult age are familiar at least with the names of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Most people of adult age likewise are not very familiar at all with what these three ancient citizens of Greece thought, said, and wrote about societies, politics, and laws.

These three men, in large measure, are responsible for our country's present government format as well as the framework and laws expressed in our Constitution.

They lived at a time in history about 2300 years ago when some of the greatest minds ever to exist on our planet were their contemporaries. Minds like Euclid, who gave us the logical definition of what we now call the science of Mathematics (the Elements); Pythagoras who wrote extensively on politics, ethics, and the constructs of music; Homer, composer of the Iliad and the Odyssey; and Archimedes who used the practice of dividing measurements into smaller and smaller pieces to ultimately derive the logic behind the calculus, and some other discrete mathematical systems as well.

For almost three hundred years, a dozen generations lived under the tutelage of these three men. Over that period time, each of the three men expanded upon his predecessors' discoveries. Socrates taught Plato, Plato taught Aristotle, and Aristotle taught the world. Perhaps not surprisingly, all came to the same conclusion on each of the great questions that have divided mankind in every century since.

### The Four Philosophical Disciplines:

The ancient Greeks held that there were four disciplines where philosophers should concentrate their efforts to understand the world and their societies and contribute toward them in meaningful ways:

- **Temperance;** required patience, and a willingness to honestly explore all options to solving a problem. Prior bias and pre-existing prejudices had no part to play and were excluded.

- **Knowledge;** was that which was gained through meticulous study of *all* the facts, and then sorting the facts based solely on merit, not opinion. Only known and proven truths could be considered knowledge.
- **Courage;** called for facing facts, and sometimes threats of death, squarely. Never flinching or running away but going where the indisputable facts (and truth) led.
- **Education;** called for openly sharing their knowledge of the inner-workings of government with all other interested members of society. It further called for passing along today's hard-won lessons and wisdom, to new generations of citizens, so that old lessons did not have to constantly be re-learned.

If so much of our world today seems to be suffering from growing pains, the abandonment of these four disciplines by all the governments of the world must logically be considered one of the biggest reasons.

We used to call the study of these ancient lessons, and how they relate to the forming of our modern society, "Civics." Most modern governments seek to control the content of education as a means of controlling the thoughts of the students. Most governments now, including ours, have decided to not have students at the undergraduate level exposed to "Civics" lessons.

### **Great Minds Think Alike:**

Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle all agreed that the best format for a government to take was that of a Republic, and NOT that of a Democracy (and certainly not that of a Monarchy). The main reason for this was that democracies are always divided by so many different interests, points of view, and selfish wants on the part of individual citizens, that they could never work out in practice. In a Republic, on the other hand, the number of choices that the citizens are presented with can be held to a more manageable number.... any of which must, of necessity, also be acceptable to the governors.

All of our Founding Fathers were scholars, and students of the law and how laws worked to organize societies into groups of citizens having common purposes. All read and understood the works of Socrates (by way of Plato), Plato, and Aristotle.

All of the great debates between our Founding Fathers in the Congressional Congress back in the 1780's were just re-plays on failed attempts to apply the

Socratic Method to questions where neither side really wished to be governed by logic, reason, or truth.

Some of the rancor (perhaps most of it) during the Constitutional debates over the language in what would become our Constitution, came about when one or more of the members suggested a provision, like legitimized slavery, that defied all attempts to classify it as a worthy addition to this document. Ultimately, logic went out the window, politics came in the front door and thus embedded an idea in our Constitution that would ultimately cost the lives of over 1,000,000 American soldiers in our bloody Civil War.

That kind of outcome is where we are generally led when we abandon the Four Disciplines.

Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle *all* believed that men were inherently selfish creatures, who when left to their own devices, would seek primarily to benefit themselves all of the time. Even if it meant that their benefit came the expense of their families, friends, members of their communities, and country. This especially applied to the politicians.

Socrates and Plato believed that because man was imbued with free will, and a logical reasoning mind, that self-interest could ultimately be overcome, or at least significantly moderated, and that all members of society could be made to share in whatever benefits society was able to offer.

But, on this question, Aristotle parted company with his teachers. Aristotle believed that self-interest was such a strong force, that society would always be subject to its whims. Because of ever present self-interest, Aristotle believed that some members of society would invariably be made to suffer, while other members of society did exceedingly well.

As of today, the smart way to bet is probably on Aristotle. But that could change.

These three men all believed that God was the sum total of all of the forces present in the entire universe. All believed that these forces would result in death ultimately being transposed into another form of life of some kind. None were what we today would call religious. None believed that religion had any place in governing the citizens.

All three referred to the need for “philosopher kings” as leaders of societies, as opposed to leaders who used strong arm methods to gain control over

citizens. The philosopher kings were those most adept at using the four disciplines to rule using logic, consensus, and persuasion.

**Socrates** is credited with developing what we now call The Socratic Method. First, it combined deduction and induction to break down large questions or propositions into a finite number of smaller ones making up the whole. Second, each of the small questions is examined rigorously to determine if it is true or false. And finally, deciding as to the truth or falsehood of the big question based on the sum of all of these the findings. In Socrates' world, if even one of the small investigations yielded a false result, the whole proposition was also deemed false.

**Plato** is credited with translating the "Socratic Method" into the Basic four step "scientific method" we all know now: (Observation, Hypotheses, Implementation, and Evaluation). This version is the one taught in all the schools for business managers, lawyers, and prospective future politicians.

**Aristotle** is credited with expanding Plato's version of the "scientific method" into the eight-step model used now, all over the world, in scientific communities:

Aristotle was (and is) the great synthesizer. Growing up at the feet of Socrates and Plato, he was exposed to the thoughts and reasoning of the world's greatest minds. Later on in his life, he worked tirelessly to bring together the thoughts of the great minds that preceded him. He then added his own equally brilliant thoughts to the mix, and then pulled them all together into a combined philosophy that included elements from the most brilliant minds the world has ever known.

Possibly, Aristotle has been the single greatest influence on western thinking of any of the ancient Greeks whose names we remember. As a high schooler, I remember hearing Aristotle's argument regarding contradictions; in which he stated that contradictions could not exist, because things are what they are, and not necessarily what they can be made to seem. Only A, he said, was, or ever could be, A.

Sometime, just for fun, pick up a copy of Plato's "The Republic", or Plato's treatise on "Laws" and read a page or two. Maybe also look at a page or two of Aristotle's "Politics" or "Ethics". Fair warning.... None of these are exactly "page turners" in the modern sense. But they examine every topic we consider troublesome today. It's almost as though nothing changed between then and now.

In the process, you'll be exposed to what passed then for men of learning and reason. Men with the ability to construct a political philosophy related to building worthwhile societies. Then you can compare their thinking to that of the politician's we are exposed to on a daily basis now.

If one is considering (successfully) going into politics *today*, one will be required to reject Aristotle's arguments about contradictions. One will be required to accept the possibility that perhaps B can be A. And when one does that, one is in effect saying that truth doesn't matter. That only what people can be made to accept as the truth matters.

### **For the good of the Order (ours):**

As this is being written in May of 2019, the lines are already forming of Presidential and Congressional wannabes - some on the right and some on the left. And, over the next 18 months we will be exposed to an endless parade of exaggerations, mis-directions, ignorance masquerading as knowledge, and outright lies by those trying to convince us that they are fit to be our leaders. And some of those unqualified wannabes are going to get themselves elected.

Nowhere in any line on the right or left will, what might pass for a philosopher king, be found. Because they no longer exist.

Unlike all other countries, our founding fathers having familiarized themselves with the works of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle anticipated this, and they used their own considerable reasoning skills to create, in our Constitution, a government framework expressly designed to limit the downside to the country caused by self-interested politicians when they gain positions of power in our government.

By 1782 AD all the philosopher kings were gone and, at least in America, just having finished a bloody war to separate us from any kings whatsoever, we were not about to anoint another one and just hope for the best. So, our founders did the next best thing:

- 1- They divided the sum total of government's powers into three separate branches, each branch having checks on it by the other two branches, with members of each branch (except the Supreme Court) being subject to periodic elections by the citizens.
- 2- They placed strict limits in the laws to hold in check the power of the government over the individual citizens.

3- They provided ways for the citizens to take back their government from the politicians if the politicians found ways around the limits they had originally written into the Constitution.

**Our best alternative:**

We citizens can, if we so choose, keep the present Republic framework defined by our Constitution completely intact, but add amendments to the Constitution which force the politicians to share their decision-making powers with the citizens in those areas of government that have proven themselves to be most prone to graft, corruption, self-dealing and deception by the professional politicians in the past, and those areas that continue to be the most damaging to our country overall.

That way the politicians would be stopped in the future from taking actions that would benefit the few, at the expense of the many. And our country and all of its citizens would benefit.

I think that if we choose to do this, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle will be cheering us on from the sidelines. Aristotle especially, because we would finally have found a way to moderate the negative effects upon the citizens, and to the country overall, of unchecked self-interest in government.

Elsewhere in the AmericaII.org website, the book *Common Sense Revisited* spells out a four-step plan for doing just that.

Please give it a look.

Jack

[www.AmericaII.org](http://www.AmericaII.org)

# Redefining Justice

## Officially Changing the definition of “justice for all” in America

Achieving equality under the laws for all citizens continues to elude the lawmakers. In past years, most individual citizens were treated more equally under the laws than they now are. Some groups, mostly ethnic or religious minorities, and women in general, were for a time excluded completely from equal treatment under the laws, and a few still are. The lucky ones who were afforded equal treatment under the laws of course had a built-in advantage in terms of achieving their dreams, and those still do.

As this is being written, the law makers continue to look for ways to treat some citizens and groups of citizens differently from other citizens and groups of citizens from a taxing standpoint, and some other standpoints too.

This recently was brought home to all citizens in a big way by Congress amending the Income Tax Codes to favor Corporations over individual citizens and by the recent Supreme Court decision to attribute traits of living human citizens to *corporations*, which previously were not considered to be actual living entities.

In federal and state statutes, corporations are officially defined as “legal fictions” (not human or some other life form) established solely for purposes of accessing taxes and shielding individual stockholders from corporate liability. Our Supreme Court recently ruled that Corporations were equivalent to actual living people and had the Constitutional rights of living individual citizens.

At issue in this Supreme Court case was the question as to whether corporations were entitled to the same “free speech” protection under our Constitution’s first amendment as ordinary citizens, and whether money could be considered a form of free speech.

The Supreme Court’s ruling, saying corporations were in fact entitled to “free speech” under the first amendment, and further that money was a form of free speech was illuminating, to say the least. It looks like the old saying

“money talks” has now been officially recognized as the official language of our Government and Congress by our highest Court.

By the Supreme Court’s decision in this case, all the previous corporate “legal fictions” not only became “human-equivalent” but were elevated to “super-human” status.

This legal action, prompted by the Democrat and Republican parties and some immensely wealthy individuals and corporations, was aimed primarily at getting the highest Court in the land to officially sanction allowing immensely wealthy individuals and corporations to provide unlimited and untraceable monetary contributions to political parties for purposes of openly influencing legislation in their favor.

The Supreme Court’s ruling indicated that this kind of (tax deductible?) bribery was a form of “free speech”, and because corporations (as equivalents to live human citizens) were now entitled to “free speech” under the first amendment of our Constitution, this kind of Congressional bribery was therefore legal.

In our multi-cameral system of government, the courts were intended by the Founding Fathers to be the great levelers, providing equal justice for all. With the recent congressional action favoring corporations over individual citizens from a taxation standpoint (corporations got a 45% across the board permanent tax cut, while individuals got an average 2% (not available to all citizens) temporary tax cut); and most especially, the high court’s recent ruling equating corporations with living human beings, and further equating money with free speech, “Justice for all” in America has now been officially replaced by our Supreme Court with:

.... **“Justice for all those who can afford it.”**

Be sure to amend your copy of the pledge of allegiance to add the words “those who can afford it” at the end.

Makes you proud to be an American, doesn’t it?

Way to go Congress ..... you representatives of all of the people!

Way to go Supreme Court .... you great leveler you!

Jack

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# Taxes

## The World's most inefficient, convoluted, and unfair Tax System (and how we can fix it)

Taxes are a hot topic among politicians anytime... but especially in election years. All the wannabe representatives, senators and would-be executives have a way...they say... to revamp our federal tax system in ways that will make it better for everybody in our society.... including ways that eliminate borrowings every year to stay afloat. Every year they SAY it, but it never happens.

And NONE of the wannabes.... not ONE... will promote a system that treats every citizen equally.

There are many excuses they will offer as to why it must (sadly) be necessary to treat some better than others when it comes to assessing taxes against the citizens.

Some of the wannabes will propose soaking the rich. Others will propose having the middle and poorer classes pay less. Others will propose cutting all services to the bone to make more of the existing income to the treasury stretch further. But **NONE** of the wannabes will propose a tax system that treats every citizen the same... all of the time,.... and that covers all of our country's expenses without borrowing.

**EXCUSES** will be thicker than hair on a dog's back, but **REASONS** will be impossible to find. And the politicians spin doctors will work tirelessly to make the EXCUSES and the REASONS seem to be the same thing. You will have to be able to tell the difference all on your own.

Today, as when Richard (aka Tricky Dick) Nixon was being impeached, the reasons can be found by "following the money." Regardless of speeches to the contrary, when push comes to shove, all of today's professional politician wannabes will fold like cheap suits when faced with the prospect of either going along with their party's leadership (and their rich backers) or going without "Party" money and support in their next re-election campaign.

We all have different thresholds when it comes to allowing ourselves to be lied to and then looking the other way. Hopefully at some not-too-distant point in the future, a critical mass of citizens will form that are immune to the lying and broken promises, and they will start making fundamental changes

in the balance points of power between them and their government servants. They could start with Taxes.

The place where most of the proposed “improved tax systems” go off the rails is the point where they seek to address insufficient money being brought in to pay all the government’s bills. This is especially the case when the politicians are proposing to grow expenditures at the same time, they are proposing to reduce taxes. (This is a favorite vote-getting strategy of both major parties).

All of their plans will center around tinkering with the existing tax codes. And we will be endlessly reminded that because of our present tax systems complexity, we will be better off tinkering with the outmoded, unfair, and decrepit tax code we already have, rather than seeking to replace it.

These “tweakings” of tax increases and tax reductions to the existing tax codes, really for the most part only affect the middle-class citizens. The poor pay in temporarily but get it all back at tax filing time.... usually with a few thousand-dollar bonus at the same time in the form of “unearned income tax rebates.”

The very rich typically pay in a very small amount of taxes (as a percent of their total earnings) after paying off our politicians to have the tax codes revised to include enough deductions, exemptions, deferrals, exceptions, rebates, depreciations, (paper) losses on investments and so on, that only actually ever get used by citizens in their tax bracket. And since a big chunk of their income is from investments hidden away in a “blind” trust somewhere, most of it is deferred for an indeterminant amount of time and may not be taxed ever in their lifetime.

As with the rest of us, the very rich only pay taxes on the portion that is left over after all deductions, exemptions, deferrals, (paper) losses on investments, exceptions, rebates, etc. yield what is known as “taxable” income. “Taxable” income for the super-rich is typically a MUCH lower percent of their total earnings than anyone in the middle class has to pay in as a percent of their total income... after the meager “deductions” (like the tiny “standard” deduction) the government allows to citizens in the “middle” class.

That leaves the Middle class to pay the nation’s freight. ALL of it. Every year. The rich and poor both get what amounts to a free ride.

Most would agree that taxes are a requirement for living in a civilized society, and that assessing taxes should have as a goal covering the necessary expenses of the society (not the frivolous ones); and doing so without putting the country into bankruptcy because it could not pay its bills as they came due; and to do it in way that treats all citizens equally, and that doesn't require constant borrowing that never gets paid back; and that makes completing almost endless amounts of paperwork and forms unnecessary.

