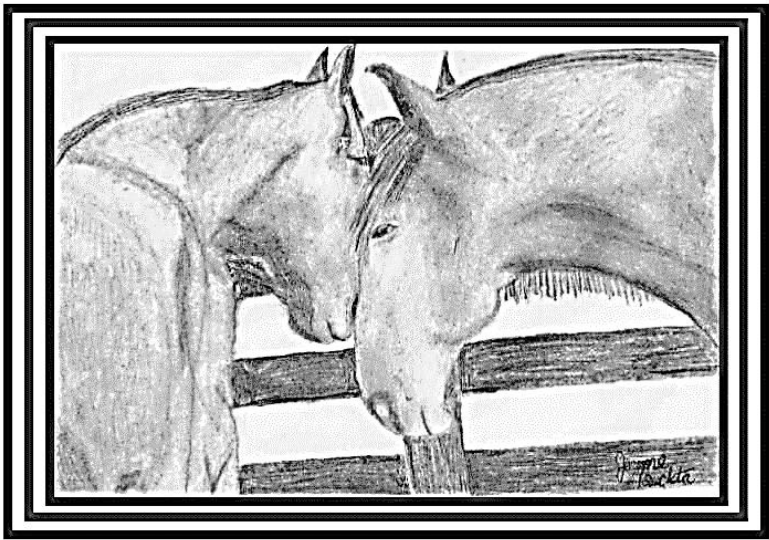

Patriotic Horse-Sense



**Timeless Common-Sense
Principles for
21st Century American Patriots**

Brian Buckta

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Breaking All the Rules – 21 November
2015

The decision to self-publish this book sent me on an incredible journey of studying countless volumes of “how-to” books and articles on the subject. According to the experts on self-publishing, I needed to invest several thousand dollars in consulting and cover design if I ever wanted to become a successful author.

While these rules no doubt apply and work well for most self-publishing authors, I didn’t write this book to make money or to gain any further level of professional success or recognition. This book is simply my personal attempt to be a part of the needed solution to a fundamental American re-unification.

I am breaking all of the rules by releasing this book now without the advantage of professional copy consulting or cover design, and without a confirmed copyright. Political campaigns are now in full swing as we enter another election year in 2016, and the principles in my book are more relevant now than ever.

Please share this book freely with as many fellow Americans as you can.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large 'B' and a long tail on the 'n'.

Brian Buckta

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Patriotic Horse-Sense

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Principles for
21st Century American Patriots

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Foreword by Mr. Gail Frie

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the loving memory of my parents, Virgil and Betty Buckta. They raised me to be an American Patriot, and they taught me that I will always either be a part of the problem or a part of the solution wherever life takes me.

Contents

NOTE: There are a handful of passages that are repeated throughout this book. These repetitions are by design, as these passages represent key principles in working towards a practical solution to the current chaotic state of our nation.

Special Thanks

- To my lovely and talented daughter Jeanne Rose Buckta for the use of her horse drawings
- To my patriotic friend Gail Frie for critical feedback on the text and for his contribution of the Foreword
- To my loving and patient wife Pam for putting up with lots of late nights and frustration while I completed this book.
- To God – The One Who guides my thoughts and my pen – All Glory to Him.

Foreword

The average American has become too distracted by expertly planned political scripting to think much about our Nation's economic future. While our hired politicians continue to throw blame at each other, our nation continues to live beyond our means – producing less and spending more. Our government continues to borrow large sums of money to artificially maintain our American standard of living, and we keep printing more money to cover the difference – consistently devaluing our dollar with each printing.

This kite-scheme is only possible as long as the US dollar remains as the currency standard for international trade. China is already seeking out international trade agreements to bypass the US dollar. Agreements such as these will further devalue the US dollar and make it difficult for our government to continue printing “paper promises” without the risk of runaway inflation.

While this is happening our nation is also experiencing an unprecedented transfer of wealth from the private sector to large foreign-controlled corporations and government programs. The removal of this wealth from local economies is the greatest risk to our nation's economic sustainability. Local economies are the building blocks that provide the foundation for America's free enterprise system and grassroots workforce employment market. This transfer of wealth is reflected in the disturbing number of currently

unemployed and underemployed Americans who are quickly becoming dependent on government subsidies and social services for their basic needs.

In spite of our economic challenges, I remain positive. I truly believe that the average American will wake up before it's too late. Hard-working Americans built this great nation with pride from day-one, and they will not let it fail in the hands of our power-crazed hired hands in Washington. I do not want to learn to speak Chinese, and I believe that most of my fellow American citizens share this sentiment.

Our nation is in dire need of true American patriots who are willing to step up to the plate and make the fundamental changes we need to regain our independence. "Patriotic Horse-Sense" was written by a true American Patriot. Brian's writing offers thought-provoking commentary on the state of our nation and some practical solutions to our current crises.

***Gail Frie
American Patriot
Viroqua, WI***

A Personal Note

The original title of this book was “What Are We Fighting About?” The manuscript never answered this question, and I don’t believe a logical answer exists that will pass the “smell test.”

In my research for this book I discovered many dedicated patriotic organizations on both sides of the political aisle. I am neither Democrat nor Republican, and I have no particular affiliation with any political party.

I am simply an American Patriot concerned with the damage caused by our great nation’s escalating political conflict. This book is my personal attempt to provide an impetus for a much-needed fundamental American re-unification.

Brian Buckta

Chapter 1:

Is History Repeating Itself?

Thomas Jefferson drafted the original version of the following passage in our nation's Declaration of Independence from Great Britain. While most Americans are familiar with this famous passage, I have prepared this modern day English version in hopes of opening a new and very relevant perspective. Please pay very close attention to the last sentence in this passage. It is key.

It is universally apparent that all people are created equal, and that they are granted at birth with certain rights. These rights include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Governments are formed by the people to secure these rights, and the people have the sole responsibility for authorizing and monitoring the powers they grant to the government on their behalf.

Whenever any form of government fails to adequately protect the rights of the people, the people have the right to change their government and to redistribute power as they deem necessary to secure their principles and to maintain their safety and well-being. On this note, common sense should be used in making changes to a functioning government, with a singular focus on critical issues that will have a long-term effect on the people.

History has shown us that people will tend to remain complacent, often tolerating a lifetime of fractional ongoing governmental abuses, rather than taking the action needed to change the offending government. But when a government consistently violates the trust of the people by diluting, compromising, and challenging their rights, it is the right of the people to protect themselves from such hostilities. It is the duty of the people to move beyond their frustration at this point, and to take responsible action, de-authorizing the offending government and providing new safeguards for their future security.

Winston Churchill said, “The farther back you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.” As we look back to the American Revolution of the 18th Century, is history repeating itself with our nation's current government?

Are “We the People” derelict in our duty?

Chapter 2:

From the Heart of a Patriot

I was born and raised as an American Patriot. My father was a WWII Navy veteran, and I am an Army veteran. I have been an enthusiastic participant in our American democracy, and until recently I have upheld a personal belief that our democracy will prevail with the idealism and action of the American people.

