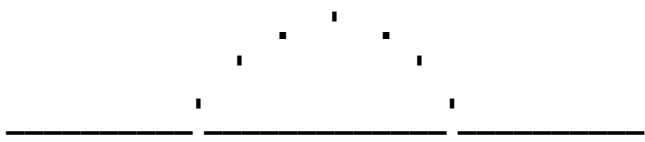




Starting Over



by Mark A. Goldman

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Defending Freedom In Search of Freedom

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ISBN: 978-0-9624997-2-2

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to anyone who has the desire and perseverance to read it all the way through, cover to cover.

It's possible that what I've written will cause you distress, make you angry, offer encouragement, and/or alter your thinking in some way.

In any event, I honor and admire any effort you might make to see if there is something here you might find of value.

Thank you.

I did this for you.

I dedicate this book to you.

With love,

- Mark

Preface

This book is a compilation of commentaries I wrote over a 13 year period. They are presented in reverse chronological order. Some include minor editing for clarity. They are intended to be read in the order presented from beginning to end. At the end is a [Table of Contents](#) to help you review individual topics if you are so inclined.

While the subject matter deals mostly with politics and economics... taken as a whole, what you will find is a proposed strategy for improving life on Earth for all peoples. I begin the book with a Conclusion.

I wrote some sections when I was a candidate for Congress or President. Now that I'm a bit older, I don't intend to run for public office again.

In some of my commentaries I mention the word happiness. I'm not much of an expert on happiness. I can't say that I spent a great deal of my life being happy. One reason is that my government precludes the possibility of my being happy. To be happy I would have to ignore what my government does. And since I am, we are, the government, I believe ignoring the unsavory things my government does would be irresponsible. I don't think it's possible for me to be that irresponsible and also be truly happy at the same time. So this book is about being responsible. If by being responsible, I/we could get our government to behave responsibly, perhaps our offspring might one day actually have a chance to be truly happy. I also happen to think this just might be their last chance.

Conclusion

America's Great Experiment, which might be called *...of the People, by the People, and for the People...* is on the brink of failure.

This experiment was to see if a people could create a government that would forever honor and respect the sovereignty, which is to say, the supreme authority, of its People... and by so doing, long endure.

My conclusion after years of research is that the American government no longer respects the sovereignty of its people.

Our failing experiment can teach us a great lesson: the lesson is, that it's up to each citizen to honor and respect his or her own sovereignty, as well as the sovereignty of others.

Any citizen who fails to do so... either consciously or unconsciously... contributes to the failure of the experiment.

Personal responsibility is not something that you can give away, nor is it something that can be taken from you. We... each of us... is the true and only "government" of our own life. Shirk that responsibility and you will eventually lose sovereignty over your own existence and also make it more difficult for others to retain theirs.

Seeing now why and how this experiment was destined to fail from the start, we now have the opportunity to try again, this time with greater wisdom... if we can muster the strength and the courage to try again, that is.

It should be obvious by now to anyone paying attention, that human life, liberty, and happiness cannot be sustained for most of us if we continue along the path we're on. In fact, our Great Experiment has brought humanity to the brink of its own extinction. One false move and it could be over very quickly for all of us.

I suggest that if you still believe in the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness, you are... I am... all of us are... going to have to take personal responsibility for our own intellectual and spiritual growth, which is the only way, I think, we're going to be able to change course.

Intellectual and spiritual growth is the process by which one learns what it means to take personal responsibility for one's own sovereignty.

I have come to give you this message:

The pursuit of, and the respect for... truth, honor, dignity, compassion, courage, and love... are the keys to sustainable life, liberty, and happiness.

We — humanity — might only have this one last chance left. None of us can do it by ourselves

and at the same time, each of us is a needed participant.

I, with the help of others, document in these pages why I say that the so-called Great Experiment is failing, or might have already failed, and why that failure need not be the end of the story.

If you are up to it, here's what we can and must do right now... Start Over.

Some of my commentaries might be more or less educational or inspiring than others, but overall, I hope, and believe, that your having read this book will help prepare you to do just that. I wish for you, with all my heart...

Truth Honor Dignity Compassion Courage Love

Hiking Up Wisdom Mountain

I dreamt I was hiking up Wisdom Mountain. When I got two thirds the way up I had this insight as to why there is so much suffering in the world and what we can do about it.