America has only been able to keep afloat each of the past 40 or so years by printing up trillions of dollars of debt instruments (bonds, treasury notes, etc.) and having the Federal Reserve act as a go-between (between) our Treasury Department and other "investors" like banks and investment firms they sometimes "lend" money to, and some other countries with whom we do business. Those notes and bonds have "maturity dates" indicating when the US has to repay the principal amounts they represent. In short, these "investments" (IOUs) are part of our national debt. Meantime, we pay interest on these IOUs annually.

There are a LOT of American government IOUs out there, that somebody is going to expect to be paid off in full, sometime, possibly in the not-too-distant future. At last count, the total was over 20 trillion dollars. If the principal amounts of those debts were called in today, we could not pay off even 5% of them without shutting down our own government. Technically (assets being less than liabilities) the United States is bankrupt even as you are reading this and has been for many years. But so far, we have been lucky. We are operating under the protection of an invisible bankruptcy court, that is holding our debtors at bay. For now.

The reason we *APPEAR* not to be bankrupt in large measure is because those we owe the debt to: have for the time being decided to keep Americas doors open for business as a means of offloading products, made mostly in other countries, into America. We are supporting other countries workforces, at the expense of our own. And as long as our government agrees to continue to do that, they will hold off on calling in the debts we owe them. *Not a great position to be in as a country.*

But how might we go about paying our bills, paying down our debts, and putting a tax system in place that brings in enough money to do both of these things while treating every citizen equally from a tax standpoint...without more borrowing, and perhaps digging our grave even deeper?

**GOOD news. There IS a way.**

## **Problem Statement:**

America's federal tax system is skewed toward the wealthiest and the poorest citizens, and fails to meet its objectives of:

1. Bringing in enough to pay for all needed government services each year (without borrowing).
2. Treating all citizens equally from tax assessment standpoints.

## **Defining the contributing elements:**

The professional politicians have for at least 60-70 years' time been unable to define and implement a tax system that both covers all needed expenses, and that treats all citizens equally.

One reason is that the professional politicians are, in the great majority NOT adept at solving problems in general. Not even really simple problems. And Taxation is not a simple problem to solve. It's nowhere near unsolvable, but it would clearly take more problem-solving skills than the great majority of those in our Congress and Administration have.

Take a quick look at our present tax system.

I rest my case.

For decades now the professional politicians have depended on four tools for maintaining control over our economy and all its citizens.

1. Taxes
2. Monetary Inflation
3. Borrowing/Debt.
4. Conducting expensive (diversionary) Wars

These tools are obviously too complex for them to wield intelligently.

But, before we begin down the road of trying to do a better job than the "pros" have been able to do, we need to ask ourselves a really significant question:

Where in our Constitution is it stipulated that any part of the Congress' and/or the Administration's jobs are to "manage" the entire economy of the United States?

Look all you want, but it doesn't say that anywhere in the Constitution. Politicians over the years have simply "inferred" (that) that must have been the founding fathers' intentions, so they took it on themselves.... and the courts so far have blessed their takings.

A large percent of the taxes, monetary inflation, and debt incurred every year is spent by our government trying to shape America into a form that the political party currently in power believe it should be shaped. Of course, when the party in power changes, the next party then spends even more trying to reshape the country again in a form more pleasing to them. If we were able to avoid the costs of these purely ideological changeovers every few years, the taxes, monetary inflation\*<sup>6</sup> (which causes prices to go up) and constant borrowings, could all be more than cut in half.

But that is a topic for another rant. This one is about how we correct the professional politicians' errors and create a tax system that addresses paying all of our nations bills every year, without borrowings, and while treating every single individual fairly and equally all of the time.

Unlike the professional politicians, we will first take a look at all of the interconnecting elements of a tax system, and then use logic, rather than emotion, to try and come up with a solution.

### **The interconnected ELEMENTS:**

The Annual Budget – all the bills the government must pay

Overall money available to pay bills (The nation's GDP)

Minimum Wage vs. Living wage\* Poverty Levels\*

Present Unemployment categories\*

- unemployed and getting a check from the government
- unemployed and not getting a check from the government (benefits ran out within the last few years)\*
- unemployed and being completely ignored by the government (benefits ran out many years ago)\*
- unemployed and disabled and unable to work

Foreign "Free" Trade agreement Impacts on our economy\*

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<sup>6</sup>\**Monetary* inflation only occurs when the treasury prints up more fiat (fake) paper-backed money without putting something having an equal intrinsic (real) offsetting value back in the treasury vaults at the same time, like a precious metal. In the "old days," before we went bankrupt in 1972, specie meant gold or silver.

The Under-employed working at jobs beneath the workers education and skill level for poverty level wages\*

The Military (National Defense), constantly conducting wars with countries that are 5% our size and strength

Always seemingly Inadequate Infrastructure

Reserves\* Presently Excluded Citizen Classes\*

- Illegal immigrants\*
- Homeless\*
- Criminals\*
- Mentally

challenged\* ...leading us to...

## TAXES and the tax CODES

**The First Key** to solving the shortage of taxes coming into the Treasury annually will be to significantly boost the nation's private-sector GDP..... enough to make up for the tax base destroyed by the politicians when they decided to move America's productive sector out of the USA to "tax-free" countries. Losing forty million high paying manufacturing jobs meant that those lucky ones that escaped the ax and that were still employed would each have to cough up more to make up for the lost taxes that the forty million would have paid in had they not lost their jobs to workers in another country.

...Or else the politicians could arrange for the government to borrow the shortfall....again.

The slow growth in what is left of our private-sector **GDP** is primarily the result of the government's continually inflating the pretend-money supply to pay their bills every year when they run out of tax money. The result has been that monetary inflation \* which is the sole cause of price inflation in every area, has caused food, clothing, shelter, transportation, education, recreation, healthcare, and retirement to all go up in price at more than TWICE the rate of wage increases every year for the past 40 or more years' time.

Bottom line, each year for more than forty years, consumer prices have increased twice as much as wage increases. All as a result of our government's actions inflating our currencies and borrowings to cover their expenses. (*The "CPI" is less than half the story regarding what citizens pay for monetary inflation*).

For most citizens, when their spendable money runs out, they are forced to stop buying some things that they used to buy, or alternatively buy things

that cost less.... (or possibly go deeper in debt, until they exceed their credit limits). The reduced spending in every area results in a reduced private sector GDP.

The politicians destroyed the (inflation adjusted) private-sector GDP of our country. And now they are frantically searching for some way to clean up the mess they made, while trying to avoid having to ever admit what they did.

The way both major political parties have chosen to escape responsibility for their destructive actions is:

1. Deny that the problem even exists.
2. Point fingers at the other party (deny all blame for themselves).
3. Promise to fix the problem of there not being enough money in the system anymore to provide a tax base big enough to pay the needed ongoing shortfalls.... by reprioritizing whatever taxes do come into the treasury..... just spread the fertilizer differently... and of course, once again, borrow the shortfall.
4. They never talk about how to actually get things back on track, because they would then have to admit to their complicity in destroying our economy.

**The Second Key** to solving our tax money shortages every year is coming up with a plan to replace that part of the GDP that resulted from letting other countries export and sell their products in the American Market, tax free. Approximately 40% of our GDP losses annually are due to this 40% not getting taxed at all.

Now, not only were our own citizen workers blocked out of the markets in America they created and grew when the companies were still here in America, the foreign companies that took over their jobs were able to continue selling their products here in America without paying a single cent for access to our Markets.

The result was a tsunami of imported (mostly cheap junk) products priced to sell to the very people whose jobs our politicians gave away as gifts to other countries. Something definitely needs to be done about that. Something more than sporadic twitter announcements related to a specific type of raw materials coming from a specific foreign country. Something that assesses a “market access premium” on EVERYTHING now being imported tax free...

to recoup some of the GDP lost to foreign companies feeding at the American Market trough..... FREE OF CHARGE.

America's markets are still the most valuable in the world. Any company, foreign or domestic, that wants a piece of this action, should be charged an entry fee to sell in America. If they don't agree, let them sell 40% of their total output somewhere else. In the meantime, we will rebuild our production engines and beat them at their own game through a combination of, better products, better prices, and fair competition.

Boosting the GDP enough to solve our domestic dollar shortages (that have typically called for borrowing every year) will require increasing the pay of every citizen over 21 years of age now working at a full-time job for less than \$35 an hour.... up to that level.

We are talking about paying citizens a **significantly** increased MINIMUM wage. We are talking about immediately raising all citizens making less than that up to an actual LIVING wage. A wage that allows a huge currently unfortunate majority of our citizens to finally earn enough to have a decent life for themselves and their families. We are talking about ENDING POVERTY IN AMERICA.... once and for all.

Where will the money for this part come from? Without borrowing? We will have our Treasury give the private citizen workforce a one-time infusion of about \$4-6 trillion dollars. That's just an estimated figure of course. It could be more or less than that depending on how many "under-employed and under-paid" workers are found to actually be living in America. Nobody knows how many there are, but the total will most likely turn out to be in the range of 60-80 million or more workers.

The \$4-6 trillion dollar estimate is based on increasing the average earnings of a citizen 21 years or older earning today's **theoretical** "minimum wage" of about \$12 an hour up to **\$35** an hour...an average hourly difference of **\$23** dollars an hour for an estimated 80 million such workers. The current **actual** minimum wage is **\$7.50** an hour. If there are more than 80 million, the one-time infusion might be closer to \$6 trillion than \$4 trillion. But whatever it takes would be a LOT less than we gave away to the "too big to fail" banks, "investment" firms, multinationals, insurance companies, automobile manufacturers, etc. that bankrupted their businesses back before the last "great" recession supposedly got underway.



If the politicians, banks, wall street big shots, Multinational CEOs, and the American Chamber of Commerce, want to argue about the amounts, let them show up at the rallies to explain directly to the workers, why they think helping the rich and powerful is more important than helping our poorest and middle-class workers.

The arithmetic:

80 million such workers now earning \$23 per hour more than before would require an infusion of :

\$23 an hour for 172 hours a month = a \$3,956 (average) monthly increase per worker

Times 12 months a year = \$47,472 more a year per worker

Times approximately 80,000,000 such workers = \$3.797 trillion dollars.

Once the “new” money is in circulation, there should be no need to add more than just enough to cover population growth each year. The economy having approximately a 40% immediate boost, should then be able to take care of itself. But if more IS needed, we would continue to do it again until the economy is back on track, and everybody now living below the poverty level becomes part of the “new-and-improved middle” class.

Just as our Treasury department cranked up our printing presses at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving in 2008 and 2009 to the tune of almost \$17 trillion, and virtually gave it to a bunch of banks, “investment” firms, insurance companies, and multinationals worldwide that mismanaged their businesses, but were deemed “too big to let fail”... we will crank up the money printing presses again, but this time to infuse the (American citizen-working class) private sector with enough money to provide an increase in average earnings sufficient to catapult the poor citizen-workers up into the middle class.

**...Because the poor and middle classes in America are “too big to let fail.”**

And not a dime would be borrowed in the process.

The increased earnings would be taxed at the same rate as everybody else had to pay, and the increased tax base would erase our deficits in short order. The effect of having approximately 80 million wage earners added to the

economy at that level would have us dug out of the poorhouse forever...tax-wise, in less than a year.

It will be imperative that our tax code be restructured at the same time.

**First** to restore equality to ALL.

**Second** to make certain that the tax changes were evenly spread and absorbed by all segments of society, both foreign and domestic.

**Third** to make America the most attractive country on Earth from businesses standpoints, in order to keep our new and improved system going long term.

**Fourth**, to make it escape proof. EVERYONE who lives in America and enjoys its benefits will be required to pay their fair share.... rich, poor, and middle class alike.

**Fifth**, to make it the simplest tax system in the world. There would be no tax returns for citizens at all (ever), and only a daily cash receipts ticket maintained by businesses. Businesses would also not have to create (or pay someone else to create) an annual tax return, because they would not have to file a tax return...ever.

**The Third Key** to getting our country back on track will be spreading the overall tax load in a way that gives individuals a way to decide their own tax burden.... again, everyone treated equally, all of the time.

*Following are Criteria for a possible three-tiered national tax system. (part domestic earnings-related taxes – part domestic consumption related taxes, and part Foreign entity related earnings taxes. all of which individually are designed to treat every American taxpayer exactly the same at all times).*

## **I. Rules for Taxes on Domestic Earnings (income)**

Currently almost 40% of all income coming into individuals is not taxed. Instead, it is “exempted, deferred, excluded, hidden away in “qualified” (usually “blind”) trusts, etc. This most especially applies to the wealthiest citizens. If this currently untaxed income were to be taxed at a uniform rate consistent with what everyone else had to pay, the taxes on income for those less wealthy could be reduced by about 33%. Or alternatively, if income tax percentages stayed the same level as now, the taxing of this “new” income would create an extra 33% of income to the treasury with which to pay the nation’s bills. Which path to take should be decided by a majority

referendum vote of all eligible to vote citizens. The rules proposed here (below) are intended to apply to ALL earned income with few exceptions.

1. Every taxpayer pays the same percent of earnings as they occur by way of their employer who calculates the amounts and remits the tax amounts to the treasury (same as now).
2. No income reporting required by anyone, and no tax returns required from anyone.
3. No auditing of individuals by the government (businesses only; rarely and limited to examining cash receipts of the business. Any such audits should take an hour or less.)
4. No tax returns by anyone...individuals or businesses.
5. No deductions
6. No credits
7. No deferrals
8. Exempted income categories:

Any check or funds transfer received from any (Federal, State, County, local, etc.), government for any reason, gifts of \$100 or less in cash, checks or credit, children's earnings for doing chores like washing cars, cutting lawns, garage sale income, money received from returning goods to a store, cash/credit card tips to personal service providers (waiters/waitresses, delivery drivers, etc.), any borrowed amounts from any source, lottery/gambling winnings, trade-ins or sales of used autos or other transportation equipment's by individuals, tax reimbursements by the government like Social Security, Medicare, etc..

9. All taxes to be paid/collected by/from individuals (only), remitted by individuals for services rendered or the businesses the individual gets paid by. Same for individually owned businesses such as those who are self-employed, sole proprietorships, partnerships, LLCs, LLPs, associations, etc., Charities, etc.
10. No federal taxes assessed against businesses per se.... businesses to be required to hold back employee earnings-related tax amounts from owners

and employees and remit them to the treasury weekly via funds transfers over the fed wire.

11. No differing % s paid in resulting from different individual income levels. (no differing “brackets”)

12. Income to be realized for tax purposes from all sources (foreign or domestic) immediately as it occurs. A stock dividend for example that paid some amount to an individual or trust, or other entity, would have the amount reduced by the tax amount by the company paying the dividend, and the collected remittance sent to the treasury.... with the balance sent to the dividend recipient. Same for stock/bond sales... and broker commissions on stock/bond sales.

13. Gains on stock/bond (any investment) sales to be realized immediately, and have taxes assessed by the broker, and remitted to the treasury in the asset holders name (SSA # based). Broker/agent commission taxes assessed immediately as well. The after-tax net sent to the investor.

14. Losses on stock/bond, and other investments like real estate require the related citizen to petition (electronically) to have the taxes on the lost amounts rebated. Income (gains) from short sales on stocks and bonds to be attached immediately when each transaction occurs.

15. No “shelters” like exemptions or deferrals for assets held in any kind of trust accounts, investment accounts, and generation skipping trusts. Whenever and wherever income accrues, whether inside the nation’s borders or outside the nation’s borders, taxes immediately attach. (when a gift or all or part of an estate is liquidated, the earnings tax would be assessed).