Unfortunately, patriotic idealism is a luxury that few can afford today. Those who can afford it are likely to invest their resources elsewhere. The patriotic idealism, principles, morals and privileges that generations of Americans have held dear have been compromised by the very leaders that have sworn to uphold them.

We have a handful of politicians with good intentions who are engaged in a futile effort to fix a broken system. As much as we would like to restore our nation's integrity, I believe our democracy has passed the tipping-point in disrepair. We have consistently allowed our government to seize our constitutional rights in the name of social justice and consistently-failed promises of prosperity, with the 10th amendment taking the large majority of abuse. We no longer have a democracy.

Career politicians with selfish ambitions and little or no honor or loyalty to their constituents have twisted our

constitution into a hostage agreement for the American people. They have been very successful at robbing our wallets, dividing us as a nation, and leaving us vulnerable for socio-economic defeat.

The course of events that have led to our current condition have obviously been engineered by unseen powers that have mastered the art of “divide and conquer.” Our division will only grow wider if we continue to foster a “them versus us” paradigm. If we can all just take a step back and analyze the cause and effect of our actions, we can easily see that we are all being played like pawns on a chessboard.

In this game of chess, we are precariously close to letting our opponent divide us, flank us, and leave us in checkmate. Does it matter which side claims political victory if we allow ourselves to be crippled by division? Are our political differences worth the cost of losing our unity and our self-respect?

America is now mocked by the rest of the world. Our borders are largely unchallenged while our government-run social programs reward illegal immigrants. Our national security has been relegated to a federal agency under the executive umbrella, with no military authority or capability.

Our elected leaders have recently dishonored over 200 years of American military victory in the international community with apologies for our dominance. How many Americans have sacrificed their lives so that we may have the freedoms that we all take for granted? Is

it a true representation of our national spirit to sit idly by and watch our leaders betray us because we have felt inadequate to stop it?

Rather than uniting in action born of outrageous contempt, we have continued to feed untrustworthy politicians and useless, parasitic bureaucracies with our hard-earned tax dollars. Enough is enough. There was even a “hit” out on Tony the Tiger in 2011 because our federal government felt that it wasn’t right for cartoon characters to encourage our children to eat Frosted Flakes.

We are now in the worst financial crisis in our nation’s history, under the watch of the same politicians that are busy making promises to balance our budget. Political affiliation aside, the overwhelming majority of our elected officials have long track records of broken promises and excuses for their failure. They cannot be trusted. How much of our federal tax dollars feed bureaucracies rather than supplying us with necessary services? In contrast, how much of our local tax dollars are generally invested in direct services and benefits to the taxpayers?

Common sense is nearly extinct. Rather than uniting as a force of change to be reckoned with, we all seem to have become complacent, yet complaining, subjects of an oppressive government. Our ineffective paradigm has been to work within the failed system to try and change the failed system rather than abandoning what has become a cannibalistic and hostile system that is

now beyond repair and threatening to bring us all down with it.

We all must accept responsibility for either positive action or continued oppression. We will not eliminate the political machine. The “dog and pony show” will continue whether we like it or not. We need to acknowledge the existence of our inflated government, and we also need to recognize that it is grossly inadequate, unequipped and unprepared to even begin fixing the mess we’re in.

The political machine is a major cause of the mess we’re in. Rather than wasting our time and energy attempting to fix a broken machine, we must move forward with the effective action that is needed in our hometowns to support sustainable local infrastructures for our ultimate survival as a nation.

While I am not suggesting that we form impenetrable militias, neither am I saying that a determined unified force is not necessary. The Outlaw Gangs of the Wild West decided to leave town when all the townspeople showed up with baseball bats and farming tools in their hands. Unity is our most powerful tool. Unfortunately, our current governmental system does not require our unity to effect oppressive changes on our lives

We need to unite with determination and work smart in such a manner as if we would no longer rely on our federal government. Communities need to find a way to break our addiction to federal and state government financial support, and we need to make our local

governments interdependent on each other instead. The network of Amish communities across our nation provide us with a practical model for such interdependence. Wouldn't it be cool to tell our state and federal governments that we don't want or need their money?

Nothing lasts forever, and our federal government is no exception. In this light, rather than continuing to propagate ineffective and futile political rhetoric I believe it would be wise to begin focusing our time and energy on building local socio-economic systems that will support our survival as Americans when it happens. What are the opposing forces we will need to deal with? What are the essential services we will need to support? What are the values we will need to guide us?

Let's not throw the baby out with the bath water. Let's take a good look at the original design of our federal government and make some careful decisions. I believe our federal government should be focused entirely on our national defense, security, and international issues. It is vitally important that we institute common-sense limitations, clear cut responsibilities, full accountability, and enforced consequences for dereliction of duty.

I believe our local governments should be grass-roots initiatives that focus solely on the truly important issues that unite us rather than the relatively trivial issues that our unseen adversaries have been using to

divide us. This will not happen from the “top-down.” To quote Hillary Clinton, “It takes a village.”

Our survival as a nation is dependent on our involvement with our hometown leadership. Every village needs to busy themselves with shoring up our vital life-supporting infrastructures. We have all been more worried about our lifestyles than our lives. The truth is that our modern American lifestyle is economically unsustainable. We need to realign our priorities to reflect the truly important values that are vital to our sustainability and our ultimate survival.

Our nation has lost favor and credibility in the international community. Our adversaries are patiently watching and waiting for the time when they will be able to “rescue” us from ourselves. Are you ready to learn Chinese? We need to foster and nurture a determined sense of urgency to avert their plans. Our victory will not be easy or painless, but defeat is not an option in my mind.

Things are tough all over the world. We are not immune, and it’s only a matter of time before we are also faced with compelling issues of true national and personal survival. How will we adjust our lives when the cost of food is suddenly unaffordable? How will we adjust to the corresponding catastrophic economic collapse? In the event of a major volcanic eruption, how many of us would survive the “nuclear winter?” It has happened before, and it can happen again. Are we even slightly prepared for any of these things?

We all suffer with selfishness, greed, and a lust for power. Again, we have all been more worried about our lifestyles than our lives. When I look at the rest of the world, I feel like our nation is a lot like a Church filled with people praying for prosperity while the house next door is on fire. This is ludicrous. We all should be ashamed. Compared to the rest of the world, we live like kings.

To regain our American prosperity, I believe we must learn to view our issues in the larger scope of humanity, agree to disagree on non-vital issues, accept corresponding victories and defeats, and proceed with a clear focus on the truly important principles of democracy and vital issues of magnitude that unite us. Maybe then we can rebuild the international respect and honor our nation once earned and held, preserving our dignity and our hope for posterity

Who will lead us? Are you being called to lead? We need to take a serious inventory of our possessions, our resources and our values, and we need to ready ourselves and our communities to take control of our own future in spite of our federal government's consistent efforts to take full control of our future for their own purpose. This doesn't need to be hostile, but it does need to be determined, well-planned and non-negotiable. Cooler heads will prevail, and the only way the enemy will win is if we let them.

Chapter 3:

Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor...

*Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free
The wretched refuse of your teeming shores
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!*

For many of our ancestors, this inscription on the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor brought comfort, encouragement, and a promise of a new life free of political or religious persecution. America was the modern-day promised-land to these immigrants, many of whom left a dismal homeland for the promise of a new and better life.

While the dreams of some immigrants were crushed in the East Coast sweat-shops and tenements, many others endured and overcame such tremendous oppression with an unstoppable pioneer spirit of survival and independence.

Many of those pioneers headed west in further search of the American dream. They conquered the wilderness, survived hostilities, plowed the land, raised families and built the cities we live in today. They were tired, they were poor, they were homeless, and they were tempest-tossed. In spite of these hardships, they remained focused on their dream and their mission to build a better life for their families. They would either succeed or they would die trying.

I am very sad to report that the rugged immigrant pioneer spirit of survival and independence is nearly extinct in America today. It has been largely replaced by a spirit of entitlement and socialistic equality. Under the watch of the American people, we have allowed our nation to become a land of instant gratification rather than a land of opportunity. Through many generations of government-run social assistance programs, many Americans today believe that our government is responsible for providing their daily sustenance.

While there are many legitimate beneficiaries of our nation's social assistance programs, I believe they are far out-numbered by those who simply choose not to become productive members of a capitalist society. Why should they? Our nation's social assistance programs allow a "poor" family, dependent on our government for their sustenance, to enjoy a better standard of living than if mom and dad both went to work for minimum wage.

Regardless of citizen status, our nation has now extended an open invitation for everyone to participate in these social assistance programs. This has attracted millions upon millions of illegal immigrants who have crossed our (largely unchallenged) borders to feed themselves on our incredible and unprecedented American generosity.

Under our watch, our government has become a "sugar daddy" for anyone in the world who claims they are disadvantaged or persecuted. This has produced an out-of-control population of unproductive, non-contributing government dependents who believe they are entitled to an even share of the hard-earned contributions made by the American taxpayers.

In fairness, America is still the "promised land" for many. There are still refugee immigrants who enter our nation legally, with a promise of a new life free of political or religious persecution. These are the true tired, poor, huddled masses yearning to breathe free that we welcome in New York Harbor. These are the immigrants who are willing to endure hardships to earn their portion of the American dream. Unfortunately, our government is in the process of redefining the American dream as an elusive shadow of the past.

I submit that we no longer need to look any further than our own back yard to find **tired and poor huddled masses, yearning to breathe free.** The American taxpayer has become tired of carrying the financial burden for government incompetence and inefficiency. The American taxpayer is becoming increasingly poor in both wealth and hope. Our nation is crowded with huddled masses yearning to breathe free of government intervention in the personal choices of their daily lives (that should be protected by the 10th amendment).

Our own shores are now teeming with the refuse of American industries relocating to foreign countries, downtrodden by economically oppressive government bureaucracies and policies.

While our government sends obscene amounts of taxpayer dollars overseas in foreign aid, there are millions of **homeless** people on our city streets who have somehow "slipped through the system." Most of these homeless people are too proud to accept government assistance, and our hedonistic society conveniently ignores their plight. "We the People" seem to be more worried about our lifestyles than our lives, or the lives of our outcast neighbors in need.

Rather than uniting our nation in resolution of our vital issues, we have allowed ourselves to be continually **tossed back and forth by a tempestuous, scandalous, government.** Rather than effectively managing our elected government employees, "We the People" have nearly allowed them to extinguish our lamp of liberty and permanently tarnish America's golden door.

History has shown us that people will tend to remain complacent, often tolerating a lifetime of fractional ongoing governmental abuses, rather than taking the action needed to change the offending government. But when a government consistently violates the trust of the people by diluting, compromising, and challenging their rights, it is the right of the people to protect themselves from such hostilities. It is the duty

of the people to move beyond their frustration at this point, and to take responsible action, de-authorizing the offending government and providing new safeguards for their future security.

Enough is enough. I believe we have reached the point in our history where we must either stand up for our rights with strength in unity, or prepare to surrender. We are out of time, and surrender is not an option in my mind. To regain our American prosperity, I believe we must act quickly and purposely to view our issues in the larger scope of humanity, agree to disagree on non-vital issues, accept corresponding victories and defeats, and proceed with a clear focus on the truly important principles of democracy and vital issues of magnitude that unite us. Maybe then we can rebuild the international respect and honor our nation once earned and held, preserving our dignity, and refueling the lamp Miss Liberty holds high in New York Harbor.

Chapter 4:

Cooler Heads Will Prevail

Americans are becoming increasingly outraged at the state of our nation, and emotions are running high. These are signs of the beginning of a revolution. The opposing sides of the revolution are not Republican and Democrat, as the media would like us to believe. The opposing sides in this revolution are an incredibly lop-sided 300,000,000 -vs- 545. Columnist Charley Reese of the Orlando Sentinel penned the following politically-neutral article in 1984. Please pay careful attention to the last sentence. It is key.

Politicians are the only people in the world who create problems and then campaign against them.

Have you ever wondered why, if both the Democrats and the Republicans are against deficits, we have deficits? Have you ever wondered why, if all the politicians are against inflation and high taxes, we have inflation and high taxes?

You and I don't propose a federal budget. The president does. You and I don't have the Constitutional authority to vote on appropriations. The House of Representatives does. You and I don't write the tax code. Congress does. You and I don't set fiscal policy. Congress does. You and I don't control monetary policy. The Federal Reserve Bank does.

One hundred senators, 435 congressmen, one president and nine Supreme Court justices - 545 human beings out of the 235 million - are directly, legally, morally and individually responsible for the domestic problems that plague this country.

I excluded the members of the Federal Reserve Board because that problem was created by the Congress. In 1913, Congress delegated its Constitutional duty to provide a sound currency to a federally chartered but private central bank.

I excluded all the special interests and lobbyists for a sound reason. They have no legal authority. They have no ability to coerce a senator, a congressman or a president to do one cotton-picking thing. I don't care if they offer a politician \$1 million dollars in cash. The politician has the power to accept or reject it.

No matter what the lobbyist promises, it is the legislator's responsibility to determine how he votes.

A CONFIDENCE CONSPIRACY

Don't you see how the con game is played on the people by the politicians? Those 545 human beings spend much of their energy convincing you that what they did is not their fault. They cooperate in this common con regardless of party.

What separates a politician from a normal human being is an excessive amount of gall. No normal human being would have the gall of Tip O'Neill, who

stood up and criticized Ronald Reagan for creating deficits.

The president can only propose a budget. He cannot force the Congress to accept it. The Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, gives sole responsibility to the House of Representatives for originating appropriations and taxes.

O'Neill is the speaker of the House. He is the leader of the majority party. He and his fellow Democrats, not the president, can approve any budget they want. If the president vetoes it, they can pass it over his veto.

(Brian's addition: It has also since been proven that federal government agencies with rulemaking authority do not need congressional approval to enact laws that most often directly attack and dilute the 10th amendment.)

REPLACE SCOUNDRELS

It seems inconceivable to me that a nation of 235 million cannot replace 545 people who stand convicted -- by present facts - of incompetence and irresponsibility.