As I looked down the mountain side I could see a lot of people making their way along the same path I had taken. And there were others taking different paths.

I thought it might be helpful to write down what I was thinking, make copies, fold them into paper airplanes, and send them down the mountain to share what I had learned with those who were on their way up... and so that's what I did.

But as the paper airplanes floated down to lower elevations, and as the air pressure got heavier, the ink on the pages began to fade, so that when people found them they couldn't make out what I had written.

I realized that was what had happened because later as I continued on, I found similar paper airplanes on the ground just like the ones I made and they too had faded markings on them that I couldn't make out.

What I had written on my paper was how we might improve ourselves and in turn, the lives of others. But I realized, for my ideas to work, every

citizen would have to understand what I now understood.

That's when I began to wonder, what kind of government, social structure, or strategy would work best when there are so many people who don't yet understand what I now understood.

Well, I told myself, I am only two thirds the way up the mountain. I'll just have to think more about that as I continue on my way.

I was tired but I put my pack back on and looked up to see how much farther I had to go. But I couldn't see the mountain top for it was hidden in clouds.

I sighed, adjusted my pack, and started up again, trying to remember if I had already eaten all the chocolate in my pack, and hoping there was still some left.

Moving the Trim Tab

11/28/2013

*Something hit me very hard once,
thinking about what one little man could do.
Think of the Queen Mary—the whole ship goes by
and then comes the rudder.
And there's a tiny thing at the edge of the rudder
called a trim tab.*

*It's a miniature rudder. Just moving the
little trim tab builds a low pressure that pulls
the rudder around. Takes almost no effort at all.
So I said that the little individual can be a trim tab.
Society thinks it's going right by you,
that it's left you altogether. But if you're
doing dynamic things mentally, the fact
is that you can just put your foot out like that
and the whole big ship of state is going to go.*

So I said, call me Trim Tab.

—R. Buckminster Fuller

I would like to make a couple of adjustments to what some very thoughtful people have been offering, in an effort to change the course of history and our ship of state. Many have pointed out correctly that this ship we're on is headed directly into the rocks. If we don't change course it will crash and sink, and our ship will be lost along with its crew and cargo. We need to change course, but trying to communicate with the captain and his senior officers has proved nearly impossible and very inefficient. But we need to do something quickly or there will not be

time enough to move this ship before it comes to a dreadful end:

1. There are those who say that it is not the job of visionaries to seek leadership positions. I say this idea is pure nonsense. What we have today is a world turned upside down with our leaders being selected on the basis of their fame, wealth, or deference to power rather than for their wisdom and character. The best way to communicate with our leaders is not to spend our energy trying to tell them what we want or need. That, they have already demonstrated by their actions is totally outside their ability to understand or relate to.

Rather, the best way to communicate what we want, is to spend our time and energy locating individuals among us who already have the wisdom to know what we want and need and also the character and courage to pursue those things.

Find these people and support them in applying for the job of public servant.

What we have now are people who *rule* and/or *exploit* rather than *serve*. They need to be replaced if we ever expect our children to one day live in country that is truly striving for universal peace, freedom, and economic security.

It's true that we can no longer depend on our mainstream media to give such people a voice.

In fact, the system we are now operating under is designed to exclude such people from ever holding office. But the opportunity is not totally closed. We've been indoctrinated into believing that the mechanisms for advancing such people into leadership roles no longer exists. But so far, no government official goes into the voting booth with us when we vote on election day. That means we still can, if we have the will and the foresight, to vote for whomever we want.

What I am suggesting is that we stop trying to influence politicians who are not intellectually or morally mature enough to lead, and replace them with people who are. In other words, stop voting for Democrats or Republicans. Stop voting for anyone who belongs to a political party. Instead, find people who you believe have the consciousness, character, and vision to serve rather than to rule. Stop wasting your time trying to influence an institution that now operates as the antithesis to its originally intended purpose.

2. Stop supporting institutions that don't support you. When the bus system in Alabama refused to change their practice of making blacks sit in the back of buses, inspired citizens finally figured out that the best way to change the minds of the bus company's management was to stop riding the buses altogether. It was, to be sure, inconvenient to walk rather than to ride the bus.

But when the black community stopped riding the buses, the bus company found that it was even more inconvenient for them. They didn't like losing the income that the black community provided by using their transportation services. Their company's income, it turns out, was more important to management and stockholders than their prejudice.