16. Businesses to be required to report all earnings from all sources weekly (even though profits are not being taxed), and all taxes on owner’s and employee’s earnings being paid to the treasury weekly. The weekly gross sales reports to the treasury could easily be totaled up each week to get an accurate moving picture of the nation’s GDP. Reports to be sent to the treasury clearing house with employee-based taxes.

Required earnings tax percentages will need to be specified annually (by the citizens via referendum vote of the entire citizenry) to adjust for annual variances in the GDP.... according to a pre-agreed formula.

## **II. Rules for TAXES ON FOREIGN EARNINGS:**

Currently about 40% of everything sold in America is made somewhere else, and imported tax free. That needs to change.

This tax plan provides for all goods imported into the United States for sale to American Citizens will have assessed an American Market Access Fee (tax if you prefer) of 15% (*for example...could be more or less*) of the specified manufacturers-suggested retail value of the goods being imported. All imported goods must have the specified retail value in bar code attached to each package or individual good imported. All must also show in English in a prominent size print the “manufacturer’s suggested retail price” in US dollars.

The shipping documents of all goods being imported into the United States must include a certified (subject to heavy penalty for misstatements) statement as to the retail value of the entire shipment, signed by an officer of the company whose goods are being imported.

Import taxes must be paid in full, in currency specified by the US Government, before the goods can be unloaded from an international carrier or transporter into the United States. These payments to be expedited through the governments clearing house to speed unloading of ships/carriers. These payments to be added to the payments on earnings received weekly by the Treasury as part of the weekly private sector GDP made available to all citizens.

### **III. Rules for Taxes on Domestic Consumption (National Sales Tax):**

All domestic consumption-based taxes (*national sales taxes*) are to be attached at the time the product or service being taxed is passed to an end consumer, regardless of what state, province, or country the actual physical transfer of assets or money takes place in.

No taxes attached for transfers of goods and/or services between interim suppliers such as raw material suppliers, in-between outside contracted services by manufacturers, distributors, warehousemen, etc.

Goods purchased by mail, or over the internet “manufacturer-direct” or “distributor-direct” and delivered to a citizen other than by way of handing across a counter in a retail establishment to be subject to the Domestic Consumption tax. If the manufacturer has its own retail outlets, only the transfer to an individual consumer will be taxed. Inter-company transfers of goods not to be taxed.

## **Consumption tax exemptions:**

1. Prescription drugs from any source, domestic or foreign
2. Mortgage payment amounts, both principal and interest
3. Auto loan payment amounts, both principal and interest
4. Credit card payment amounts, both principal and interest
5. Insurance premium Payments including payments into Social Security and Medicare
6. Payments for professional health care, to include but not be limited to: payments to doctors, dentists, urgent care visits, anesthesiology specialists, eyecare professionals, prosthetics including eyewear and dentures, prescribed by a healthcare professional, ambulatory devices prescribed by a professional healthcare giver, therapy or rehabilitation services prescribed by a healthcare professional, hospital care including prescribed drugs employed during a hospital stay, hospice care, transportation costs incurred by patients coming/going to professional healthcare providers offices, and prescription drugs prescribed by a health care professional
7. Food, but not alcoholic beverages or tobacco or tobacco substitutes or narcotic products
8. Educational supplies including but not limited to textbooks, drafting equipment, paper, writing instruments, notebooks, computers required by the school
9. Tuition at both private and public schools (all levels, no dollar limits)
10. Stocks and bonds purchased for investment
11. Home purchases up to \$400k in price (net of any value for value trades, balance over \$400k could be taxable, but tax could be added to financed amounts)
12. Auto purchases (foreign or domestic sellers) up to \$40K in price (net of any trade-ins and/or discounts, balance over \$40k could be taxable, but tax could be added to financed amounts)
13. Payments mandated by any court order

14. Non-monetary transfers of gifts and estates within a family. (when a gift or all or part of an estate is liquidated, the earnings tax would be assessed, but not when the stated value simply transfers to other family members, like in a will) . No double taxation allowed

15. Legal services of any kind

16. Utility (any kind, including telecom related) payments

17. Purchases of any kind of energy saving or environmental protection equipment or systems

Weekly sales tax collection totals to be included by the Treasury in the overall private sector GDP and made available to all citizens via current technology weekly.

### **The mechanics involved:**

#### **I. Domestic Earnings.**

##### **WAGES, BONUSES, ETC.**

All domestic earnings would be recorded at the point where the earnings took place. In almost all instances that would be at an employer's place of work/business. The employer/business owner, including self-employed persons, would be required to record all earnings credited to all employees of the firm, including the owner(s) themselves weekly. To make it simple to complete the money transfers, the business would first put the collected taxes in a depository account controlled entirely by the business, and then immediately transfer the collected amount to the Treasury by way of electronic funds transfers.(SSA# based).

##### **INVESTMENTS:**

Stock dividends would have the broker or company accountant handling the transaction deduct the required taxes before remitting the balance to the stockholder. Bond interest payments would have the interest payment amount taxed before sending the balance to the bond holder.

Stock /bond sales would require the broker to subtract the sale amount from the purchase price to see if the stock or bond was sold for a gain or a loss. If the stock or bond was sold at a profit, the profit amount would have the tax assessed and the balance sent on to the stockholder .If a stock or bond sale

resulted in a loss to the investor, the broker would be required to send a “loss” statement to the investor who could petition the treasury to return the tax-portion of the loss to the investor....such requests to be handled within a week of the receipt of the petition being received by the treasury. (SSA# based).

Investment Brokers and trustees would NOT be allowed to offset gains and losses themselves for their clients nor could they charge clients or the treasury for the sending out of notices. These costs would be understood to be covered in the brokers/trustees agreed-to commission rates.

## **II. Foreign Earnings:**

As shipments of goods arrive from outside the nation’s borders, the total manufacturer’s suggested retail value of the goods is calculated and compared to the retail value shown on the shipping manifest. If the numbers agree, the shipper will be required to make payment equal to 15% (*example only, actual could be more or less*) of the total retail value of the goods being imported, in US accepted currencies, to the US Treasury Departments Clearing House before the goods can be offloaded onto the dock or into a warehouse, etc.

The treasury would bundle these amounts daily with the daily amounts of Domestic Earnings figures to be a second component of the daily/weekly private sector GDP.

## **III. Domestic Consumption:**

All goods subject to the *national sales* (consumption) tax would have their taxes assessed at the point of sale to the end consumer, and the federal national consumption taxes remitted to the treasury weekly. Again, this can be done by funds transfers between the merchant and the Treasury so that no trips to a bank are necessary to get the money transfers accomplished. (NOT consumer SSA# based).

The Treasury Department can have its IT staff build the necessary apps for businesses to attach to their existing cash collection systems, so that the collections would be uniform throughout the various jurisdictions.

All taxable domestic products would be made to include data in their bar-code that identified them as taxable or not taxable, for the merchant’s scanners to compare to when calculating totals due to the store for the combination of goods and national sales taxes.



## General Observations:

**The citizens** would need to decide at the beginning of each year what the **percent** or level of taxes should be for **each** of these (3) groupings.

The goal would be to insure raising enough in taxes of various kinds (**in total**) to cover the countries operating expenses for the upcoming year, without increasing borrowings.

### Why more than ONE tax type?

Sometimes it will be the case that (for example) the citizens find out that the GDP has been falling due to people backing off on purchasing. Perhaps the citizens are wary of getting drawn into another war, or some other country withdrawing their raw materials as a way of increasing their bargaining leverage, or something of the kind... and they decide to buy less and save more for a while, until they can see how it's all going to shake out. Consumption (national sales) tax receipts would fall accordingly.

Were we to be completely at the mercy of a **single tax source** of tax (either income or consumption based) revenues, we might well find ourselves in the position of having to running short and having to print up enormous additional amounts of **funny money** to send **out of the country** to meet our bills, and the more **funny money** we print up, and send out of the country, the less value and purchasing power our currencies will have both in the international marketplace, **and** here at home.

With a **mix** of (3) tax types, we will each year decide the appropriate percent of **each** type to meet our goals.

Most importantly, with the increased tax receipts coming in by taxing the 40% or so of "hidden" income now not being taxed (deferred and hidden away in "non-taxable" trusts, etc.). combined with paying all citizens a living wage (and creating a **much** bigger GDP) part of which would also be taxable, combined with taxing foreign countries on another 40% of our GDP that is now imported, and totally untaxed by anyone, the income tax portion of the total of all taxes brought in could be MUCH LESS than it now is, and the **total tax burden on each individual will be significantly LESS than it now is.**

So, like the politicians are currently doing, the citizens will have to walk that tightrope (deciding what percent of the total tax requirement to raise by each tax type in the mix) . But, unlike the professional politicians, we will be considering EVERYONE in the country, and not just those already at the top or bottom of the heap.

### **The Starting point:**

The starting point for making all of these decisions must be establishing the expected budgeted amounts by category for the upcoming year and comparing the total to the expected GDP.

If we leave this up to the professional politicians, like we have always done in the past, we will likely be screwed right from the start. We as citizens must demand from the government a proposed budget, listing each category as a % of the total and an overall total for all items. The proposed budget would start with the governments projected GDP for the year for total expenditures to be compared against and would project any expected shortfalls due to tax collections being lower than expenditures for the year. ALL of these figures would need to be reviewed and approved by the citizens before a budget could be approved or executed by either the Congress or Administration.

In every business in the world (except the world's biggest business...our national economy), the year starts off with preparation of a proforma budget. Managers are tasked with making that budget happen (or else). Those managers that can't cut it, are sent home and new blood is brought in.

In our government, we have been rewarding incompetence and failure to achieve promised results for so long that OUR government "managers" really aren't concerned about whether they succeed or not. And when they flat out fail, everyone in the organization (government) rushes in to cover for them, and they stay right where they were, doing more and more damage. And, if you are a bureaucrat, the Civil Service Act protects you even further.

Our government has been so inept, so graft-ridden, and so corrupt, for so long, that the politicians fully expect us all to go along with their incompetent leadership.... forever.

Abraham Lincoln is reported to have said:

*"You can fool all of the people some of the time And  
you can fool some of the people all of the time But  
you can't fool all of the people all of the time"*

Recite this to a professional politician and he/she will nod knowingly in agreement, and then smile and walk away.

To the professional politician the only thing that is important is that he/she be able to fool ENOUGH of the people ENOUGH of the time to get, and/or stay, elected.

And THAT is why we need to take back and manage ourselves those parts of our government that the professional politicians have always relied on to keep their strangle-holds over the citizens. Mostly the parts that have to do with how the money gets brought in, and how it gets spent.

And the technology exists now (and has for many years) to allow us to do that. It wouldn't even be all that hard.

And THAT is why the foregoing sections on creating a fair and equal method of taxation, and a pre-approved (by the citizens) budget are so important. If the citizens directly control how much gets brought in, by way of taxes and borrowings; and how much can be spent in each area of the budget, we will have removed the two most potentially damaging arrows from the quivers of the corrupted politicians and can restore fairness and equity to these government functions.... and ultimately to our government overall.

Footnote:

About 6 pages of this essay completely define the rules for a possible new tax system for America. Six or so (mostly double spaced) pages seems about right for defining a workable, escape-free, and equal-for-all, national tax system. The tax system outlined on those six pages encompasses about 1500 words.

Our present tax code encompasses over 1,500,000 words and more than 2000 pages of (single spaced) small print and is primarily made up of special rules for special people, businesses, or industries, concentrating on always treating different segments of society differently.

Something needs to be done about that.

Jack

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## Team America

*“Individual commitment to a group effort. It’s what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.”*

*Vince Lombardi*

One of the greatest contributing factors to the ongoing ineffectiveness of our government in terms of coming to grips with the problems facing our country, is the obvious lack of teamwork exhibited by the individual members of the Congress and the Administration.

Roughly 550 individuals (Congress and the Administration combined), each individually having a large ego and ambition to spare, and most, if not all, also suffering from delusions of grandeur; all somehow being loosely combined into a “government” whose mandate is supposedly to protect and defend the general welfare of all of the citizens comprising the country; has not often worked to the advantage of the majority of America’s poorest and middle-class citizens over the past 30-40 years’ time.

As this is being written in March of 2013, (updated in 2018) America is in the grips of the deepest and most pervasive economic depression the country has ever known. Our “government” continues to dance around this Truth and instead says we are presently recovering slowly from a “great recession.” (Apparently no one ever told them that you can go to hell for lying, same as for stealing.)

For the 141 million citizens whose lives have been permanently put on hold by their “government’s” actions over the past 40 years’ time, it has been a hard sell for the government’s spin doctors to convince those 47 million unemployed and under-employed workers (and their families) who have lost their jobs, their savings, their homes, their cars, their credit, and their hope for a brighter tomorrow; that the economic depression we are in this time is less severe than the one that displaced 1/3 as many citizens back in the 1930’s and 1940’s.

Our “government” comprised of 550 or so generally unknowledgeable but highly opinionated and self-interested individuals have not been able to come together to work as a team on behalf of the country overall and restore

meaningful jobs to the 47 million workers who have been displaced over the past 40 years' time.

It is as though our present day "leaders" simply do not understand that everything that once made America so special a place to live and raise a family was based on a strong and vibrant economy, in which all willing and able bodied citizens had a real opportunity to hold a job that paid enough to cover the costs of food, clothing, shelter, transportation, education, medical attention when needed, and a bit left over for a little recreation once in a while, and still a bit more to set aside for their retirement when the time came.

Their individual opinions regarding how to "fix" the economy, as expressed in the media, range from the ridiculous to the sublime. None of the opinions expressed to date however appear to have been based on any understanding whatsoever about the true condition of our country or our economy.

One group just wants to borrow (inflate the currency) and spend it on something. Another group just wants to increase taxes and spend it on something. Another group wants to "just cut expenses," in an attempt to make fewer dollars stretch further (an illusion at best).

The first step in solving any problem is to correctly define the problem. The real problem we face is how to create 47 million meaningful paying jobs (not crappy low paying "service" jobs) over the next 5-10 years' time, in order to restore good jobs to those who lost theirs over the past 40 years' time, AND create still another 160,000 jobs a month, every month in the future to provide jobs for the NEW people coming into the labor market each month due to ongoing population growth.

When we actually solve this "problem," enough earned money will re-enter the economy (est. **\$4 - 6 trillion dollars**<sup>7</sup> a year or more every year going forward) so that additional borrowing and or increasing of taxes will be unnecessary; the existing debt can be paid down (not just reduce its rate of growth); and all the other money related problems we are now experiencing

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<sup>7</sup> \$6.35 trillion dollars = \$2.35 trillion in increased wages to workers from good paying jobs, plus another \$2 trillion in increased income to businesses the workers buy goods and services from....the multiplier effect....plus the income from 15 million low paying jobs that will be freed up estimated to be another 1 to 1.5 trillion dollars...and don't forget the reinvestment by the government of the \$2+ trillion dollars they would collect in additional tax revenues.

both at the individual citizen level and at the “government” level will just disappear, as if by magic.

Conversely, if we fail to solve this problem, all the other money related problems currently being experienced at both the individual citizen level and at the “government” level will continue to not only exist but will continue to grow worse each year going forward.... forever.

And all of the positive spin put on a bad situation by government spin doctors (and repeated endlessly by an unknowledgeable and un-critical media) won’t serve to relieve the pain of those whose lives are being marginalized and/or destroyed along the way.

Instead of coming together to work on restoring the economic health of our country as a Team, the individual members of Congress and the Administration continue to concentrate on getting the majority of citizens to embrace their personal philosophical views re: the best way to run the country.

The term that comes to mind is prima donnas.