I can't think of a single domestic problem, from an unfair tax code to defense overruns, that is not traceable directly to those 545 people.

When you fully grasp the plain truth that 545 people exercise power of the federal government, then it must follow that what exists is what they want to exist.

If the tax code is unfair, it's because they want it unfair. If the budget is in the red, it's because they want it in the red. If the Marines are in Lebanon, it's because they want them in Lebanon.

There are no insoluble government problems. Do not let these 545 people shift the blame to bureaucrats, whom they hire and whose jobs they can abolish; to lobbyists, whose gifts and advice they can reject; to regulators, to whom they give the power to regulate and from whom they can take it.

Above all, do not let them con you into the belief that there exist disembodied mystical forces like "the economy," "inflation" or "politics" that prevent them from doing what they take an oath to do.

Those 545 people and they alone are responsible. They and they alone have the power. They and they alone should be held accountable by the people who are their bosses - provided they have the gumption to manage their own employees. (Courtesy of the Orlando Sentinel, Copyright 1984. You cannot use this article on a website or for promotional, marketing or fund-raising purposes without prior consent from the Orlando Sentinel.)

So now the question is: Why do we lack the gumption to manage our own employees? Are we so enamored by election promises and political charisma that we have been overlooking the obvious? Have we bought into the idea that either the right or the left are the answer to saving us from an inevitable crash & burn?

GROW UP AMERICA! We have been conditioned to act like children, expecting the government to take care of us like our parents did. We have been afraid that “mom and dad” will take away our allowance if we cross them. We need to effectively manage OUR EMPLOYEES. We need to demand full accountability for their time and their actions, and we need to fire them if they are derelict in their duties.

We have also allowed ourselves to become intimidated by extremely complicated legal language and processes that need to be simplified. How many of our readers have the time and patience to completely scrutinize a political bill? I believe this is by design. If our politicians can keep us ignorant they will continue to have free reign. I submit that:

- All proposed legislation at all levels of government should be written in plain English at a 7th-grade level, with a 1,000-word limit (not counting supporting documents). This is what many government agencies currently require of grant applicants who are trying to recover some of their otherwise-wasted tax dollars.

- All proposed legislation at all levels of government should contain an executive summary that states the spirit of the legislation.
- Cyber technology should be employed to the full benefit of our nation. User-friendly websites should be used to daily post proposed categorized legislation with an opportunity for taxpayer participation in opinion polls. Real-time results of these polls should be posted, and elected officials should be required to fully explain all votes that disagree with the public opinion.

There is no doubt that some will argue that not all taxpayers have internet access. I will argue that nearly every computer in our nation has access to a printer, and braille printers are even available for the blind.

I have heard the argument that we can fix our government through the effective use of the election process. I myself have even promoted the idea of congressional term limitations. The American taxpayers need to look at the past 20 years and come to the realization that the 2016 election is a moot point. We, the taxpayers, have allowed our federal government to grow into an out-of-control 800-pound corrupt gorilla.

We no longer have a democracy, and we have a broken system that has passed the tipping point in disrepair. Short of a complete housecleaning with major compensation cuts and rule changes, it is futile, wishful thinking to believe that we can affect the necessary changes in our federal government through the

election process alone. We must also be active beyond the vote to demand full accountability.

Again, Americans are becoming increasingly outraged at the state of our nation, and emotions are running high. These are signs of the beginning of a revolution. Our emotionally-charged political environment has divided our nation. We have been conned by an 800-pound gorilla and his media lackey.

The opposing sides of the revolution are not Republican and Democrat, as they would like us to believe. The true division is 545 -vs- 300,000,000. We need to put aside our political differences for the sake of our nation. We need to re-focus our misguided emotional energy towards clear, objective planning and pragmatic action for the necessary governmental reformation and the effective management of our elected employees in transition.

Cooler heads will prevail.

Chapter 5:

The World Used to be Flat

In grade-school we were taught the legendary tall-tale of Christopher Columbus. Although we eventually learned that that the fable isn't even close to historically correct, it taught us all the great moral of open-mindedness.

We were taught that in 1492 Columbus sailed "over the edge of the earth" in search of the West Indies. Of course, he actually landed in America, and the rest is history. The amazing thing is that Columbus, his ship and his crew actually survived their incredible, disastrous plummet off of the globe. Everyone knew the world was flat.

We were taught that even after Columbus returned to Spain with treasures from the new world, folks were still certain that he simply hadn't sailed far enough to reach the edge. They were still 100% convinced that the world was flat, it had always been flat, and it would always be flat.

In the minds of the American voter, American politics is a 2-party system, it has always been a 2-party system, and it will always be a 2-party system.

In reality, our American 2-party political system was never a part of the original design. To the contrary, our founding fathers were appalled by the idea. Their

original design assumed representation by leaders with enough moral character and integrity to put aside special interests and personal ambition for the good of the country. To their dismay, 2 opposing major parties quickly emerged in American politics. The Jefferson party promoted strong government and economic development, whereas the Hamilton party promoted limited government and the prosperity of the common man.

Other than the definition of the 2 major parties, not much has changed in the past 200 years. Minor parties have emerged in American politics since the 18th century, only to be squelched by our nation's "winner-take-all" election laws. Even if a minor party candidate receives 31% of the vote in a 3-way election, the voters who support this candidate will receive no representation whatsoever in the operation of their government.

Although there are overwhelming odds against them, minor parties continue to emerge in American politics. American voters rely on mainstream media for political information, and modern-day elections are consistently won by the candidates that spend the most money on their campaign.

Minor parties cannot match the incredible financial resources of the major parties, and the minor parties are generally discredited by the major parties as crazed fanatics with little or no strength or ability to lead. These conditions have effectively turned the 2 major

parties into "playground bullies." Might is right, and the little guy is in for a beating if he stands up to them.

Thus, the two major parties have formed a monopoly in American politics. This has resulted in an "American Power Club" with exclusive membership consisting of our elected government employees from 2 dominating parties. Theatrical elections continually pass the official leadership back and forth between the 2 dominating parties, while the "American Power Club" continues to gain strength and tyrannical control over our nation and our daily lives.

The American Power Club has become masterful at manipulating the American people by effectively polarizing our nation to maintain their power. Although our nation is faced with unprecedented challenges, theatrical pride and arrogance from both major parties have effectively divided our nation. As long as the American people are focused on these divisive issues, we are not scrutinizing their activity or holding them accountable for their actions. In short, we are giving the American Power Club free reign to rule over our lives.

To secure their reign, the American Power Club continues to behave like two children in the same room that are each playing "house" separately rather than playing together. Like classic co-dependents, "We the People" have enabled, condoned, and even joined in on this counterproductive "parallel playing." Are we so enamored by election promises and political charisma

that we have been overlooking the obvious? Have we bought into the idea that either the right or the left are the answer to saving us from an inevitable crash & burn?

WAKE UP, AMERICA!!! Political leadership has consistently swung like a pendulum, from right to left, over and back again throughout our nation's history. The American Power Club has robbed us equally for decades. Aside from basic equal rights reforms, what significant changes has the American Power Club made over the past 50 years towards our nation's overall welfare and happiness? Why is it that a "poor" family, dependent on our government for their sustenance, is able to enjoy a better standard of living today than if mom and dad both went to work for minimum wage?