Stop watching or listening to the news that's being offered by the mainstream media. If we stop using their services they will eventually change too. Stop watching TV programs when they are offered, but instead record them, and watch them later when you can skip over the commercials. Stop buying the products being advertised. We don't need all those drugs and processed GMO foods.

When the government adopts a single payer health-care system, like Medicare for all, and the news and programming actually supports our dignity as citizens, we can begin to use their services again.

Why should we accept a system that makes us slaves to our employers by forcing us to work for them on their terms as the only way of obtaining decent health-care services for ourselves and our families? Having decent health-care is a basic human right and should not be dependent on our employment or income. Other countries have

already proven that universal health-care services can be provided at less cost and with better outcomes than we have. Why not learn from what others have already accomplished.

Governments and corporations in a democracy are supposed to serve the People, not manage, dominate, or enslave them. If we have the courage, wisdom, and fortitude, we can turn things around. We also need to respect ourselves if we expect to be treated with dignity.

We don't have to fight anyone. We only have to believe in ourselves, even if it's a bit inconvenient (or maybe even a great sacrifice) for awhile. If we don't respect ourselves enough to value our own freedom and dignity, we are surely going to lose both. And if you're black, you're going to lose it again, which is doubly tragic... (wasn't 250 years enough?).

History tells us that in times past a person could be made a slave simply because of the color of their skin. This time it will be because our civil rights and dignity will be (like most everything else in our culture) for sale. It's already getting to the point where many of us cannot afford some of the goods and services that are essential to our well-being, happiness, and dignity.

Slavery never was about the color of one's skin. That was only a strategy. What it was really always about was some people getting rich at the

expense of many others... call it economics without fairness, integrity, love or compassion.

Exploiting other people for personal gain seems to be a flawed state of consciousness which too many of us in this culture and other cultures find it hard to outgrow. And as you can see, some of us can remain very numb and cold as we go about taking advantage of other people for what we believe is in our own best interest. It isn't.

One thing is for sure: Those who refuse to protect and defend the rights and freedoms of others, are destined to one day lose their own. How many times does history and personal experience have to teach us this universal lesson?

Recharting the Future

10/28/2013

The great gift that we have been given these last few decades is the revelation that the primary institutions that dominate our culture are an entanglement of flawed, corrupted, undemocratic, and ill-conceived structures that are totally ill equipped to encourage, support or even allow the people of the world to live together in peace in an atmosphere of human kindness, love, honor, justice, and compassion.

But why not strive for the kind of life we really want for ourselves and our posterity instead of what we now have?

We know what doesn't work now, and we have sufficient knowledge and resources to not only live life surrounded by human love and kindness... we can also live lives of wealth and abundance... all of us. All we need is to really want it and to be willing to strive for what we want.

As Bucky Fuller pointed out not that many years ago... We... all of us... are the crew of Spaceship Earth. We are all hurling through space on the one and only precious spaceship and life support system we have. Why not honor and love what we have.

The only thing that makes sense is that we, the crew, should be working together as brothers and sisters to keep ourselves and our ship in tip-top shape, pleasantly and sustainably, for as long as the natural world will allow.

Love is Not a Feeling

9/24/2013

Love is not a feeling. Love is who we are when we are being who we really are.

We are love when we tell the truth, when we are honorable, when we have compassion for others. We are love when we have courage, particularly when we have the courage to forgive... forgiving not only others, but ourselves as well. We are all learning; we all make mistakes.

Love is speaking up against injustice. And love is being silent when there is nothing to be gained by finding fault or by pointing out how right we were when others had it wrong.

We can love in joy or sadness, in sickness or in health. We love when we keep our word, when we try our best, when we have respect for others. Love is not arrogant or egotistical. We don't know everything, but we can always be willing to learn something new, to question our preconceived ideas, to test our beliefs against our more mature experience and realizations.

We love when we hold steadfast to what we believe in, even against a fearsome tide; and we also love when we have the courage to change our mind after finally realizing there was a better choice than the one we made when we were once so sure of ourselves.

We love when we do not pretend to be something we are not. We love when we acknowledge our mistakes and take responsibility for any damage that we cause.

Love is when we don't use our education, our money, or our position to take advantage of others no matter who they are. Love does not gossip or ridicule, but at the same time, love seeks to defend those who are being mistreated by others.