The majority of members of the Democratic Party favor the “tax and spend” approach, which has deservedly become their label over the past several decades. Democrats prefer to take the money up front from the citizens. This approach has fallen into less and less favor over the past 20-30 years.

The majority of members of the Republican Party favor the “borrow and spend” approach. Republicans really want to spend just as much as the Democrats do. They just don’t want to spend their own money. They would prefer to borrow and spend (other people’s money). Of course, this later translates into the taxpayers having to make the loan repayments by way of increased taxes at some point down the road. Taxpayers that actually have to pay taxes that is.

If the Republicans are lucky, the actual tax increases resulting from their borrowing actions will happen at a later point in time when the Democrats are in power. That way they can then rant about Democrats raising taxes again. If the Republicans are unlucky, they will have to raise taxes when they are still in power just like the Democrats would have had to, and then the Democrats get to make an “issue” about the Republicans fiscal irresponsibility and not taxing the rich enough.

The Libertarians mostly just want government to go away altogether. But there aren't many of them, so they usually end up being swing votes (mostly for the Republicans).

The point is, that all of these established political groups are lost in the wilderness without a compass. None of them understand the scope of the problem they should be working to solve. None of them seem to understand (or at least be willing to admit) that our present situation was entirely created by the "government." And none of them seem to understand (or at least be willing to admit) that the "government" can solve the problem by simply reversing the actions that they took previously.

We are talking here about reversing the actions that resulted in the destruction of our economy at the individual level and at the country level.

If an athletic team performed on the field in the same manner that our government servants have been performing in the Congress and Administration, they would lose not only all of their most important games, but most of their fans too... just like our "government" has now caused the loss of the world's most vibrant economy and has also lost the respect of the majority of America's citizens.

Every successful team has a capable leader (i.e., a great coach – like Vince Lombardi) to keep them focused on what needs to happen in order to win the game. Unfortunately for America's middle-class citizens, there have been no coaches leading the way to a vibrant economy for about 3-4 decades now.

Understandably, Team America has had a dismal won-lost record in terms of preserving and protecting America's poorest and middle-class citizen's interests for precisely the same period of time.

Team America's "coaches" have been AWOL for about 30-40 years now. Instead of focusing themselves on what is needed to preserve and protect the interests of America's citizens here at home, they have instead spent the majority of their time prancing around the world stage glad-handing boatloads of corrupt politicians from other countries who would not ordinarily spit on them if it weren't for the fact that our "coach" could be persuaded through flattery, bribery, and/or coercion to sell out America's citizens livelihoods for their benefit.

How successful of a coach do you think Vince Lombardi would have been for the Packers if he spent the majority of his time traveling the world to shake hands with, and give advice to, all the coaches of other kinds of

“football” all over the world about how they should run their teams? I’m guessing about as successful as our presidents of the past few decades have been at solving the problems of the Middle East, in addition to failing to solve any of our problems here at home.

Maybe there is a connection?

It sounds incredible I know, but I think that a primary reason for the ongoing and growing disconnect between the citizens and the government has resulted from members of the Congress and the Administration not only being enamored with themselves and their feelings of self-importance, but also because they appear to have a complete lack of understanding about what they are supposed to be doing for the country while they are in those various positions.

Government at the federal level has become government at the state level on steroids. It was never supposed to be like that. Government at the federal level was always intended to be government where problems of national stature were deliberated on by members of congress and decided based on what was best for the country overall.

State Governments could behave like selfish children if they liked, but the Federal Government was obliged to consider matters of national importance with an eye toward promoting the GENERAL welfare (like it says in the first paragraph of the Constitution). In other words, legislators at the Federal level were expected to rise above petty money matters relating to a specific constituency and consider how to do what was best for the country overall... not just their state, and not just any single constituency in their state.

The unseemly groveling for handouts from the treasury to help a single interest was supposed to be beneath those who would aspire to hold offices at the Federal level.

But it certainly hasn’t worked out that way, has it?

Personally, I don’t blame the polished professional career politicians for acting like so many prostitutes at the federal level. I blame us. We haven’t let them know that that kind of behavior is unacceptable and won’t be tolerated. Rather than working to discourage this type of behavior at the federal level, too many of us have looked the other way and given it a back-handed endorsement when we thought the groveling might benefit us a bit personally, no matter the damage to our neighbors or to our society overall.



And what does that say about us as a society? With a wink and a nudge, we allow our elected officials to profit from prostituting themselves to anyone they think will help pay for their campaigns. Yet we remind them that they still work for us. Now let me think. What is the word we use to describe someone a prostitute works for? Oh yes, I remember now.

We call them pimps.

But, to paraphrase Abe Lincoln *“a nation comprised entirely of prostitutes and pimps cannot long stand.”*

If there is to be any chance at regaining the ground, we have lost over the past 30-40 years’ time, including recreating the 47 million good jobs our “government” has seen fit to destroy over the same period of time, it will require a sense of teamwork that is nowhere to be found in our “government” today.

In order to create the teambuilding attitude needed in our government, Management is going to have to get personally involved. Management is going to have to get tough with the AWOL coaches and the Prima Donna players and lay down new ground rules and see to it that they are followed.

Any infraction on the part of either the coach or the players must immediately be met with disciplinary action up to and including immediate termination and expulsion from the team... without pay.

In case anyone reading this missed the point, the Team Management is us. The coaches are the Administration (President and Secretaries), and the Players are the members of Congress.

We can still win the political game for the preservation of the soul of America the country, and the American Dream of freedom, opportunity, and an honest pursuit of happiness for all of its citizens.

But we are in the final quarter of the political game that will decide forever what kind of country America will be in the future.

In football parlance, we are behind by two touchdowns, it’s the final quarter of the game, and the clock is running. We have to score a touchdown on every possession from now to the end of the game, and we have to stop the other side in its tracks every time they get the ball. There is no way we can come out a winner by kicking field goals at 3 points apiece in the time remaining. When we need a 1<sup>st</sup> down on 4<sup>th</sup> and long, we have to go for it.

It's Hail Mary time now for the poorest classes and the "middle" classes in America.

There is an old saying to the effect that "you can't cross a chasm in two small jumps. If a great leap is indicated, only a great leap will do." We are now standing on the edge of an economic abyss (income inequality) the likes of which our country and the world have never seen before. If now is not the time for a great leap, I don't know when that time would be.

Management needs to restructure Team America from the ground up, beginning right now. If the present players can't be made to join in the effort first as members of **Team America** and NOT first as members of Team Democrat or Team Republican, then we really have no choice but to replace them. No more prima donnas. Our country simply can't afford them at this point.

2020 needs to be the year that Team America is reborn. Scattered around America in cities, towns and hamlets all across the country are people with the innate talent to be the team players we need.

What we have to do, is seek them out and ask them to help their country for a while. I think most will want to play a part in rebuilding Team America; and in so doing, restore America's claim to being the greatest nation on the planet; not just for the benefit of this generation, but also and even more importantly, for those who follow us in time... our children and grandchildren.

We the management of America owe both them and those who have already been left behind that much.

And here is a strategic plan that can actually work:

In 2018 and 2019 we scout and line up the first set of replacements. In 2020 we begin voting them into office.

1 – First, get enough Senate seats to stop the madness. Twenty seats should do it. 33 seats are up every two years. (Start with 10 in 2020 and add 10 more to the total every 2 years thereafter).

2 – Second, gain control of the House to control spending legislation. Every seat is up for election every two years. (Start with 50 seats in 2020 and add 50 more to the total every two years thereafter).

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Use the realigned majorities in Congress to quickly recreate the good-paying jobs that our government endorsed sending off as gifts to other countries.

3 – Then, sometime down the road, get the Presidency... just for fun.

But by then, we will already have won the game.

Jack

## The Home Bank Program

In 1931, (during the *first* great depression) Congress enacted a program to help farmers in need. They established 12 privately owned “Farm (Land) Banks” and then using the already established privately owned 12 Federal Reserve Banks as the go-between, supplied the new Farm Land Banks with billions of gold backed dollars from our treasury to loan to farmers who were facing foreclosure. During the 1940’s the farmers borrowed to buy even more land during WWII in order to help produce food, for not only our country but our allies in Europe as well.

Much of the land the farmers purchased was idled land that was already owned by some bank holding a foreclosed parcel from the days of the *first* great depression and the dust bowl. The effect was a blessing for the banks initially holding the foreclosed farm properties. They were finally let off the hook at a dollar on the dollar. The foreclosed amount when borrowed by the *second* buyer now became a *new* note held by one of the 12 new Farm (Land) Banks.

Unfortunately for the farmers, after the end of WWII, the need for the prior, very high level of production was no longer present, and the farmers could not sell everything they were now able to produce... either here at home or abroad. That left them in the position of not being able to pay the Farm Banks back for the loans that they made to purchase the extra land they were now holding, and unable to farm profitably.

So to further aid the farmers, the government then enacted laws that paid farmers *not* to grow crops on part of their land. The subsidies were large enough that farmers soon received enough in subsidies to pay off their Farm (Land) Bank Loans... entirely with cash subsidies given to them that were paid for with taxpayer dollars. Of course, the artificial supply demand manipulation resulted in higher prices to all food consumers. Once the farm loans were paid off the farmers received clear title to the land and could farm it, sub-develop it, or whatever, and keep all the proceeds for themselves. Sometimes the government itself would even then buy it back from the farmer to set aside as a wetland or greenbelt or something of the kind. Bottom line, the farmer made out like a bandit.

When the Farm (Land) Banks received back the taxpayer subsidized payments that retired the loans, they did not give any of the proceeds back to the taxpayers that provided them in the first place. They kept it all for

themselves, saying it might be needed again in the future. And, if the same practice was intended to be continued in the future, they were right.

Now, we are smack in the middle of an even *greater* depression with *141 million* suffering citizens, that is roughly *3 times worse* than the one we struggled to get out of in the 1930's and 1940's. And this time around the group suffering most are the unemployed workers (and their families) whose jobs were, at their government's insistence, given away to citizens of other countries, and who now find themselves either having been foreclosed on and evicted from their homes, or are now actively being foreclosed on by their lenders.... just like what happened to the farmers during the first "great" depression.

Sometimes the more things change, the more they stay the same.

The government could, if it so wished, save the homeowners the same way it saved the big farmers. They could establish the "Home Bank Program" and pay homeowners *not* to live in a second home.

Homeowners could apply for a loan through the new Home Bank Program to purchase one of the already foreclosed homes..... and they would be required to rent the home out until it was fully paid for at an artificially low rental rate (say... \$300 per month).

In return the government would agree to subsidize the payments (beyond the \$300 a month level) until the home was fully paid off. At the end of the payoff, the second home would be transferred free and clear to the person who bought it using the Home Bank loan.... just like what happened to the farmers....and they could then elect to use it themselves as a second home, sell it, give it to their children, or whatever... all without ever paying a single penny toward the purchase price... just like the deal the farmers got. (There might have to be a national lottery to decide who got to buy the second homes on this basis).

In most instances, the people renting the home would probably be the ones to then buy it because by then, (*10 years or so into the future*) they might have found a job adequate to support the full home payment.

This would immediately remove all already foreclosed properties from the system and make the same number of homes available for occupancy by anyone who had already been evicted or who got evicted in the future... at a price they could afford to pay each month until they got back on their feet.

In some cases, the people already living in the homes facing foreclosure might be able to continue living there indefinitely, since they were already there and cared about the property, making them ideal renters. (They would

in effect be renting from themselves, if they were credit worthy enough to get the government backed loan). The \$300 a month the renters paid would cover the owner's maintenance and property taxes.

Of course the Federal Reserve Banks would again have to fund the new Home Banks with perhaps two to three trillion dollars total to pay off the subsidies, but if the Home Bank loans were to be structured to be paid back over a 10 to 15 year period, and were interest free from the Fed, like the loans the Fed makes to the other bankers they "lend" money to, the additional money we would have to print up *annually* to cover this expense might only be in the \$200-\$250 billion dollar range (a mere trifle by today's government standards).

If we can subsidize the farmers, the insurance companies, the mortgage bankers, the commercial bankers, the wall street traders, the auto manufacturers, the defense contractors, the auto dealers, the medical service providers, and the drug companies with *trillions* of dollars annually to help them out, why in the name of all that is holy, can we not do the same for the ordinary citizens in our country that are hurting the most because of their government's past 40-year program designed to move as many good paying jobs as possible out of America to other countries around the world.

If on the one hand the government's actions caused the foreclosure mess in the first place (*and they did*) by actively working to destroy the jobs people once had, that used to provide the money needed for people to buy and pay for homes in America... it seems like the very least they could do would be to take an action like this to lessen the damages they already caused.

Unless of course, they just didn't give a damn.

Jack

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## **The Moral Imperative and the pursuit of happiness**

A deeply held moral code is essential to leadership. A moral code in turn springs from a philosophy of life that tells us why we are here, what our life means, and what constitutes a life well spent. A moral code tells us what is worth living for and what is worth dying for.

Nations, like people, have moral codes. And just like people, a country's moral code springs from its citizen's philosophy of life; why they believe the nation should exist; what its existence will mean to the world; and what constitutes the nation's life being well spent.

Every person, through observation and experience, forms a philosophy of life. Most never write it down, but their philosophy of life determines their actions. The sum of everyone's actions defines to the world who and what they really are.

Of all the past or present nations that ever existed on planet Earth, only one nation was constituted right from the start based on a philosophy that every citizen was entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Every other nation that has ever existed on planet Earth was developed right from the start based on the philosophy that might made right, to the victor belonged the spoils, and let the devil take the hindmost.

Today, the one nation that originally endowed all its citizens with the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness still exists, but is struggling to maintain an adherence to its original moral code.

Most of the might-makes-right formed nations have been conquered and re-conquered by other might-makes-right nations over the past several centuries, but the might-makes-right philosophy continues to define their actions and shows very few signs of letting up.

At the beginning, America's national philosophy reflected the moral philosophy of its founding fathers. Unlike most of us, they took time to

record that philosophy for the benefit of future generations of Americans. Their philosophy was recorded in two documents.

The first document was our Declaration of Independence from England. In it they declared their belief that governments should be constituted by the people they served, and that only governments so constituted were legitimate.

The second document was our Constitution. They called it that because they were in fact constructing a document intended to *constitute* a government whose basic operating principles first had to be ratified a large majority of the entire citizenry before it could be considered the law of the land.

These were then and still are unique documents.

The power of those two documents, once combined, and adhered to at all costs, for over 150 years, gave America the moral standing to be leader of the world. The rest of the world not only read and heard what we said, but also watched what we did. And because our actions reflected our words, and both were deemed worthy, America was respected and admired by other nations.

Our nation's moral compass has been wavering over the past few decades, and people the world over have been quick to notice, and many have been just as quick to turn away from us and what they believed we once stood for.

As our national philosophy began to change from being the ever-vigilant guardians of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all citizens," to "whatever works and makes the most money the quickest," many of those who had held America up as that shining city on a hill, began to have doubts as to whether we were worth following any longer.

America's political leaders now mostly express a philosophy of expediency without responsibility or accountability. Their national policies, springing from such a philosophy, create an image of America as being morally bankrupt, and no longer fit to lead.

The Democratic Party philosophy of governance boils down to "tax and spend to stay in power." The Republican Party philosophy of governance boils down to "borrow and spend to stay in power." There is no more to them than that.

These are not noble philosophies, backed by strong moral convictions. They do not relate in any way to the underpinning strong moral philosophy that



was the basis for founding America at the outset. These are not philosophies worth living for or worth dying for. They are instead the philosophies of political parties that are led by small groups of like-minded people who have lost their moral compasses, and who because of that have also lost any legitimate standing to lead our country.