In 2003, Senator Robert Byrd was quoted as saying, "If the voters really understood what we were up to, they would vote us out of office." It is important to note that Senator Byrd did not specify any partisan affiliation in his statement.

So where do we go from here? "We the People" must demand election law reform that will force the 2-party American Power Club to surrender their monopoly. This will require an overwhelming, crystal-clear message from the majority of the American people.

Unity is our most powerful tool, and complacency is our greatest opponent. We can count on tremendous resistance from our government towards any proposal to upset their 2-party apple-cart. It is working far too

well for them, and they have successfully hoodwinked the American people for far too long. Still, the outlaw gang bullies of the wild west decided to leave town when all the townspeople showed up with baseball bats and farming tools in their hands.

Albert Einstein said, “No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.”

Is the world still flat?

Chapter 6:

Are We Part of the Problem or Part of the Solution?

As American Patriots, are we part of the problem or part of the solution? What are the roots of our motivation? Given enough time, the human mind can justify anything. This has been demonstrated very clearly with Adolph Hitler and many others who have committed enormous, unthinkable atrocities upon millions of innocent human beings in the name of progress or divine direction.

We can look at our nation's government today and theorize all sorts of motives for the behavior of our elected government employees. I myself have theorized that it all boils down to a lust for power. In 1887 Lord Acton wrote "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." The question is, have our elected government employees premeditated their corruption, or has it simply occurred due to the attrition of their length in service?

I was once among the crowd that automatically defaulted to the former rather than the latter. We all are inundated with political rhetoric charging our senators and congressmen as ruthless criminals with malicious intent. While I don't doubt that this is true in some cases, these people are just as human as the rest of us. I believe the majority of them have been conned into believing their actions are noble and

honorable. Many urban legends have also been propagated regarding the elitism of our congress.

Is it possible that we can also explain many politicians' rise to power with the fact that many far-better-qualified Americans have failed to consider serving their country in this manner?

So what about us? Are we part of the problem, or are we part of the solution? Edmund Burke said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." So what are we doing? A group of farmers can all pray long and hard for a bumper crop and say "Amen!" together. The hard truth is that nothing will happen if they don't buy the seed, prepare the field, plant the seeds, cultivate and harvest.

So, as a grant writer am I a part of the problem or a part of the solution? I have been justifying my government grant work with the argument that my clients are simply recovering some of their otherwise-wasted tax dollars. I must now confess that I have been part of the problem in many cases.

The truth is that our government should not be in the finance business. It is no secret that our government is spending money that we don't have. (Notice I said "we" and not "they." Our government doesn't have any money, except for ours.) As an advocate of this injustice, I have been a part of the problem. I have at times allowed selfish ambition to guide my motivation.

Using the farmer analogy, we have all been great at praying and joining each other in a hearty "Amen!" How many of us have the conviction to buy some seed, prepare some ground, plant, cultivate, and harvest? We need to quit pointing partisan fingers at each other, and we need to regain our unity to secure our nation's survival. A house divided will fall.

I challenge American Patriots to abandon business as usual and to find the motivation and courage to roll up our sleeves and become part of the solution. Franklin Delano Roosevelt said, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself."

Chapter 7:

Government Logic

Many people consider the term "government logic" to be an oxymoron. It seems that common sense has disappeared from our government long ago, and it has been replaced by a diseased paradigm that is foreign and incomprehensible to most outsiders. This diseased "government logic" has its' roots deep in the survival instincts of the average government employee, who will go to great lengths to justify and maintain their position regardless of their productivity.

These government employees are no different than you or me. They live in our neighborhoods, their children go to school with our children, they shop at the same stores as us, and they pay the same taxes that we all pay. The only notable sign of their disease is that these government employees are bi-lingual and slightly schizophrenic.

Outside of the workplace they are generally as normal as the average American. At work, these same individuals speak a different language and live their work-life by standards and values that are foreign to outsiders. Most government employees do not even realize they have been infected. Collectively, these well-meaning, peaceful individuals have successfully formed a subversive "government sub-culture."

Unlike the real world, in the government sub-culture there is rarely any sense of urgency, and there is no comprehension of efficiency or profitability. In the government sub-culture, money is a mystical, magical gift from above called "allocation."

Much like manna was to the Israelites in the desert, government employees cannot store allocation. They must spend all they are given, or they will lose it. It doesn't even matter if their spending results in any value or fills any need, as long as it is an "allowable" expense. If they don't spend their allocation this year, they won't receive their allocation next year.

Perception is everything, and infected government employees also must either maintain a "busy" perception or risk losing their allocation. This alone has created enough government paperwork and red tape to gift-wrap the globe. They don't even need to account for any productivity in most cases. As long as they look busy, they're golden.

In spite of their subversive infection, most government employees have a conscience. This causes most government employees to find self-justification for their work, creating such infamous sayings as, "I'm from the government. I'm here to help you."

Politicians are the ultimate gatekeepers of allocation for government departments, agencies and offices. The vote is the "holy grail" of politicians, and allocation is rarely channeled to government projects that do not have a positive effect on the vote. The government sub-

culture is keenly aware of this principle, and very few infected government employees are willing to "rock the boat" or support anything that has even the slightest chance of producing controversy. We could develop a cure for cancer, and rather than risk their allocation, the government sub-culture would table the project if it wasn't 100% risk free and politically correct.

Under the watch of American taxpayers, the infected government sub-culture has also developed a strong sense of "entitlement." Infected politicians on both sides of the aisle have fostered and nurtured this sense of entitlement, effectively "buying" the loyalty of government sub-culture factions through "allocation insurance" and compensation packages with no regard to productivity or value.

With nothing standing in its' way, "government logic" has now grown into a national epidemic. Across our nation, millions of unaware Americans have also become infected with the sense of entitlement found in "government logic." These well-meaning individuals exhibit the same oblivious, counter-productive, delusional behavior as the infected government sub-culture. We must recognize and acknowledge "government logic," and we must develop practical and effective ways to overcome this disease as we regain our nation's unity and strength.

Chapter 8:

It's All About Us

Thomas Jefferson said, "We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." The last word in that quote is open to many shapes, sizes and colors of interpretation.

What does it mean to participate? Is it enough to simply vote?

Voting is indeed the cornerstone of a true democracy. Our votes are used to hire individuals to provide leadership and hands-on operation of our government on our behalf. I believe it is our patriotic duty to vote. In a true democracy these government employees are individually accountable to their employers for their productivity.

In a true democracy these government employees are collectively responsible for our nation's well-being, and they are collectively responsible for the efficiency and results of their efforts. Do you believe we have a true democracy? It has been business-as-usual in Washington for many decades. Do you believe that voting alone can change the behavior of an 800-pound gorilla? Do you believe that voting alone can help our divided nation regain its' unity?

Is it enough to join a political party, a PAC or a special interest group that supports your personal values?