Love does not pick and choose who is worthy of love, for love is not about who they are... it's about who we are. Love is cleaning up after ourselves even when we are alone and no one would ever know who made the mess.

Our family and friends are not more worthy of our love than those we have never met. But intimacy comes from shared experience with those we come to know and appreciate. This intimacy celebrates our shared experience of the love we see and recognize in each other.

But, what is that love we see in ourselves and recognize in others? It is who we are... our honor, our courage, our kindness, our integrity, our compassion and understanding.

Love does not give in. Love is not weak. Love does not sell out. Love does not deceive. Love honors and pursues justice and the truth.

Love is the courage to have faith even when we feel lost, face failure, confusion, fear, sadness, uncertainty, joy, vulnerability, weakness, and the truth.

Love is patient; it trusts in the honor and decency of our own good intentions and those who have earned our trust. It is the courage to face life and to do the best we can under the circumstances... to fall down and get up again. To quit and then to change our mind and try again. Love is sometimes just letting go, just letting it be.

The truth is, we never fully love anyone until we love everyone. We are all family. To love, we have to unlearn those things we came to believe and live by, that were never really true... and keep searching for what is really true. Who we are, how we're being, is what we teach.

Love is failure. We learn from our mistakes, our disappointments. When we try, we risk failure, but we also make success possible. We never really know how life will turn out. Love rests when it is

tired, but sometimes it just pushes on even when we are tired.

Love loves freedom. Love seeks wisdom. Love loves in freedom.

The bottom line: love is creating the space in which we, and everyone else, can live in peace, without fear, pursuing our dreams and happiness in freedom, trusting in the decency and goodwill of ourselves and others.

Love is not a feeling. It is who we are when we are being who we really are.

The American People Are Not Sheep

8/9/2013

There is not one person in my life... no one that I know personally, that I truly dislike. The truth is, I pretty much like everyone I know.

But I do know people who are somehow afraid of learning or admitting that some of the good feelings they've had and have lived by, might have been based on certain misunderstandings; that some of what they believed for so many years, might have been fabricated lies or deceitful half-truths.

Some people are afraid to face possible tears of regret, to face a possible deep sorrow for what their country cruelly has done to other people, to us, and to our own children and other relatives.

Some people are afraid to face having to go to work knowing that the company they work for earns its money by deceiving or cheating others; that the education they got was replete with half-truths and important missing facts, the underlying truth of which, if told to them earlier, might very well have caused them mental anguish, pain, distrust, anger and sorrow.

So we were not told the truth. We became afraid of the truth. And so we were never told the truth. And now we remain uninformed, incomplete, and

in many ways have empty spaces in our very souls. Those empty spaces cheat us out of what otherwise might give us wisdom and centeredness.

To know the truth, you have to seek it out. That takes courage, lots of faith and lots of courage.

We all want to protect our children from unpleasantness and in some sense there is a part of all of us that has left us all, in a way.. *still children*. We are innocent and uninformed and at the same time—believing what we were once taught, and still being afraid of unpleasantness—we presume that purposely avoiding unpleasantness somehow makes us more innocent.

But that fear of the truth in us—when combined with the same fear that others have—has sometimes resulted in the death, destruction, impoverishment, and great suffering of peoples who never deserved and don't deserve to be treated that way, yet continue to be treated that way, because there's not yet enough of us willing to stand up, face the truth, and put an end to the injustice.

We also need to ask for forgiveness for the wrongs that we/our country have inflicted on others. We are incomplete in ourselves to the extent that we never do want to ask for that forgiveness. But how can we honestly ask for

forgiveness before we realize and understand what part we played in causing others so much pain and suffering.

By the end of the Vietnam war, more than 58,000 of our soldiers had died there. But then later...

"By some estimates, the number of Vietnam vets who have committed suicide has exceeded the 58,000-plus who died in combat." ²

What those soldiers saw and did there they could not reconcile with the reality of how we think and how we live here... all of us being so unaware of what we allowed our leaders to do in our name that defiles our national soul. Three to four million Vietnamese and others died in that war... and like our vets, for no good reason whatsoever. The devastation we caused cannot be described here.