To put it plainly, the Democratic Party is morally bankrupt and has been for many years, and the Republican Party is morally bankrupt and has been for many years. This does not imply that citizens who wish to identify with one or the other of these parties nobly stated objectives are also morally bankrupt. Only that the Parties themselves at the leadership levels are morally bankrupt and have been for many years.

Both the Democrat and Republican parties claim for public consumption that they have high moral purposes guiding their actions, but this is not true. While claiming the high moral ground, both the Democratic and Republican parties once elected to power implement policies that have nothing to do with their stated high-minded objectives. Instead, their policies reveal that at their core they are about nothing except gaining and holding the reins of power for as long as possible.

Both parties use the same basic formula for getting themselves elected. They pander to individual interests, creating a debt to be repaid in return for votes, and then must find ways to honor their debts.

The chosen strategies that they use to repay their pandered debts are now the only things that differentiate them. The Democrats seek to get the money to pay down their pandered debts by increasing taxes and spending the plundered taxes. The Republicans seek to get the money to pay down their pandered debts by borrowing and spending the plundered borrowings. When they get desperate, both parties have been able to rationalize doing both things at the same time. Such is the case with our government as this is being written in June of 2017.

How is it possible to rationalize spending money that has not yet even been created, in the process creating a huge, debilitating debt for future generations to be saddled with, simply for purposes of staying in power? How is that a high-minded moral imperative? How is raising taxes for such purposes a noble goal? Yet, at their core that, and only that, is what each of these parties stand for.

Never mind all the high-minded platitudes they speak when they are trying to convince us we should vote them into offices of power in our government.

Once all the smoke clears, and the elections are over, and business as usual begins again in Washington, the game plans of both parties call for staying in power, and doing whatever it takes, and spending whatever it takes, to make that happen. And at the end of the day, bottom line, where the rubber meets the road, that is really all there is to either of them.

If our founding fathers could spend a day back among us now, after watching the goings on in Washington DC over the past 40-50 years, what do you think they would say? Do you imagine that they would openly admire any of the present professional career politicians in Washington? Which (if any) of the present-day politicians inhabiting Washington do you think the founding fathers would believe had the moral standing to be a leader of our country? Do you think they might have some tough questions to ask our present day polished professional career politicians?

I think they would have lots of questions.... For example:

How does a political philosophy purposely designed to eliminate the possibility of honest, well-paid work for more than 20% of the workers in America lead naturally to their ability to pursue happiness for themselves and their families?

How does using the nation's military strengths to impose our will on other countries around the world - for purposes of improving profits for some of our commercial interests - contribute to the quality of life or liberty, or happiness of all of Americas citizens? How does such a policy square with a stated philosophy of justice and fair play for all?

If you believe that spending treasury money on poor and unemployed people who have been reduced by their government to living on public welfare is wrong; why do you believe that giving money from the treasury to well off commercial interests in the form of corporate welfare is right? What is the moral imperative for doing one but not the other based on class? How does that constitute equal treatment under the laws? How does it contribute to the stated objective of helping all citizens being able to fully pursue happiness for themselves and their families?

How does increasing taxes on the citizens and borrowing money that has not yet even been created for purposes of increasing income to healthcare providers and insurance companies... so that the government can later take back some of the increases when the healthcare providers and insurers pay taxes on their increased income... improve citizens lives, increase their liberties, or improve their ability to pursue that which makes them happy?

How does implementing trade policies with other nations that will with absolute certainty result in putting people out of work in America, in the process subjecting many if not most of them and their families to lifetimes of imprisonment in poverty, contribute toward enabling their liberty, or expanding their ability to pursue happiness for themselves and their families here in America?

How does debasing the nation's currency through monetary inflation - for purposes of providing unlimited funds for government use, and unlimited funds for the use of commercial interests who mismanage their privately-owned businesses, but no funds whatsoever for use by citizens who have been damaged by the government's actions - square with the Government's promise of equal treatment for all under the laws?

How does the debasing of the nation's currency by way of monetary inflation work to improve the quality of the lives of the citizens, or enhance their freedom, or improve their pursuit of happiness, or make them more secure in their persons and gainfully earned properties?

How does the government's ongoing support for monopolistic commercial practices and accumulation of all the nation's wealth in the hands of a relative few citizens, help assure life, liberty and an honest ability to pursue happiness for those whose jobs are *eliminated* through government-endorsed and government-supported mergers between already gigantic enterprises?

Do you believe that the sole business of America is business, or do you believe that the true business of America is something more than just excelling at commerce?

Do you believe that the original reasons that (at the time) were the basis for *constituting* a government for America... whose stated goals were to provide a place on Earth where every citizen was entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness... are still valid?

Have your actions always been consistent with achieving these goals for all of America's citizens, or perhaps just some of Americas citizens most of the time?

And more....

**The Moral Imperative starts with the citizens:**

As citizens, we are responsible for the actions of those we elect to take care of the nation's affairs. If our public servants say one thing to get elected, and do the opposite once in office, they reveal themselves to be unworthy of our trust. These types of actions are not just despicable. They are immoral in the truest sense of the word.

Such actions are a true indication that the public servant lacks any sort of moral compass consistent with advancing our society and is therefore unfit to lead.

When a public servant reveals to us that he or she does not have the moral standing to hold a position of trust and responsibility in our government, it is not just our privilege, it is our **RESPONSIBILITY** to remove them from office. **THAT** is what elections are for.

But this is something we seldom do. The result is that our corrupt and immoral public servants barely give lip service to keeping their commitments to us anymore. When we, their superiors, through our actions (or lack of actions) reveal to the world that we are willing to let our servants run amuck and do as they please without fear of reprisal, it signals the world that America's citizens are weak-minded, weak-willed, lazy, and unworthy of respect.

**Our public servants accurately reflect the people they serve.  
Always have. Always will.**

If we as citizens choose to bind ourselves to high ideals like "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all citizens" and we are truly committed to following that path in our lives and in our country, we will DEMAND that our servants adhere to the same path, and discipline them if they choose to follow any other path.

If we wish our children and grandchildren to respect what we stand for and appreciate and respect our stewardship of what will one day soon be their country to live in, raise their families in, and be asked to protect and serve; and if we wish once again for America to be held up to all the nations of the world as the standard by which all others are, and of right ought to be, compared; the sole requirement that must be met is that we must each individually stand for goals that are worthy, and demand that those we allow to serve us in government do the same. We must demonstrate that we as citizens have the moral standing to lead.

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2018 may well be a watershed year for America. The world is starting to pass us by, and in many quarters, it is believed that our best days are behind us. All the world's nations are looking for someone, **anyone**, to pick up the standard we dropped, and lead the way forward.

All the nations of the world are looking for one special nation to emerge that has the moral standing to lead the world. A nation whose high ideals never waver, and whose citizens are unfailing in their commitment to guaranteeing life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all the nation's citizens.

Wouldn't it be something if the nation to pick up the dropped standard, and lead the world forward into the future, was the nation that dropped it?

Jack

[www.AmericaII.org](http://www.AmericaII.org)

## The Power of Positive AND Negative Thinking

Much is written daily about the power of positive thinking, and rightly so. Jefferson once said that *“Nothing in the world can stop the man who is optimistic and nothing in the world can help the man who is pessimistic.”* He was right on both counts.

At the same time, Jefferson left open the great middle ground. That is to say, he did not mention what happens to the man who is realistic. . . . the person who has little time to ponder the great questions, but instead keeps his/her head down and works long hours daily to provide food, clothing, shelter, transportation, educational opportunities, and medical attention for his/her family. These are the ones that comprise the “silent majority” you hear about all of the time.

All progress begins with a negative thought first. Jefferson was well aware of this. He and his contemporaries (our founding fathers) determined that being under the thumb of a tyrant was a terrible way to live out one’s life. Back then, that was pretty negative thinking (especially if you were a subject of the King of England at the time).

Before bad things can be made better, someone has to notice that the bad thing exists. Further, in order for things to be made better, whoever would make things better has to acknowledge the existence of the bad situation. For example: “Our national economy is in the toilet.” “Unemployment and under-employment are both bad things.” Those are a couple of decidedly negative thoughts that relate to current conditions in our country.

Bad things don’t generally get better by themselves. Once the problem area is identified, people can line up on whatever side of the question - re: how to make things better - that they prefer. Some will choose to ignore the problem, hoping someone else will fix it. Pessimists will declare it unsolvable and walk away. Optimists will look for ways to make things better.

The key goal of this short piece is to try to drive home the point that negative thinking is the precursor of, and essential to, all progress. When someone says you are a negative thinker, don’t be offended. If it’s true, you are in good company. Eli Whitney, Thomas Edison, Theodore Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and others like Jonas Salk and Henry Ford all were, at times, negative thinkers. The list goes on and on, of people whose names we all know that recognized

problems first using negative thinking, and then optimistically turned their efforts to making things better.

As we go about working to restore America to its rightful position at the top of the totem pole of nations, we will along the way need to use our powers of negative thinking to (honestly) identify all of the problem areas that are keeping us from achieving our goals. Then a majority of us will need to optimistically work on solutions to those problems until they are solved.

Right now, as we begin the year 2018, as has been the case for at least the past three decades, our government has completely lost its way and is floundering, endangering us all. That's a negative thought for sure. Worse yet, the two major political parties seem to have no real idea of what the real problems are that are facing us, or the scope of those problems, and they also appear to have no new ideas at all regarding how to make things better.

If the crux of our problems is that the two existing major parties lack the ability to honestly define the problems, and/or their unwillingness to face up to those problems and do what is necessary to solve them; then changing the parties currently in power to some other parties with greater knowledge of what the problems are and some original solutions is probably the best and quickest way back to a strong and prosperous America for us all.

Jack

[www.Americall.org](http://www.Americall.org)

## The Road to Oblivion

### Solving (or choosing to ignore) the Unemployment “problem”

As this is being written in March of 2010, the United States economy is in the middle of the worst depression the country has ever known. During the depths of the “great” depression of the 1930’s and 1940’s the total number of displaced workers in America (unemployed and severely under-employed) numbered approximately 12,277,600. As this is being written, the total number of displaced workers in America numbers approximately **47,093,800**.

If we add in the dependents of the displaced workers, the total number of suffering people due to unemployment and under-employment would have been about 55,000,000 during the “great” depression of the 1930’s and 1940’s. That same measure rises to **141,000,000** people for the depression we are in right now\*. By just about anybody’s calculator, 47 million is a lot bigger number than 12 million. Likewise, 141 million is a lot bigger number than 55 million.

The government assures us that it is just a matter of proportions, because in the interim period, the population of the country has grown from about 121 million people in the 1930’s to about 290 million people now. We will get another number soon because this is a census year... But, if you do the math, the percentage of displaced citizens now is still a greater percent than was the case in the 1930’s.

If the true measure of the impact of economic depression is how many people are hurting, this depression we are in now is almost three times worse than the one we went through in the 1930’s and 1940’s. If, as the government prefers, we instead measure the impact of the two depressions as a percent of the total population that are suffering - taking into account population growth over the intervening period - it would **STILL** appear that we are worse off now than we were during the depths of the “great” depression of the 1930’s.



So much for the background.

To begin with, unemployment and under-employment are not problems here in America, or anywhere else in the world for that matter. They are symptoms of other much more serious problems that no-one in government seems to know about. Or if they do know, they have so far individually and collectively been unwilling to talk about any of them.

Possibly the reason is that they don't have a clue as to what might be done to solve any of them, and they don't want to appear to be unknowledgeable. If we thought they were unknowledgeable, we might not vote for them, and from an elected official's point of view that would be terrible indeed.

But that's a rant for another day. The topic for today is how to solve what the government says is the "problem" of unemployment here in America.

## **Step 1**

The first step in solving a problem (any problem) is to define the problem.

Our government has defined the problem as the various financial institutions (stock market, commercial banks, insurance companies, mortgage banks, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, etc.) not having enough money to lend. If that is indeed the "problem" that needs solving, we are all in for a bright tomorrow, and can soon go happily skipping down the yellow brick road together hand in hand singing "happy days are here again."

If that is not the problem that needs solving, and we continue down the path we are on now, all those who are hurting now are in for more of the same for a long, long time. Maybe forever. And they can expect a lot more traffic on the road to oblivion than they are seeing now, as the levels of unemployment and especially under-employment continue to grow each year going forward. There really is no end in sight right now, despite all the government spokespersons saying we are on the road to recovery even as this is being written.

As indicated earlier, unemployment and under-employment are not problems here in America. They are symptoms of much larger problems that no-one wants to talk about. If you want to better understand the difference between a problem and symptom of a problem, try visiting the website [www.americaII.org](http://www.americaII.org).

For now, though, let's just talk about how we might be able to reduce the amount of suffering caused by unemployment and underemployment. Because, problem or symptom of a problem, they both exist big time now, are still growing, and they hurt not only the displaced workers, but the spouses, children, parents and grandparents of all those suffering from either of these two conditions.

Part of the first step in problem solving is to break the problem out into its simplest elements. Doing that will help put the totality of the "problem" into perspective, and perhaps give those working on a solution some idea of the scope of the work that may be necessary to alleviate the pain and suffering. It is really important at this stage of the problem-solving process that objectivity be the rule.

A look at the (**Depression / "Recession" spreadsheet**)\* will give you a pretty good idea of the scope of the problem. The government tells us that there are about 9.7% of willing and able-bodied workers out of the total potential workforce now looking for jobs. That may be a fairly accurate number. However, to get a true fix on the unemployment and under-employment "issues," it is necessary to also include two other categories of workers who have been severely displaced and damaged over the past 30 years' time.

One of those additional categories includes unemployed workers who tried unsuccessfully for years to find another job, are still unemployed, and are now no longer counted by the government.

The third category that has to be acknowledged is the category of severely *under-employed* workers, driven to working 2 or more jobs, (often without benefits), eating top-ramen because they can no longer afford meat to eat, buying their clothes at Goodwill instead of the Gap, and driving what the government laughingly derides as "clunkers," because that's all they can now afford. The majority of these workers once had good paying jobs with benefits... but lost those jobs when their government decided that America should convert from a manufacturing-based economy to a service-based economy, and rewarded manufacturing companies handsomely for shipping their production facilities off to other countries.

**Shuckin' and Jivin'.** There has been a lot of that lately, and while it is fun to listen to, if that's all the government has to offer, it's not going to make the pain of unemployment become less, let alone go away altogether.

\*To be found on the AmericaII.org website

In order to understand the numbers in the spreadsheet, it is important to understand how they came about. Understanding how they came about over time may lead to some insights as to how they might be reversed.

The first category is pretty straightforward. Someone loses their job and signs up for unemployment. The government knows how many there are in this group because they mail them checks every week or two. As long as they are drawing unemployment compensation, the government can track them accurately.

The second group is a bit harder to get a handle on. These are the ones that after an extended period of time (sometimes years) of trying, were never able to find employment that paid more than it cost to hold down the jobs they were being offered.

It isn't talked about much, but there is a cost associated with holding down every job in America. The cost of keeping the job has to be "netted out" against the amount of take-home pay the worker gets for doing the job. Included in the costs of each job are: transportation costs for getting to and from work (car payments, gas, tires, repairs, insurance, etc.), childcare if no-one is left at home to take care of the children, buying and keeping clean clothing appropriate to the position, and of course the payroll deductions for Federal taxes, State taxes, Social Security, Medicare, etc.

Most of the people in this second category (unemployed but no longer counted) did the math and determined that they would be working 40 hours a week, for about a net \$2 an hour, (or less), and refused to take jobs offered to them on those terms. They are still unemployed, but they no longer get unemployment checks, so they aren't counted as unemployed anymore.

The government uses their refusal to accept such work as an indication that members of this second group simply aren't serious about finding a job. The government then uses this same statistic in the FIRST group as well to back up their claim that 5% of those they do acknowledge as unemployed are really people who don't want to work and wouldn't accept jobs offered to

them. By their logic, that means that they only have to find jobs for 4.7% of the 9.7% of the unemployed workers out there in category #1.