There are many worthwhile groups in our nation, and they are generally outnumbered by groups that unwittingly serve as political wrenches in the hands of our adversaries. These groups may be grounded in American tradition, and they may have mission-statements and goals that sound noble and honorable. They may have popularity and strength, and they may even present plausible solutions to some of our nation's challenges.

What is the true agenda of the group? What is the root of their motivation? Could it be that the group is on a quest for power under the guise of patriotism or justice? Realistically, how will the group improve and sustain our nation? In the larger scope of our divided nation, is the group a part of the problem or part of the solution? Could it be that the group is actually counter-productive to the unity our nation needs to survive and prosper? Will this definition of participation alone have any significant, positive impact on regaining the unity of our divided nation?

Is it enough to financially support a political candidate? It's the American way to put our money where our mouth is. While this may be a good thing to do, will this definition of participation alone have any significant, positive impact on regaining the unity of our divided nation?

Is it enough to volunteer to work for a political candidate's campaign? Volunteers are an essential component in a winning a political campaign. While

this is an honorable and commendable activity, will this activity alone have any significant, ongoing impact on our nation?

Is it enough to undermine, discredit or slander a former leader, a sitting politician or a competing candidate? This one is a no-brainer, yet we are all guilty of propagating messages that consistently promote hostile political character assassination.

True or not, how will this type of activity possibly have an ongoing, positive impact on our nation?

Is it enough to risk ridicule and strife by standing up as an individual voter and taxpayer in defense of your basic constitutional rights?

While this is the most difficult level of government participation, it is also the most courageous, honorable and effective. I submit that all of the other definitions of participation combined will not provide the impact of this definition of participation. How many American taxpayers can say that have our elected government employees on speed-dial? How many American taxpayers consistently write personal letters to our elected government employees?

Regardless of our elected government employee's entourage, how many American taxpayers have demanded straight answers to hard questions? Regardless of our elected government employee's image or popularity, how many American taxpayers have demanded their full accountability?

How many American taxpayers and voters fully examine the facts to gain a solid foundation for their political decisions and actions rather than relying on media reports or political party propaganda? After a full examination of the facts, how many American taxpayers have fully exercised our constitutional rights in replacing insubordinate, counter-productive government employees?

As Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence, we - the people - have a duty to take responsible action, de-authorizing an offending government and providing new safeguards for our future security (New English Translation - Paraphrased).

Our government was designed to be for the people and by the people. I submit that "We the People" have passed the buck. Rather than accepting our duty and our responsibility for the effective management of our employees, we have given our politicians free reign to rule over us. Would any of us behave differently if we were given the same power without accountability?

I submit that our politicians are not the root cause of our nation's problems. It's all about us.

Chapter 9: A House Divided Against Itself Will Fall

Many well-meaning American Patriots have unwittingly become expert players of the blame game, pointing partisan fingers at each other as the reason for our nation's division. This is denial at its' finest. From the far left to the far right, from the very top to the very bottom, there is plenty enough blame to go around.

Many of my conservative friends are certain that our current president is to blame. Likewise, many of my liberal friends are certain his predecessor is to blame. These are highly-educated, mature adults who have been successfully manipulated to fight against each other in a no-win battle. Neither side can see that they have been duped, and that the ongoing, reprehensible feuding on both sides is counterproductive and damaging to our nation.

Are we so enamored by election promises and political charisma that we have been overlooking the obvious? Have we bought into the idea that either the right or the left are the answer to saving us from an inevitable crash & burn? The evidence is clear, and the sad answer to this question is "Yes."

WAKE UP, AMERICA!!! Has anything good ever happened as a result of feuding? If one side crushes the other, what has been gained? Is it productive to

channel our energy born of disappointment, frustration, anger and contempt into belittling and discrediting our politicians? Honestly, do most of our politicians really need any extra help with looking foolish?

Political power has consistently swung like a pendulum, from right to left, over and back again throughout our nation's history. Politicians from both parties have robbed us equally for decades. The social programs that have been initiated by these politicians allow a "poor" family, dependent on our Government for their sustenance, to enjoy a better standard of living than if mom and dad both went to work for minimum wage. What's wrong with this picture?

Charley Reese of the Orlando Sentinel presented the following theory in an excerpt from an article he wrote for the Orlando Sentinel in 1984:

"Don't you see how the con game is played on the people by the politicians? Those 545 human beings spend much of their energy convincing you that what they did is not their fault. They cooperate in this common con regardless of party.

The president can only propose a budget. He cannot force the Congress to accept it. The Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, gives sole responsibility to the House of Representatives for originating appropriations and taxes...

The speaker of the House... is the leader of the majority party. He and his fellow partisans, not the president, can approve any budget they want. If the president vetoes it, they can pass it over his veto."

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In light of the political facts presented above, I challenge our readers to answer the following questions and determine for themselves which party is responsible for our nation's challenges:

- Have republicans or democrats been in control of the presidency for the past 10 years? The past 20 years?
- Have republicans or democrats been in control of congress for the past 10 years? The past 20 years?
After the questions above are answered, I challenge our readers to answer the following questions regarding the "hot" issues that seem to spark the most politically divisive criticism and emotional responses:
- How many taxpayer dollars have been spent on social programs over the past 10 years (not counting Social Security or Medicare)? 20 years? Under whose watch?
- How many taxpayer dollars were spent on the Iraq War? Under whose watch?
- How many taxpayer dollars have been spent on the Afghanistan War? Under whose watch?

- How many taxpayer dollars (at current values) were spent on the Vietnam War?
- Desert Storm? Korea? WWII? Under whose watch?
- Who is responsible for our tax codes?
- What percentage of our taxes are paid by the top 5% income bracket in our nation?
- What percentage of taxes are paid by the lower 50% of income brackets in our nation?
- Who is responsible for our nation's social programs?
- What is the average income (including non-monetary benefits) of an illegal alien with 3 kids in the US? 4 kids? Claiming asylum?
- How many of our 10th amendment rights have we surrendered in the past 10 years through agency rulemaking and congressional back-room deals? The past 20 years? Under whose watch?
- Who is responsible for our government bureaucracy?
- How many federal government departments and agencies are currently in existence? What are they producing or providing? At what cost?

After examining the facts, I challenge our readers to decide for themselves who is responsible for the current state of our nation. We, the American taxpayers, have passed the buck. Rather than accepting our duty and our responsibility for the

effective management of our elected government employees, we have given them free reign to rule over us for decades.

Would any of us behave differently if we were given the same power without accountability? I submit that we are all responsible, regardless of our partisan affiliations.

Our division will only grow wider if we continue complaining about our publicly elected and ordained leadership. In Luke 11:17 Jesus said, "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall." (NIV) Other world religions also embrace similar principles, and history has proven these words to be true countless times through 2 millenniums. We must stop blaming each other for our troubles.

For America to survive, we must abandon the prevalent "them versus us" political paradigm. We must find common ground that will supersede partisan politics, and we must move forward with strength in unity towards common-sense practical solutions to our nation's challenges.