One mother whose son came back from the Vietnam War said, "I gave them a good boy and they sent me back a murderer." Not every soldier experienced the same war. Some witnessed great bravery and heroism amongst their fellow soldiers and amongst their so-called enemy as well. Many faced great hardship in these far off places. Some sat at desks or serviced planes or piloted boats and had no more understanding than those of us back home what our military and civilian leaders were up to, what the total picture was. Most followed orders without thinking what the consequences of their actions might be, for

they were trained not to think about such things. Most weren't qualified to think about such things. But I am not talking just about the Vietnam War. That is just one example out of many... too many.

One day, every American will know the truth about the good things and the awful things our country has done, and as for the awful things we are still doing, one day most of us will leave our homes and stand out in the street to let our neighbors and every other American know that we too know what they know.

And orders might very well be given to officers or soldiers by a frightened government to aim their guns and shoot at us for daring to stand out in the street like that... we thousands, or tens of thousands, or millions of people. But those receiving the orders will not fire their weapons; they will lay them down because they too will know, what their families know, that we have all been betrayed and we will not be betrayed, nor will we betray anyone else any longer.

We don't have to fight anyone... we only have to know in our hearts what the truth is, who we are, where we come from, and what we stand for.

Let me recommend to you the following two books. Read both. Though the titles sound similar, they deal with different but important facts and realities:

1: *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn

2: *The Untold History of the United States* by Oliver Stone and Peter Kuznick

And in addition to these two books there are now hundreds of books, articles, videos, and other communications that have been published from which you can choose, including some that I have written. A lot of other writings and authors can help you understand what you must understand if you want to know your country's past and the part that it has played, and is still playing (often insanely) in international, national, and local affairs. Our country's past is our past, the part our country played is the part we played. We are our country.

Some of what you read might make you angry; maybe even angry with me for bringing all this up. I don't know. But whatever you experience, I hope that you will have the courage to seek the truth wherever it might take you. If you do what I suggest with integrity, it will probably be the most difficult thing you have ever done. It was and still is for me. Share what you learn with others that others might be freed of disillusionment and misunderstanding.

In the end, I suggest that you will also have to face this challenge: to not only forgive yourself and others for what you/they once did or did not

do, or did not understand, but to take responsibility for your own humanity by being appropriate to what you now know, and who you are, who you have become.

I wish for you peace and happiness... truth, honor and dignity, compassion, courage and love.

Impeach the President, Dismantle the NSA, and Fire the top Echelon of our Military

8/8/2013

The President has betrayed his oath of office and so has every top official of the NSA, the FBI, the CIA, the US Military, and many other law enforcement agencies. If they weren't betraying us they would be aligned with what I and others have been saying for a long time... and they would be saying it too.

Most soldiers were trained to believe that if they are following orders, they are doing the right thing. And that's the way it should work. But they were never educated or trained to know when things are no longer working as they should be. What if those giving the orders betray the trust of those receiving them?

These people all took an oath to protect and defend the US Constitution and today very few of them are doing that. That's their job but obviously that's not what they do or think about. When you take an oath of office you are honor bound to keep your word regardless of what other people do. If you suspect wrong doing, and you're honorable, you will follow through. You can't clean a house if you are unwilling to look for dirt where you suspect it might be. Checks and

balances do not apply only to the three branches of government—they apply to all of us.

Just like the rule of law applies to all of us in equal measure, so does our word of honor.

Julian Assange, Bradley Manning, and Edward Snowden and others understand their obligation as citizens to protect and defend the honor of those who once had the courage to dedicate their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to making truth and integrity a way of life for all peoples, starting right here at home.

Many who came before lost their fortunes and their lives doing just that. We are no longer being led by such people although there are many people living in the United States today who do have the courage, the honor, and the ability to do what our Founders did.

Somehow too many of the leaders we now have no longer believe in freedom, justice, or honor. There is plenty of evidence to demonstrate that what I just said is true. In fact the evidence is overwhelming. Do you have the courage to take a look?

We, as a nation, are currently being unfaithful to basic concepts of truth, honor and the rule of law. The rest of the world is beginning to see it clearly. We must have the courage to look into the mirror at what we have become.

Our government is suppose to protect our freedoms and system of justice, not destroy them; and not trample on other people when they try to be as free as we once set out to be.

The higher up in office or rank our leaders get, the less they appear to understand what freedom is all about... the less conscience they seem to have... the less they seem to respect the value of simply telling the truth. They can't conceive of people living in freedom under systems where leaders openly tell the truth, admit and take responsibility for their mistakes, defend justice, and value life.