The spreadsheet shows that the second group (unemployed but not counted) is hovering at about 10% now and is growing annually. Pay attention now, because how this second group came about links directly to the NEXT group..... those who are employed right now, but at a small fraction of what they used to earn.

In each of the past 40 years, the government has continually bribed manufacturing companies to send their workforces to some other country. This is still going on today, in the midst of the greatest depression the country has ever known.

The workers in category #1 losing their jobs because the management of the companies they helped build and make successful fired them and hired a foreign worker (actually more likely 100 to 200 foreign workers) to take their place... had to find other jobs right away or they would lose their homes, and everything else.

And they did. Many of them in fact found two other jobs. Good thing, because very often it took two crappy, low paying jobs just to net out enough to avoid foreclosure and bankruptcy.

Of the total number of displaced workers in unemployment category #1 due to job closure and migration in any given year, about 99.65% found at least one job before their unemployment ran out. A lot of them found two jobs. In most instances if a marriage partner had been staying at home tending to the children and such, that person also had to also take a job that netted out just about nothing, to keep the family from losing their home.

The government was ecstatic.

“Look”, they said. “Our economy is sound. 99.65% of everyone that lost their jobs this year found another before their unemployment ran out. Let me repeat that. 99.65% found another job within a year!”

And that was true.

What was also true was that *a third of one percent* never found another job that “netted out” enough to even make a pretense of living on. Every year. Year after year after year. Like water torture, over a 35+ year period, the

combined percent of the total of willing and able bodied unemployed and uncounted workers grew to the present-day 12% of the workforce.

The government knows they exist, but never talks about this second group. They attribute it all to mismatched work disciplines. That is, the displaced manufacturing workers' skill set doesn't match what is needed in the current service economy workplace market the government has now created. The best they can offer is to subsidize training to get these ex-highly paid manufacturing workers up to speed in the new low-pay service sector they decided was best for the country some time back.

This takes us to the third category – that of seriously under-employed workers in America. This group is where most of the 99,65% of the workers who lost their jobs in category #1 finally ended up. Again, like water torture, this group continues to grow each year at exactly the same rate that the government is successful at getting the last of the manufacturing jobs relocated to other countries around the world.

The workers in this third category (severely under-employed) successfully leapfrogged over category #2, and ultimately landed a job that netted out enough to let the worker avoid foreclosure and bankruptcy. Often two or more jobs in fact, because one low paying job wouldn't cut it.

The building of this third group (the severely under-employed) was in fact the building of a double-edged sword, and both edges of the sword cut deeply into the economic fabric of our country. Many of those in this group are now employed at two (sometimes more) jobs. Mostly part time jobs so the employer can avoid having to pay benefits. On the one hand the two new jobs still don't pay anything near what the one good paying lost job used to pay, and they often don't come with benefits. On the other hand, people in this group now needing to take 2-3 jobs to keep from losing their homes, reduces the number of jobs available for other unemployed workers who are still looking for work.

*Bottom line - the scope of the unemployment-underemployment "problem" in America is a **LOT** bigger than anyone in government is willing to acknowledge.*

The end result of the government's inability to correctly diagnose the problem, and worse, implementing solutions designed to solve an incorrect problem diagnosis have come dangerously close to bankrupting our country.

But much more important than that, they have resulted in snatching the great American Dream from the grasp of 47% of all the citizens living in this country; children, young, middle aged, and elderly; and the politicians are continuing to follow a path that will certainly destroy the dream for even more citizens in the upcoming years.

And for THAT, I cannot and will not ever forgive them. Nor should you.

## **Step 2**

The Second step in problem-solving is to propose solutions that might work. All possibilities should be considered, not just those that are proposed by the great thinkers in Washington, or the CEO's of the mega-corps, or the money-changers, or the "experts" in the nation's various think tanks, or by insider journalists, and pundits. Almost nothing is more common in government than conventional wisdom turning out to be wrong.

Right now, the conventional wisdom being promoted by all the heavy thinkers in Government and the financial institutions, mega corps, and "economists" that pull the strings of the government is that the key to a bright future is by way of a "free market" economy. We used to have a "free enterprise" economy. The "free enterprise" business model made us the most prosperous nation in the history of the world.

About 50 years ago the money changers and elite thinkers of the business world decided that they would prefer a "free market" economy instead. After about 20-25 years of the business community continually using their lobbyists to promote the "free market" concept, our leaders in congress and the various administrations in Washington caved in and decided that the business leaders must be right and decided to go along with the new "free-market" concept.

The difference between "free-markets" and "free-enterprise" is in what the "free" stands for. In "free-enterprise," the "free" stands for freedom of individuals to control the outcome of their own lives, protected by their government from outside (foreign) interference and unfettered by excessive government regulation here in the U.S.

In "free-markets" the "free" stands for the freedom enjoyed by large companies with worldwide operations to exploit the poorest workers in every country of the world without restriction and with the prior agreement and blessings of all the governments of the world, and *free* of all taxation.

How we approach solving the unemployment “problem” in America depends **100%** on which of these two business models we decide America should follow going forward. It’s time now for America to decide what kind of country it wants to be when it grows up.

### **Step 3**

The third step in problem solving is to implement the proposed solution. This was done. The path that was chosen was the “free-market” path. Nafta, Cafta, GATT, WTO, IMF, “Most Favored Nation Status” for countries like China, etc. were the strategies chosen for implementation.

After thinking about both of these models, I came to the conclusion that the best path for us to have followed would have been to continue on down the free-enterprise path that we abandoned almost 50 years ago, after it had made us the freest and most prosperous country in the history of the world.

It’s not the model *du jour* or trendy to speak about these days, but I definitely think our progress as a country when operating under the “free-enterprise” model far surpasses what progress (or lack thereof) we have enjoyed when operating under the “free-market” model we are following today.

So, here is the solution I would propose:

### **Restore the high paying jobs that were sent to other countries at the government’s request.**

There was nothing inevitable about the exodus of high paying jobs from America to other countries. Anyone that thinks that way must have clabber for brains. America was always able to pay its workers enough to have a good standard of living and have products made here that cost more to produce than if made in some country where slave wages were the norm. Sometimes our citizens would pay 3, 4, or 5 times more for American made products, and it didn’t matter, because they were being paid enough that they could afford to do that.

Essentially the government made the manufacturers an offer they couldn’t refuse, and then just let greed take its normal course. The government said to the manufacturing companies, “Relocate to other countries, and you won’t have to pay taxes or benefits of any kind on what you make there.”

Federal and State taxes including Social Security and Medicare amount to about 3 times what labor costs are in a highly mechanized production environment. In the electronics industry for example, labor costs amount to about 3-4% of the retail sales price to the end consumer, but Federal and State taxes and employee benefits like Social Security, Medicare, health insurance, dental insurance, vision insurance, contributions to a 401K program, and paid vacations amount to about 12 – 16 % of the price the manufacturer sells the product for.

Our electronics industry wasn't shipped overseas to save the 3% labor difference (probably less than that after transportation and logistics costs are added back in). It was shipped overseas to allow the manufacturers to pocket the additional 12-16% in taxes and employee benefits.

Then of course the government(s), both federal and state, had to either ask the citizens in middle to make up the difference in lost taxes at tax collection time, or if they were too gutless to do that, borrow the lost tax money using the bond markets and Federal Reserve banks as sources.

Great way to run (bankrupt) an economy, right?

**An example to consider :** Right now, gasoline for cars sells for 17 cents a gallon in Venezuela. It's about \$2.80 a gallon here right now, and over \$6 a gallon in Europe. But so what? These kinds of differences have existed all over the world for centuries, and it didn't stop us from becoming the richest country in the world. The fact that they can produce a calculator in China for \$1 and it costs \$5 to do that in America is no reason for American consumers to feel a need to buy products made in China, by the workers their jobs were given away to. The point is that American made products being higher priced is not important (in America) so long as Americans can afford to pay the higher prices.

And bringing back the jobs is not only possible; it could be easy. All that would be necessary would be for the government to make the manufacturers another offer that they couldn't refuse, like this... "relocate your operations back to the US or we will impose high enough tariffs on the products you make there and want to sell here, that when you import them back into the USA, they will cost consumers more to buy than goods that were manufactured here in the USA, and we will use 100% of the tariff income to build competitors for you here in the US."



If that means we have to use the privately owned Federal Reserve Banks and our Treasury to create enough “new” money so that Americans could then get paid more and could afford to buy higher priced products made in America, so be it. That would be a much better use of 17 trillion electronically manufactured dollars than giving it to banks and governments around the world for zero interest, just so they would not have to suffer the effects of their own stupidity and greed.

Isn't that what capitalism is all about?

#### **Step 4**

And finally, let's not forget step four in the problem-solving process.... testing the validity of the implemented solution.

Here again, *objectivity* is the watchword. Instead of “bending” the facts to support a preconceived point of view, and thereby always coming to the conclusion that everything is working out just great (except we might need a bit more time and money), we need to objectively look at where we are, and decide individually and collectively whether operating under the “free-market” model is taking us where we wanted to go. If it is, then fine, we stay the course. But if it isn't, then I think we should scrap the failed solution and go back to step one in the process to see if we defined the problem correctly.

It is the case that the most common reason solutions fail to work as hoped for in government, is that someone defined the problem incorrectly at the outset. It is also the case that if a problem is defined wrong, the ensuing solutions will prove to be ineffective. That's science. And it applies to the Social Sciences just like it does to the Physical Sciences like mathematics and physics and chemistry.

This step, going back after implementing a solution and measuring the actual results against expectations to see if the solution is valid (or not), has routinely been avoided completely by our leaders in the government for at least the last 50 years' time. Probably closer to 70 years.

A bit more than 40 years ago, the man who would become our president asked American citizens to answer this question individually and collectively:

“Are you better off now than you were four years ago?” The majority of citizens decided that they were NOT better off and gave him a chance to try and make things better. (He didn’t).

Now, almost fifty years later, I think it is time for every American citizen to ask himself or herself this question”...

“Is America better off now than it was 50 years ago, and are we going in the right direction?”

One overriding consideration has to be how many of us are individually better off than we were 50 years ago. The whole is always equal to the sum of the individual parts. Is it possible that with over 140 million citizens in America (47%) now living on the brink of financial disaster, and with little hope of improvement, that the remaining 53 percent are so much better off than before, that it all somehow equals out?

If pushing 141 million American citizens into desperate straits, while making the bankers and mega-corps richer than ever was the goal, then I would have to agree that Free-Markets were, and are, a clear-cut winner.

But if that **wasn’t** the goal, I think we should come up with a different game plan going forward.

What do YOU think we should do?

Jack

[www.AmericaII.org](http://www.AmericaII.org)

## The Spoils System in 2020 America

Toward the ends of helping those with property keep it safe from seizure by the unpropertied masses, governments are instituted among peoples. The sole reason for ever forming any kind of government is to provide a system by which citizens at large are precluded from seizing property from the Monarch and/or the Lords who have decreed themselves to be the leaders of the country. That includes the document that underlies our government: the U.S. Constitution.

The trick is, of course, to become one of the Lords.

That was true then...and it's even more true today.

The U.S. Constitution is unique among documents defining governments' relation to the people it serves. Its uniqueness lays in the fact that the framers provided in the original document, the means for ordinary citizens to periodically re-determine the balance points of power between the lords and aristocrats and the average citizens.

Without resorting to force of arms through the elective and voting process - being the most desirable option - but providing citizens with the ability to arm themselves and protect their interests forcibly if other measures failed.

The framers were propertied people and were in the main seeking to protect themselves and their property from being taken by both the king of England, and ordinary citizens representing the poorest class in America at the same time.

The genius of the framers of our Constitution is that they recognized the inevitability of losing everything if the system of government did not legitimately hold out the opportunity for poor people to occasionally rise out of poverty based upon some combination of hard work and good fortune. They recognized that hope must remain present for all, or the government would not last, and that, from a selfish viewpoint, their wealth would disappear along with the government if it should fall.

Better to allow an increase in the number of Lords, than to keep the number of Lords fixed at the lowest possible level for selfish reasons, and risk losing everything through another revolution.

And so, our Constitution was written in a way that provides the citizens with the real possibility of amending it when the citizens deem it necessary; but at the same time making it difficult to do so without the prior express consent of the Lords and Monarchs already running things for their own benefit. (Catch 22?)

In other words, absent some sort of uprising at the individual citizen level, the established Lords and Monarchs can (and always will) continue to run the whole country for themselves and their elite friends, to the exclusion of the ordinary citizens who make up the majority of the population.

Just as King George III of England and his toadies in the houses of Commons and Lords ran England for their benefit at the expense of the majority of citizens living in England.... All three branches of America's government have now come full circle and begun to do the same here in America.

The ancient Greeks (political philosophers like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle) predicted this would happen to America 2300 years ago.... before America the country even existed.... since Governments come and go at a predictable rate, as each government naturally becomes more and more corrupt over time due to unrestrained self-interest on the part of the Lords and Monarchs.

The only thing that could break the cycle, they all agreed, would be if a way could be found to restrain (limit) the damage that self-interest on the part of the "leaders" could do to everyone else in a society without their prior express written consent.

Which leads us to the main topic of this rant, namely the Spoils System in America, as of the year 2020.

**Spoils Systems** have been a part of every government ever formed since time began. The Pharaohs had their toadies who were compensated to keep the Pharaoh safe and well stocked with entertainment and female companionship. The Greeks and Romans had their toady legions as well.

And more recently we can find them in every society on our planet, including here in America. In America the toadies take the form of political appointees

(Bureaucrats) and wannabees hoping to be thrown a crumb by one of the political “parties” so as to begin their ascent up the ladder of “public service,” and in the process hopefully become wealthier than their parents ever dreamed they might become. And when they finally retire.... It’s JACKPOT time!

In America, the spoils system now in place got its beginnings in the late 1860’s. In New York, a model for distributing spoils was created by a single man.... William “Boss” Tweed. New York senator “Boss” Tweed handed out unnecessary jobs paying a lot of money to whoever his friends and family were, with a few handed out to politicians at the state and national level that could possibly increase his circle of influence and enrich him even further.

No attempt was ever made to seek out competent people. The only qualification was that you worship at the altar of Boss Tweed.

Boss Tweed and his toadies operated out of a place called Tammany Hall, for four years (1868 thru 1871). Tammany Hall was the focal point of the Democratic party in New York at the time, but its tentacles reached out much farther than just New York. Tweed corrupted the police, the legislature, the Governor’s Office, the bureaucrats, the militia, and the unions. His methods included engaging street gangs to terrorize citizens, and murder. He set up an election auditing system that insured that only he and his toadies could count votes in all elections. Not surprisingly the Tammany Hall bunch won every election while he was in power.

In 1871 the New York Times finally found the courage to speak out against Tweed and the dominoes began to fall. He was thrown out of office in 1871, convicted of forgery, grand larceny, and fraud, and was sent to prison in 1875. He escaped to Cuba, and then traveled to Spain in 1876, but was caught and extradited back to the US.

In 1878 he died penniless of pneumonia in a jail in New York. A fitting end to a man who would define corruption and the spoils system for the entire world for more than a century.

The question now arises. Did he die like a penniless loser in prison for no good reason? Were there any lessons learned from the debacle that was his reign of self-serving opulence, misery, and terror?

Maybe, maybe not.

Boss Tweed lavished himself with praise and shoved the giant diamond stickpins he wore as a tie clasp into the faces of the poor.... laughing at the poor people's futile attempts to get the government to look at their plight.