To regain our American prosperity, I believe we must learn to view our issues in the larger scope of humanity, agree to disagree on non-vital issues, accept corresponding victories and defeats, and proceed with a clear focus on the truly important principles of democracy and vital issues of magnitude that unite us. Maybe then we can rebuild the international respect

and honor our nation once earned and held, renewing
our nation's dignity and our hope for posterity.

Chapter 10: Common Ground

In his 1968 folk ballad titled "The Boxer," Paul Simon made a very profound observation in that a man will hear only the things he wants to hear, and the rest he will disregard. Through honest and sobering introspection, I recently realized that for decades I had been hearing battle cries for political domination rather than hearing the calm, confident voice that is calling for common-sense resolution, peace and unity in America.

We are inundated daily with political propaganda. While some of these messages are clearly labelled, I submit that the lion's share of our nation's political propaganda is disguised as "news." The "news" is generally presented by very likeable and believable reporters who present a degree of truth in their reports. The problem isn't with what they say most of the time, but how they say it.

The "news" that these reporters present is usually very carefully packaged to generate specific emotions and sociological results with the listeners. This "news" has the potential to be a very effective and dangerous weapon in the hands of an enemy who knows what we are hoping to hear.

So, what is America hoping to hear or see when we listen to the "news?" If you are a democrat, are you

watching FOX? If you are a republican, are you watching CNN? Each side shamelessly attacks the other side with "evidence" of incompetence and injustice. What are they hoping to gain?

When we watch the "news" are we hoping that everything is fine and dandy, or are we subconsciously looking for the "evidence" that supports and strengthens our nation's divisive political ideologies? Are we subconsciously hoping that our politicians are misrepresenting us, or maybe that the republicans or the democrats have been publicly embarrassed? Could it be that we are being told exactly what we want to hear, and that we are being played like pawns on a chessboard?

I challenge our readers to conduct the following "news" test. Our mission in this exercise is to uncover the truly important principles of democracy and vital issues of magnitude that unite us, and to look for points of agreement on the truly important values that are vital to our nation's sustainability and our ultimate survival. I submit that we will find these things if we can train ourselves to look for them:

1. Put aside your individual political ideology.
2. If you are a republican, watch a CNN daily report. If you are a democrat, watch a FOX daily report.
3. Watch these reports with COMPLETE OBJECTIVITY as best you can. Rather than drawing instant conclusions, SEEK TO UNDERSTAND.

4. Purposely LOOK FOR COMMON GROUND!!!
To do this, you must be willing to ignore the tremendous amount of time and energy that the "news" expends in partisan feuding and political warfare strategies.

I completed this exercise myself with today's noon report, and I found common ground on the following issues:

- The left and the right both want economic recovery and prosperity.
- The left and the right both want strength and growth in American business.
- The left and the right both want a comfortable and pleasant standard of living for American families.
- The left and the right both want to provide vital services and resources for our elderly and disabled.
- The left and the right both want strong and effective national security.
- The left and the right both want healthy international relationships.
- The left and the right are both suffering from "government logic" (please see Chapter 6 for a definition).

I also found that there are fundamental differences in the proposed solutions to these issues, and it seems that neither side is willing to look for a "third solution." Political pride and arrogance on both sides of the aisle have placed resolution in a stalemate.

Our elected government employees are behaving like two children in the same room that are each playing "house" separately rather than playing together. Like classic co-dependents, "We the People" have enabled, condoned, and even joined in on this counterproductive "parallel playing."

We must demand that our elected government employees put aside their pride and arrogance, quit blaming each other, find common ground on vital issues of importance, and look for a "third solution."

Again, if we can all just take a step back and analyze the cause and effect of our actions, we can easily see that we are all being played like pawns on a chessboard. In this game of chess, we are precariously close to letting our opponent divide us, flank us, and leave us in checkmate. Does it matter which side claims political victory if we allow ourselves to be crippled by division? Are our political differences worth the cost of losing our self-respect, our unity and our nation?

What must we do to develop a practical, common ground governmental agenda that will strengthen and unite America? I submit that it needs to start in the hearts, the minds and the actions of "We the People."

Chapter 11:

Turning Sacred Cows Into Steak

Ask any cattle rancher if they are emotionally attached to their herd. Ask them if they have named their cattle, or if they consider their cattle as "pets." Once they quit laughing at you, they will probably ask you what city you came from. While ranchers generally treat their cattle humanely, feed them well, and care for their health, they also fully understand that their herd is "what's for dinner" in America. To a rancher, cattle are money on the hoof.

Unfortunately, the average American is nowhere near as practical as a cattle rancher. Many Americans have developed an emotional attachment to elements of our society and "pet programs" that have been separated from the rest of the herd as "sacred cows." These sacred cows are generally very well fed and provided with the finest of everything, all at the expense of the American taxpayer. Even though a portion of our nation may be "starving," it is unthinkable to even imagine that these sacred cows could be turned into "food for the hungry."

While many breeds of the American sacred cow have been developed, the most visible and prevalent breed is easily recognized as government-run social programs. Our nation has allowed this breed to grow into enormous, overweight bureaucratic monstrosities feeding at the trough of the American taxpayer.

These sacred cows have been milked beyond their usefulness long ago, and many of them have become so obese that they are barely able to move. They generally wallow in their own waste while they continue to feed on American taxpayer dollars.

Although many of these sacred cows are in extremely poor health, they continue to live in spite of themselves. Emotionally-charged special interest groups have been successful in averting any attempts to alter their diet, and any talk of euthanizing them is met with incredible noise and resistance. While "culling the herd" would certainly be an efficient short-term solution, I believe a less drastic and more humane approach will provide a better and more acceptable long term solution.

An initial comprehensive health assessment is a good place to start. From that point, common-sense adjustments to the sacred cows' diet should be strictly enforced. Rather than constantly feeding at the American taxpayer's trough, I submit that these sacred cows should be systematically put out to local pastures. In this setting, these cows can graze on local fields, drink freely from the local streams, and be fed locally-grown grain as necessary.

Before long many of these sacred cows will likely regain their health to the point that they will be able to rejoin the local rancher's herd. This common-sense, practical approach will require Americans to relinquish our emotional attachment to our sacred cows. This will

require some very difficult initial sacrifices for many Americans who have developed a co-dependent relationship with these cattle.

Is it wise to continue feeding these unhealthy cattle? While it is certain that emotions will run high across the land, I submit that we will all be much better off when we put our emotions aside and allow our sacred cows to become "what's for dinner" in America.

Chapter 12:

Who Can We Trust?

Any family therapist will tell you that trust is at the foundation of all healthy and successful relationships. A quick survey will reveal that this theory extends far beyond marriage and family. Most folks also have trusted friends, but who do you trust when it comes to business? Do you trust your doctor? Your mechanic? Your CPA? Your bank? How about our government?

Most Americans will answer "yes" to most of the trust questions above. A person would be foolish to hire these people if they didn't trust them. The lone exception to "yes" above is the question about our government. Most Americans will be quick to tell you that they have little or no trust in our government. Yet, we continue to hire these people and do business with them. What's wrong with this picture?