All over the world today, the new "boss Tweeds" are doing the same to the least advantaged living in their countries. The new "boss Tweeds" strut around in their \$3000 suits and dresses parading themselves before the peasants of their societies so as to maximize their visibility as being one of the Lords of their societies....all the while doing nothing at all to make things better for the majority of citizens living under their rules.

Rules that they passed through their bought and paid for "legislatures" assuring that they would always remain among the Lords of society and that the non-lords would be made to suffer lives of quiet desperation with no real chance of anything getting better for the great majority of them.... ever.

The salvation of the poorest and middle classes in America lies with amending our Constitution in ways that Fundamentally change the balance points of power between the citizens and the government, just like we did in 1776 when we forcibly divorced America from England and started deciding our own futures.

The present Monarchs and Lords in America are basing their opinions that they will always be able to keep the masses at bay using police and military might (paid for entirely by the citizens), on a false assumption. They assume that 1 million extremely wealthy citizens will always be able to defeat 350 million citizens having little to no money.

But in America, those 350 million can not only vote, but are armed and dangerous and can protect themselves, their families, and their properties through force when necessary.

Just like they did in 1776.

Jack

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# The Two-Step Solution

(to Making America Great Again)

**Curing the country's economic ills will require two things:**

**First**, we have to grow our private sector GDP so that there is more money available to pay in taxes. Our current GDP hasn't been able to bring in enough tax revenues to completely pay the nation's bills for over 50 years.

**Second**, we must revise our tax system so that:

1. Every citizen pays an equal percentage of their income toward covering the (necessary) expenses of the country.
2. Every citizen first earns enough to be able to afford paying some taxes at the same rate as everyone else.
3. Foreign merchants pay a market access fee to sell their goods in America.

**The present national tax system in the United States is a joke. It is designed to do three things concurrently that are mutually exclusive:**

1. Raise enough money to pay all the nation's bills by only taxing the middle class. The poor and rich get a free ride.
2. Allow the richest citizens to "shelter" the great bulk of their income from taxation annually (and with a bit of finagling, maybe forever).
3. Pay all of the nation's bills, including paying down the national debt, without borrowing.

These three things have never once been accomplished at the same time in the history of the present US federal tax system. Not even **once**.

The federal tax system can be revised to accomplish payment of all our bills annually, including making principal payments against our national debt without further borrowing. The citizen-based GDP will need to be significantly expanded first, as below.

**\$ 1.6 trillion additional tax dollars:** from increased earnings being paid to members of the poorest and middle class citizens... composed of: = **\$3.7 trillion** in increased wages to workers from good paying jobs annually, plus another **\$3 trillion** in increased income to businesses the workers buy goods and services from...the multiplier effect...plus the income from 15 million low paying jobs that will be freed up estimated to be another **1.5 to 2.0 trillion dollars**...and don't forget the reinvestment by the government of **the \$2+ trillion dollars they would collect in additional tax revenues** that would go right back into the economy (assumes a 15% total federal income tax rate) .

**\$ 1.2 trillion additional tax dollars:** from taxing foreign merchants. Approximately 40% of our GDP comes from goods imported free into the USA. 40% of our GDP (presently about 22 trillion dollars) is about \$8 trillion dollars. If the imports were to be assessed a market access fee of 15% it would add an **ADDITIONAL 1.2 trillion to tax** receipts going to the government with which to pay the nation's bills.

**\$ 1.2 trillion additional tax dollars:** from taxing currently "excluded" income earned by wealthy citizens in the top earner brackets: Approximately 40% of our private sector GDP (about another 8 trillion dollars) represents income going to individuals (mostly the very wealthy) that does not get taxed. The bulk of this income is "sheltered" in "tax shelters" designed for the very wealthy and put into special accounts that are presently... because of the way the tax code is structured... not subject to regular income taxes. Subjecting these "excluded" amounts to the same 15% tax as everybody else pays could add an additional **\$1.2 trillion** to the treasury every year that could be used to help pay the nation's bills.

**\$ .9 trillion additional tax dollars:** from an 8% national sales tax supplement: on discretionary items (only) that would attach to approx. 30-40% of all consumer goods sold.

**Add these all up and they show an increase in tax revenues paid into the Treasury of about \$ 4.9 trillion dollars annually.**



Currently the national treasury receives about \$4 - \$4.5 trillion in tax receipts each year, and each year that turns out to be about \$1 trillion (or more) short of what we need to pay the nation's bills (more of course in a pandemic year). So, thinking now about something like implementing a national health program or national retirement program that treats all citizens equally is pretty much out of the question. There would presently not be enough money to do either, let alone to do both.

And of course, we can also presently forget about paying down the \$ 27 trillion (+) national debt. The United States of America has not paid a single dollar against the principal due on the national debt since 1957.

### **Make America Great Again (MAGA)**

Good idea. We should do that. None of the politicians to date have been able to do that. Maybe the citizens should give it a try.

The MAGA catch phrase originated with Franklin Roosevelt during the depression period of the 1930' and 1940's. It was resurrected by Ronald Reagan in the early 1980's when the United States was again suffering through another economic depression. Most recently it has been resurrected again, this time by Donald Trump, and again the United States is fighting its way through another economic depression... and a virus induced pandemic to boot.

Each of these presidents used the MAGA slogan to whip up excitement in the disenchanted and disheartened troops that followed his lead. Each of these presidents claimed that the economy was doing great on his watch. Each of these presidents was lying through his teeth. When they left office in each instance two things were true:

1. The wealthy were doing better than ever.
2. The poor and middle class were doing less well than ever.

But given the above parameters as a backdrop, is it possible that the politicians views that the gains of the wealthy somehow more than offset the losses of the poorer segments of society, so that on balance the economy overall should be seen as doing great?

## Some questions to test the MAGA hypothesis:

If our economy is doing so great, why can't we as a nation, come up with even \$1 to pay against our huge and ever-expanding national debt over a 63-year period of time?

Why can't we afford two to three trillion dollars annually to create healthcare and retirement programs that treat all citizens equally?

Why can't we restructure our educational institutions to be affordable for average citizens? Why can't we solve the homeless tragedy, or provide for the mentally ill, or take care of our disabled veterans when they come home, including having meaningful paying jobs waiting for them?

**4.9 trillion** additional dollars coming into the treasury every year could go a long way toward making things like these possible. Especially if it can all be done in a way that LOWERS most citizens overall federal tax burdens.

When it comes to growing the nation's private sector GDP, most of the heavy lifting will, as usual, fall on the shoulders of the working class. That means more money has to come from these people, who are already responsible for paying all of the nation's bills every year and have been for almost 70 years now. If they are to be expected to pay even more into the government, it will be necessary for them to first receive substantial increases in income so that the extra taxes won't be a burden. The overall goal should be to make things better, not worse.

Contrary to popular belief, the problem is not just that there are too few high paying (GOOD) jobs in America today. Just as big a problem is that more than half the jobs in America pay workers FAR too little for the work that they do. Both of these conditions must be coupled with the fact that the number of GOOD paying jobs continue to shrink as work is "exported" to other countries. And, further combined with these conditions, we are attempting to provide an entry into America for still more people from other countries needing good paying jobs. SO.....

**First** the working sector GDP (not the bankers or wall street, but the private "working" sector GDP) has to be grown significantly so that there is a lot more money than at present available to send into the government to pay the nation's bills, with all citizens paying the same per cent of their total income to the government.

**Second**, we have to restructure our tax system so that everybody pays their fair share (uniform and equal for all), and so that the average citizen still ends up paying in less every year than we are doing now under the present abysmal failure of a tax system.

This is grade school stuff. It is not at all difficult to understand how the national economy works, and how we can make it work in a fair, equal, and 100% efficient way. So, why doesn't it happen like that?

Could it be that our elected officials are misleading us about how fantastic our economy is doing (they are dishonest), or could it be that they just don't know what's going on (they are ignorant), or might it be that they just don't really give a damn about those kinds of things (they are totally self-interested), or maybe some combination of these, or maybe even all of the above?

Whatever their reasons for playing it dumb, if we as citizens want to make the economy great for **everyone** in the country, not just for the most well off among us, we will need to **reset the balance points of power between the citizens and the government** in order to make it happen.

Take a look at a short book entitled: *Common Sense – Revisited*, on the AmericaII.org website, for a detailed four-step plan for making it happen.

Thanks for looking in.

Jack

[www.AmericaII.org](http://www.AmericaII.org)

## Timing is Everything

It's not enough to do what needs to be done. Things have to be done when they need to be done. It does little good to close the barn door after the livestock has escaped.

Thirty to forty years ago when the majority of Americans were begging their representatives in the Administration and Congress to do something... anything... to stem the tsunami of illegal aliens entering our country; to stop the exodus of large corporations, especially manufacturing companies, from moving offshore in order to avoid all taxation and social responsibility; and to make the health and the well-being of all American citizens a higher priority than gearing up our military to start kicking ass in some other country 1/10<sup>th</sup> our size and strength half a world away.... it might have made sense to build a wall to keep out illegal immigrants, enact and then endlessly tinker with some loser health program like the "affordable care act" (AKA Obamacare, which almost no-one can afford, and which doesn't provide decent care either), and impose duties and/or other taxes on foreign made products (made by American manufacturers overseas) to keep them from entering our country absolutely tax free and underselling our remaining American based manufacturers.

Thirty to forty years ago, those types of "solutions" might actually have worked, or at least helped to some degree.

But not now. Not today. Today the illegal immigrants are mostly all already here. Half of the good paying manufacturing jobs have moved to China or some other foreign country, while the majority of the other half have been permanently eliminated by technology. The desperately needed universal healthcare the citizens have been begging for over 50 years has been purposely destroyed by the politicians of both parties who have proven themselves to be incapable of voting against the interests of the medical service providers, insurance companies, and drug companies. As a country, we have passed the point of no return. The "solutions" that might have worked four decades back, are no longer valid for America today.

Today and for at least the near future all we, as individual citizens, can do is live with and try at the personal level to repair the damage related to 50 years of congresses and administrations, both Democrats and Republicans, working together, hands across the aisle, selling out the poorest and middle class citizens of our country. Over the last 50 years' time, the professional politicians have worked their black magic and now the rest of us are stuck with the results. According to the reputable economists (not the politicians...just the reputable economists), these conditions may well last for a long, long time into the future.

But it's not all the politician's fault. They are just who and what they are and always have been. They are definitely not the best and brightest among us, and also definitely not the most honest, or the most principled. But we put them there, and when they betrayed us, we left them there to keep doing more and more damage.

Shame on us.

Our new President seems to believe that he can close the barn door now thirty to forty years after the fact, and everything will somehow still work out going forward. But the dream escaped while the politicians were holding the barn doors open, and no-one in our government now even knows where to start looking for it. Worse, no one in our government even really cares or wants to bring it back. They just want us to believe that they really care. What a load of corn that is. The politicians like things pretty much like they are right now. And they are still driving the boat.

Man the lifejackets.

Jack

[www.Americall.org](http://www.Americall.org)

# What Constitutes Adequate Representation?

(or polling doesn't count...voting counts)

Currently our Congress is comprised of 435 Representatives and 100 Senators.... a total of 535 congressional representatives in all.

These 535 people make all of the really important decisions regarding pretty much everything in our lives on behalf of all of the citizens in the country.

Expressed as a percentage of the total population of approximately 330,000,000 citizens (all ages, sexes, races, ethnic backgrounds, religious backgrounds, and political philosophies, etc.) combined, the percentage of representation per citizen in the Congress presently comes out:

**535 divided by 330,000,000 = .000000161% representation per citizen**

Given the wide disparities that make up the total population of our country now, there is simply no possible way that such a tiny group can be trusted to come up with comprehensive answers to the kinds of complex problems facing us as a society on a regular basis, day in and day out.

Individually and collectively, they don't know the facts and are flying blind, pretty much all of the time. Sometimes because they prefer it that way. And that is why their decisions, when they actually make a decision from time to time, are so often out of synch with what the majority of citizens want.

The technological tools exist (and have for many years now) to provide meaningful input by all citizens to their representatives in the government, and which would allow the government to base its decisions on getting unaltered (by intermediary spin) feedback from every citizen on every major question, every time.... So that actions in Congress more closely mirrored what a clear majority of the citizens wanted (even if not necessarily what the politicians and their handlers wanted).

The politicians currently prefer to get most of their feedback from “polls.” Aside from being easily rigged, these “polls” typically have a sampling of 1000 – 2000 citizens, which is about 200,000 times too small of a sample to be meaningful in any way...regardless of the “probability” numbers (i.e., poll results are supposedly accurate within a range of x% and y%) that they tack on at the end to show how us all reasonable it would be to believe the poll numbers.

Remember the election day “polls” in 2016 that showed Hillary Clinton a sure winner over Donald Trump by 9 percentage points?

**Polling doesn't count.... Voting Counts!**

Jack!

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## **Minimum Wage Levels**

### **Federal Government vs. Private sector.**

Without regard as to whether we should even have a minimum wage in America, if we ARE to have one, should it not be the same for all subsets of our society?

The federal government doesn't think so.

As of 2020, the average minimum wage for non-federal government employees was \$7.25 per hour (\$14,964 per year) Some states mandate paying more, but this discussion is about what the federal government is doing along these lines. The law driving minimum wages is the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938. A FEDERAL law.

As of 2020 the average annual wage for a federal government employee was \$90,510.... just a hair over SIX times what minimum wage earners outside the government were making.

The federal government is using the citizens' tax dollars to pay their own workers on average six times what minimum wage earners outside the government are earning.

That's a big difference, and we need to ask ourselves if it is warranted, given the poverty levels that currently exist in our country for minimum wage earners.

Would that that were all there is to it, but there is more:



In addition to their wages and salaries, federal government employees also have significant other benefits that the taxpayers provide for them:

Healthcare, including dental and eyeglasses

Life insurance

Disability insurance

Civil Service job protection

Paid vacations

Paid leave for medical emergencies and births or deaths in a family

Eleven paid holidays a year

Social Security for retirement

Medicare for old age medical protection after they leave government service

Government (taxpayer) contributions to a private retirement program (401K)

These additional benefits average 25% of whatever the federal government employees' wages are. In this instance 25% of \$90,510 would equal another \$22,627.

The overall total then becomes \$113,137 for the average federal government employee, compared to \$14,964 for any other American citizen earning the minimum wage,

Minimum wage employees for the most part do not get **ANY** of the added benefits that the federal employees get.

Since 1970 when the minimum wage was \$1.60 per hour, and an average home in America cost \$17,000, the minimum wage in America has increased to \$7.25 per hour (as of 2009) and the price of an average home in America is now over \$400,000.

Prices increased by 2350% since 1970. The minimum wage went up 450%.... unless you worked for the federal government.

For government employees' average wages now (without benefits) average \$43.85 an hour. If the minimum wage in the private sector had risen proportionally, the current \$7.25 per hour in the private sector would now be six times what it now is...or \$43.50 per hour.

Imagine that. The arithmetic bears out almost exactly the screwing over that the private sector minimum wage employees have been enjoying at the hands of their government.

CAN it be changed? Almost certainly. WILL it be changed? That is far less certain. For things to change for the minimum wage workers, the majority of them will need to stand together in a movement mandating that their government treat them as well as it treats its own workers.

It is of course, easier said than done.... but only then will things change for the better for our minimum wage workers, and only then will they be able to participate fully in the bounty of their country....a bounty that in large measure their labors created.

**Side note:**

If government REALLY wanted to cure income inequality, they could start by cleaning their own house.

Jack  
AmericaII.org

## A Majority of Two

Currently, due to the way our federal government is structured, just **two** people determine the outcome of every matter that comes before Congress. The matters that Congress DOES consider and vote on result in laws that largely determine the outcome of most citizen's lives.