It's an interesting conundrum (or "con" for short) that the American voters consistently hire the most trustworthy individual politicians on the ballot to represent us in our government, and yet the American people have little or no trust in the government as a whole. Could it be that we have been so enamored by election promises and political charisma that we have been overlooking our reality? Have we been conned into believing that we can truly trust either the right or the left to save our nation's government from an inevitable crash & burn?

This is nothing new. In 1984 columnist Charley Reese of the Orlando Sentinel stated:

Don't you see how the con game is played on the people by the politicians? Those 545 human beings spend much of their energy convincing you that what they did is not their fault. They cooperate in this common con REGARDLESS OF PARTY. (capitals added)

What separates a politician from a normal human being is an excessive amount of gall. No normal human being would have the gall of Tip O'Neill, who stood up and criticized Ronald Reagan for creating deficits.

The president can only propose a budget. He cannot force the Congress to accept it. The Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, gives sole responsibility to the House of Representatives for originating appropriations and taxes.

O'Neill is the speaker of the House. He is the leader of the majority party. He and his fellow Democrats, not the president, can approve any budget they want. If the president vetoes it, they can pass it over his veto. (Article excerpt courtesy of the Orlando Sentinel, Copyright 1984. You cannot use this article on a website or for promotional, marketing or fund-raising purposes without prior consent from the Orlando Sentinel.)

WAKE UP, AMERICA!!! Political leadership has consistently swung like a pendulum, from right to left,

over and back again throughout our nation's history. While we have deemed individual politicians as trustworthy, our elected government employees have robbed us equally for decades as a whole. Aside from basic equal rights reforms, what significant changes have our elected government employees made over the past 50 years towards our nation's overall welfare and happiness? Why is it that a "poor" family, dependent on our government for their sustenance, is able to enjoy a better standard of living today than if mom and dad both went to work for minimum wage?

In 2003, Senator Robert Byrd was quoted as saying, "If the voters really understood what we were up to, they'd vote us out of office." It is important to note that Senator Byrd did not specify any partisan affiliation in his statement.

So who can we trust?

While we may trust one another personally, the American people certainly do not trust each other politically. Although our nation is currently faced with unprecedented challenges, theatrical pride and arrogance from both major parties have effectively divided our nation. As long as the American people are focused on these divisive issues, we are not scrutinizing their activity or holding them accountable for their actions. In short, we are giving our elected government employees free reign to rule over our lives.

To secure their reign, our elected government employees continue to behave like 2 children in the

same room that are each playing "house" separately rather than playing together. Like classic co-dependents, "We the People" have enabled, condoned, and even joined in on this counterproductive "parallel playing."

So who can we trust?

In his 1984 article, Charley Reese went on to say:

It seems inconceivable to me that a nation of 235 million cannot replace 545 people who stand convicted -- by present facts - of incompetence and irresponsibility.

I can't think of a single domestic problem, from an unfair tax code to defense overruns that is not traceable directly to those 545 people.

When you fully grasp the plain truth that 545 people exercise power of the federal government, then it must follow that what exists is what they want to exist.

If the tax code is unfair, it's because they want it unfair. If the budget is in the red, it's because they want it in the red. If the Marines are in Lebanon, it's because they want them in Lebanon.

There are no insoluble government problems. Do not let these 545 people shift the blame to bureaucrats, whom they hire and whose jobs they can abolish; to lobbyists, whose gifts and advice they can reject; to regulators, to whom they give the power to regulate and from whom they can take it.

Above all, do not let them con you into the belief that there exist disembodied mystical forces like "the economy," "inflation" or "politics" that prevent them from doing what they take an oath to do.

Those 545 people and they alone are responsible. They and they alone have the power. They and they alone should be held accountable by the people who are their bosses - provided they have the gumption to manage their own employees. (Article excerpt courtesy of the Orlando Sentinel, Copyright 1984. You cannot use this article on a website or for promotional, marketing or fund-raising purposes without prior consent from the Orlando Sentinel.)

So who can we trust?

In 1776 Thomas Jefferson observed that "History has shown us that people will tend to remain complacent, often tolerating a lifetime of fractional ongoing governmental abuses, rather than taking the action needed to change the offending government,

But when a government consistently violates the trust of the people by diluting, compromising, and challenging their rights, it is the right of the people to protect themselves from such hostilities. It is the duty of the people to move beyond their frustration at this point, and to take responsible action, de-authorizing the offending government and providing new safeguards for their future security." (Paraphrased - Modern English Translation)

Can we trust ourselves to put aside our political differences for the sake of our nation? Can we trust ourselves to move beyond our frustration, to take responsible action, to de-authorize our offending government and provide new safeguards for our future security?

If we can't trust ourselves, who can we trust?

Chapter 13:

Historical Quotes

It was Edmund Burke who said, "People will not look forward to posterity, who never look backward to their ancestors." Our American ancestors had a vision for a united nation borne of God-given wisdom, truth, and simple common "horse-sense" principles for posterity. Some of this wisdom, truth, and simple common "horse-sense" is found in the quotes below.

While most of these Historical Quotes are from revered American leaders of previous centuries, there is a single quote from Senator Robert Byrd dated 2003 that demands the attention and action of every 21st Century American Patriot.

I pray that "We the People" will accept the wisdom of our American ancestors and rise to the challenge of repairing and rebuilding the basic foundation of our American independence.

"If the voters really understood what we were up to, they would vote us out of office."

Senator Robert Byrd – 2003

"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."

Thomas Jefferson

"Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear."

Harry S. Truman, 1950

"Whenever a man has cast a longing eye on office, a rottenness begins in his conduct."

Thomas Jefferson

"The security intended to the general liberty consists in the frequent election and in the rotation of the members of Congress."

James Madison & Alexander Hamilton – 1782

"No political truth is certainly of greater intrinsic value or is stamped with the authority of more enlightened patrons of liberty than that ... the accumulation of all powers legislative, executive and judiciary in the same hands, whether of one, a few or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny."

James Madison

"No man is good enough to govern another man without that others consent."

Abraham Lincoln

"I place economy among the first and most important virtues, and public debt as the greatest of dangers to be feared. To preserve our independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. If we run into such debts, we must be taxed in our meat and drink, in our necessities and in our comforts, in our labor and in our amusements. If we can prevent the government from wasting the labor of the people, under the pretense of caring for them, they will be happy."

Thomas Jefferson

About the Author



Brian Buckta was raised in a blue-collar middle-class Wisconsin family of six. He credits his parents for his demonstrated belief in the basic principles of patriotism and the rewards of a strong American work ethic.

Brian is the founder and principal of Written Impressions in rural La Farge, Wisconsin. A seasoned environmental professional, Brian offers professional business communications and grant consultation to renewable energies and sustainable agriculture clients.

Brian especially enjoys working with family farms and organizations that are committed to implementing renewable energies and sustainable practices, as these two areas define his personal principles and motivation.

With No Affiliation or Allegiance to Any Political Party

"Patriotic Horse-Sense" is a passionate American Patriot's perspective on the state of the nation. Brian Buckta's writings directly address and challenge 21st Century American Patriots to apply common "horse-sense" solutions to repair and rebuild the basic foundation of our American independence.