Most citizens believe that our Congress is made up of 535 decision makers including the 435 members of the House of Representatives and the 100 senators in the Senate. But that is only true in theory. In practice just **two people** make all the decisions in our government.

These two people make all of the decisions regarding both what topics WILL be heard, discussed and voted on by the membership of both houses of Congress, and which matters WILL NOT be heard, discussed or voted on by all the members of Congress.

In actual practice only about 5% of all matters referred to individual congress members by their constituents are actually even CONSIDERED for viewing and discussion by all members of Congress. And of those 5% that ARE considered, less than 1% actually make it to the floor of either house for consideration by the full membership of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Due to the way the political process in general is influenced by money, the matters that ARE referred to the full membership of each house of Congress to consider are skewed HEAVILY toward matters of interest to Political and Commercial interests. Matters of interest to average citizens typically receive MUCH less attention in Congress, and are FAR less likely to be considered by the full membership of both houses of Congress than matters primarily of interest to the politicians and Commercial interests.

## Our “Republic”

If you asked most citizens what form of government America has, they would respond that our government is a REPUBLIC. And there is a minor element of a republic in America’s government makeup, but EVERY decision made in our government is made by way of a **democratic** process. Periodically the citizens vote for Representatives and Senators to represent them in the Congress. At this point, the REPUBLIC aspect of our government has been exhausted, and thereafter all decisions are made by way of DEMOCRATIC processes in both houses of Congress.

## Our Watered Down Democracy

Congress members are elected by a democratic vote of all the registered voters in their state or district. Every registered voter gets to vote and the candidates receiving a majority of the votes cast are declared winners and seated in the Congress. Actually, in almost all federal and state elections the winner is elected by a just a **plurality\*** of those voting. Almost no candidate (ever) gets a **true majority** of registered voters casting a vote for him or her.

### \* **Plurality vs true majority voting example:**

Imagine a legislative district that has a total of 100 registered voters, but only three voters actually show up and vote; with one candidate getting two votes, one candidate getting one vote, and the remaining candidate getting no votes at all.

In a **plurality** voting environment, the candidate with two votes wins, even though his or her 2 votes represent just 2% of the registered voters in his/her district.

In a true democracy, in the above example, a candidate would have to get a minimum of 51 votes to be declared the winner.

With (very) rare exceptions, the **plurality** voting algorithm, is the **only** one used in government today in America at every level of government.

(That needs to change.)

In the Congress where congress members vote on legislation (bills), all members get a vote and the outcome is decided by a vote of a majority of the entire house that is voting. Actually, here again, the outcome is almost always decided by a **plurality\*** of those voting.

State legislatures are involved in ratifying any proposed amendments to the US Constitution. Members of every state's legislatures are elected by a majority vote of their states registered citizens, and here again almost all decisions at both election time and when voting to ratify a Constitutional amendment are by a democratic vote requiring (in principle) a majority vote, but in practice just a **plurality\*** vote. (This is a Democratic process)

Supreme Court decisions require a true majority vote of all members of the court, whether all nine members vote on a given matter or not. At least 5 must agree to render a decision. This process is democratic based.

When confirming justices, cabinet members, ambassadors etc., the person being voted on is selected by the President alone (not elected) and a true majority of senators (only) must vote to confirm the nomination. House of Representatives members are excluded from the voting for Justices for the Supreme Court. (Neither republic-based nor democratic-based in principle).

Proposed matters for review by the entire House and/or Senate membership are first assigned to a "committee" for initial review. Each Cabinet position and each house of congress has its own established "committees" to preview matters recommended from whatever source (citizens, politicians, commercial interests, lobbyists, oligarchs, etc.) for consideration in terms of generating a new law, or modifying or repealing an existing law.

These “committees” are relatively small sub-sections of the entire membership of each of the two houses of Congress. In theory the committees make their decisions by way of a majority vote of all committee members. In actual practice the voting is again mostly **plurality\*** based. (These actions are a combination of politics and democracy-based).

Once these committees have concluded their assigned reviews, they submit a proposed list of matters to be discussed by the full congress, to the leader of each house of Congress.

At this point the “leader” of each house of Congress “caucuses” (meets) with influential members of his or her house to further winnow down the choices provided by the committees by way of a majority vote of the “caucus.” Here too the actual choice is usually made by way of a **plurality\*** vote in the caucus. (These actions are loosely democracy based and politically biased.)

The thus winnowed down lists are then passed along to a “joint committee” to be reviewed for argument on the floor of each house, and are further winnowed down to a “final list” to be considered for argument before the whole of both houses of Congress.

Beyond this point in time the leader in each house has been given the authority by the members of his/her house to personally select which matters approved for review by the ”joint committee” will actually be heard by the entire house or senate.

The leaders of each house decide in which specific order of preference each selected matter will be heard. They even get to decide how much time will be allotted overall for discussion for each matter being heard. Within that context a determination is made regarding how many minutes each congressperson or senator will be allowed to speak on the floor of the house or senate on a given matter.

In most instances each leader is forced, due to time restraints (self-imposed), to select a few members from the total membership that will be allowed to speak. Speaking selections are typically weighted heavily toward members the house or senate leader believes will most closely follow his/her party's line.

Not every Congressperson or Senator will typically be allowed to speak for or against a given matter before his/her particular house. The leaders of the House and Senate control these assignments.

(All of these decisions are purely political.)

Finally, the President is brought in to help plan the final strategy for getting the legislation passed or rejected (vetoed) after the whole carefully pre-conditioned Congress votes. These discussions are also in total secret. And purely political.

### **The rule of the oligarchs**

Our government, originally based on republic-based principles, is thus transformed from a republic-based form, through a number of steps all based on democratic voting principles of "majority rule" by an initially (all-inclusive) large number of representatives.... which large group is continually winnowed down into many smaller and smaller groups, each using **plurality\* voting** each step of the way,... until we finally reduce the number of elected officials that actually make all the really big decisions down to **two people** working in secret.

By definition an autocracy/plutocracy.

The decision making power of **the final two** (leaders of the House and Senate), and the President, represent a level of power over all individuals in the United States of America today that is, with the possible exception of our bill of rights, **at least as great** as the powers the king of England and his toadies-oligarchs exercised over American Citizens in 1775.

When we reach this stage of the game, the country is relegated to being that of an **oligarchy/plutocracy** (run almost entirely by a very small number of politicians (2), a very large number of lobbyists, a very large number of commercial interests, and any oligarchs that are involved in what is being voted on). Both the Democratic and Republican principles that we started out with are set aside and the **two rulers of the House and Senate** are allowed to pretty much do as they please, which is to say; do exactly what their party chiefs have directed them to do.

Invariably the “leaders” of the two houses of Congress see their “leadership” roles being that of using every means at their disposal to get their houses to vote according to their party’s personal whims. There is almost no room for dissent in the two houses of Congress. Whenever a party member (democrat or republican) dissents from the party line, that members ideas are typically relegated to the trash bin during committee reviews, and that party member is typically not allowed to speak to his or her whole house during floor debates.

It is past time for the citizens of the United States of America to once again reestablish the balance points of power between them and their government; to include themselves directly in the making of the most life-altering decisions made in government; and to provide greater **limits** on politicians abilities to override the will of the majority of the citizens for their own benefit.....just like America’s citizens did in 1776 and 1788 and 1789.

We did it before. We can do it again.

Jack

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## Twenty Questions

The following pages have a list of twenty questions that citizens are presently not allowed to vote on during the decision-making process. How these questions are answered largely determines the outcome of most Americans' lives and the lives of their families.

The primary goal of leveling the playing field for the citizens is to allow them, by way of the 21st Century Bill of Rights Amendments, to participate along with the members of Congress in coming up with answers to questions like these. Answers that not only satisfy the wealthy campaign contributors, but that satisfy the average income citizens as well.

The wealthiest among us represent approximately .000009 % of our combined population. The rest of us represent approximately .999991 % of our combined population.

Presently the country is, with the help of our politicians, being primarily governed by and for the .000009 %.

If the .999991 % want to have an even chance at success, they will need to change the present balance points of power between them and their government.

Creating **An American Consensus** can and will absolutely make that happen.

## The Twenty Questions

1. What kind(s) of federal tax system(s) should we have, and should it/they be equal for all or “Progressive”?
2. What percent of the nation’s total income (the GDP) should the government be allowed to take for its own uses?
3. What percent of incoming tax receipts coming in to the government should be allocated to each function (healthcare, military, infrastructure, homeless, retirement, education, welfare, etc.) each year?
4. Who should decide when we authorize military actions, and how much money should be budgeted for such military actions?
5. How much money should American citizens be forced to pay out to other countries in foreign aid and should our government be allowed to first borrow the money that is being given away?
6. How much should the government be allowed to inflate (grow) the money supply to pay their own bills or bail out commercial businesses that are failing due to mismanagement?
7. Should Congress be allowed to pass laws that treat some citizens better than other citizens?
8. Should citizens have a decision making say in approving the content of all foreign trade policies prior to their implementation?
9. Should the federal government be allowed to intervene in disputes between labor and management of private companies?
11. Should America have a universal healthcare system, and if so, what form should it take?

12. How much debt should the government be able to assume on behalf of the citizens? It will have to be repaid.
12. Should citizens be allowed to vote for Supreme Court nominees?
13. What should our immigration policy be for visitors, refugees, and others who want to take up permanent residence in America?
14. Should citizens have a definitive say in allowing mergers between already gigantic companies?
15. Should any government in America have the authority to decide questions of religion or morality like whether a woman can have an abortion, and if so, should the father be neutered to avoid future unwanted pregnancies?
16. Should the federal government be involved in education in private schools?
17. Should proposed federal legislation be allowed to take more than one side of an 8.5" x 11" page to define?
18. Should there be a minimum wage, and if so, what should it be?
19. Should government be allowed to capture or record private conversations of citizens without a court order?
20. Should any police, military, or paramilitary force be held to the same standards of justice as ordinary citizens when charged with a crime, and if the case goes to trial, tried in a civilian court?

## **Making America All It Can Be**

America's Constitution needs updating and revision to make it possible for government to adequately and fairly meet the needs of all of the nation's citizens. Our Constitution is seriously outdated, and because of that, almost half of the nation's citizens are now suffering from abuses visited on them by their government over the past century.

At the time the Constitution originally went into effect as the law of the land (June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1788), each congressperson was called on to serve the needs of approximately 20,000 citizens. Today each congress person is called on to serve the needs of approximately 654,000 citizens.... an increase of about 33 times as many citizens per congressperson as was the case at the start.

By the time the Constitution originally went into effect there were two significant political parties (the Federalists and the Democratic Republicans), and the founders very much hoped when writing the Constitution that there would never be such things as multiple political parties (called factions at that time). The founding fathers feared that "factions" would ultimately cause the destruction of the republic they had just built. But they did not specifically prohibit them in the Constitution.

At the time the Constitution originally went into effect the only means of communicating between public servants and the citizens they were elected to serve was face to face meetings. There were no national news services and no national newspapers.

At the time the Constitution originally went into effect there were no built-in safeguards in the Constitution to protect the citizens from groups of politicians banding together to serve themselves and their friends, parties, and campaign contributors at the expense of the general population.

The founding fathers thought that in the majority, only men of impeccable character and high moral and ethical standing in their communities would be elected to offices in our government. And they didn't provide any real protection(s) in the Constitution to discourage politicians from serving their own interests at the expense of a majority of the country's citizens.

At the time the Constitution originally went into effect there were 13 states, most roads were dirt, there were no conveyances other than horses, horse drawn carriages, and horse drawn wagons; there was no interstate highway system, there were no telegraphs, telephones, television, cellular phones (wireless), no commercial airplanes, no military airplanes, no rockets, no nuclear weapons, no drones, no radios, no computers, no internet, no social media, no automobiles, all schools were privately owned and operated, towns were far apart, and voting was reserved for men (only) of property, and slavery existed (legally) in all thirteen states.

At the time our Constitution originally went into effect, only the Congress could declare war or authorize military actions (anywhere).

At the time the Constitution originally went into effect, the only sources of income to the federal government were tariffs, excises, and income from bonds sold to banks or other wealthy investors, and government could only print currencies (including bonds) in amounts equal to the total amount of gold stored in our treasury. Wire transfers of money between governments, banks, citizens, and businesses did not exist.

At the time the Constitution originally went into effect, the founding fathers left open the possibility of Congress passing laws that treated some citizens better than other citizens.

At the time the Constitution originally went into effect, there were in the whole world only four "multi-national" companies. According to Forbes all 2000 of the world's biggest companies now are multi-nationals.

At the time the Constitution originally went into effect the supreme court had 4 justices and any two could render a decision.

At the time the Constitution originally went into effect, Senators at the federal level were chosen by politicians in the state legislatures, and the purpose of the “Electoral College” was to persuade (bribe) southern states into ratifying the Constitution. If the southern states had refused to ratify the Constitution, we would not have a Constitution today. But we do have a Constitution now, and the need for an “Electoral College” no longer exists (and hasn’t for over 200 years).

At the time the Constitution originally went into effect there was no “Bill of Rights” to protect citizens from abuses by their government.

At the time that the Constitution originally went into effect there were only about 350 million people on earth overall, and America had about 5 million citizens plus about 2 million non-citizen inhabitants.

At the time the Constitution originally went into effect, doctors were still putting leeches on sick people to “bleed” the sickness from their bodies. There was no such thing as medical insurance (for anyone).

At the time the Constitution originally went into effect, America was primarily an agrarian society. A minority of people lived in cities. Most lived on farms and in small towns.

235 years ago, on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1788, the day our Constitution became the law of the land for America, we made a promise to ourselves, and promised all the rest of the world, that from that day forward **America** would be managed by and for the benefit of all of its citizens, and that the ideals of freedom, equality, justice, and an honest ability to pursue happiness would be fully implemented in America, forthwith, and would forever thereafter remain the rights of *every* American Citizen.

These ideals have never actually been implemented as promised, and even in a much diluted form, are not being made available today to a significant majority of America's citizens. For some of America's citizens, these promises have never been even partially kept.

After 235 years of stalling, denying, obfuscating, lying, and excuse making, it's time to shit or get off the pot. Either America **is** fit to be the vessel to hold the hopes and dreams of all mankind, or..... **it isn't**.

If we really have no intention of implementing the ideals we have been **professing** for 235 years, we should stop pretending that we really care about doing so.

If we really DO mean to implement these ideals, we need to let our actions speak for us. No more platitudes and meaningless election season political bullshit.

A government comprised primarily of overpaid, underworked, egocentric, and far too often ignorant elected officials have had over two CENTURIES to correct the shortcomings originally built into our Constitution, and some other shortcomings that surfaced after the original document was written and ratified, and they have chosen **not** to do so.

Some of the shortcomings originally built into our Constitution admittedly were not anticipated at the time our Constitution originally went into effect. Some omissions were due to the founder's lack of ability to foresee how much would change in the future in our country, and in our world, due to advances in technology and worldwide overpopulation.

Whether the currently existing shortcomings were excusable omissions (or not) at the outset, they are all self-evident now and must be remedied if America is ever to have a chance at becoming all it **CAN** be.

The professional politicians have over the past two centuries shown us with absolute certainty that they will **not** rise to the occasion. So, we the citizens will need to make the necessary changes to our Constitution ourselves.

The website [AmericaII.org](http://AmericaII.org) contains a **Toolkit** that has both the necessary tools and some very specific instructions on how the citizens can use the tools to amend our Constitution and **reset the balance points of power between the citizens and our government.**

But, you can't use the tools if you don't know what they are, so please visit the website and familiarize yourself with them. The address again is: [AmericaII.org](http://AmericaII.org) .....then scroll down to "**Toolkit.**"

It's time now for America to decide what kind of country it wants to be when it grows up.

Jack