Enough of all this talk. We now know what we need to know. We have been betrayed. The proof is outlined and described in tens of thousands of articles, videos, and other communications already offered by me and so many others. What else do you need to know?

Well you won't know unless and until you look into things for yourself and not simply believe what I or your usual sources tell you.

You don't need to fight anyone. You just need to believe in yourself and in the truth. Seek the truth out for yourself, and eventually the truth will set you free if you don't give up on yourself or be afraid to be who you really are and how you truly want to live. As God is my witness.

Don't Make Me Laugh

8/2/2013

Bradley Manning was convicted by a military court on the charge of espionage and Edward Snowden was just granted temporary asylum by the Soviet Union. Espionage originally was defined as any attempt to interfere with military operations, to support U.S. enemies during wartime, to promote insubordination in the military, or to interfere with military recruitment.

In my view, Bradley Manning did just the opposite of espionage; same for Snowden. It is the President and other officials in the US Government that not only have supported the enemies of the U.S. but have themselves become enemies of the U.S. by trampling on the U.S. Constitution and on the People who are the sovereigns of this nation. What Manning, Snowden and others did was what was required of them and what is required of all of us... which is to say, to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all its enemies foreign and domestic. This court proceeding was just one more affront to the Constitution and the sovereign People who have pledged to live by and for it.

Aren't you sometimes ashamed to be a Jew? I am. When I was a kid my mother made me go to Hebrew school where they talked about our heritage and how in Egypt we were once slaves. They taught me to love freedom and to be proud of my heritage and all that 'BS.' I say 'BS' because all of a sudden I find out that they just teach that stuff to kids but when you grow up, no one really wants you, or expects you, to believe or live that way.

I mean it's just Santa Claus and the Tooth Fairy. Look at what so many Jews are doing to the Palestinians. Yuk. (Not all, of course.)

I went to a Scottish Clan Gathering not too long ago. There were thousands of people there. My wife was so proud of her heritage. She thought all the men looked so dashing in their kilts. At the opening ceremony when all the bands came in — a hundred pipes blaring — she said, can you imagine what their enemies must have felt when they heard these pipes coming over the hill knowing they were about to go into battle with these people? Yeah, that was impressive.. But during the ceremony they sang the national anthems of Scotland, England, Canada, and the US.

Oh say can you see by the dawn's early light... blah, blah, blah... *and the land of the free and the home of the brave.* What a joke. And God save the Queen. Oh my goodness. God save the Queen! Like maybe Kings and Queens stood for freedom as England built its empire by crushing the freedom, hopes and dreams of peoples in every corner of the world, including its own people who toiled night and day so the Royal family could be filthy rich. 'Let them eat cake.'

All that pomp and circumstance... signifying nothing. All those thousands of people in one place and not one word about the fact that the US

government is now recording and storing every phone call and every email of every person there, perhaps using that information to blackmail some and destroy others, as a small elite faction of our population, right in front of our eyes, is plotting to usurp the freedom of every American citizen, and every other world citizen... and what do you hear about that when all those kilts get together? Not a word. At least not that I heard.

And how about blacks? Do you think that Martin Luther King, if he were the keynote speaker at some event, would let an occasion go by without saying a word or two about the treason that is blossoming right in front of our eyes. You would think a people who not so long ago were slaves and are now free — (I use that term loosely) — would not just stand idly by as their hard won freedoms after hundreds of years of slavery would simply disappear. You would think it might inspire them to voice some outrage at being returned to their former status by their own country that pretends to stand for freedom. (That whites might join them this time is not that much of a consolation.)

But what's the response?—not much really. We're so proud to have a black president. Taught Constitutional law, you know. Right. Except that here and there, there are a few voices. A few of them still remember Martin Luther King. If you

recall, he was more interested in a person's character than in the color of their skin.

Look around. Where is there a country, religion, race, sex, college, university, city, state, party, arm of government or agency, major newspaper, TV, or radio station, corporation, club, or major gathering of any kind whose members are insulted by the fact that the US government, (with the support or silence of just about every other government in the world), is in the business of deceiving and subjugating its own people, betraying them by taking away their privacy and destroying the very idea of liberty and democracy itself. And all you hear is a few people here and there saying anything at all about it or doing anything about it. Read the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). You have read it recently haven't you? I mean really.

Women want the freedom to choose whether or not to have an abortion, and gays want to marry each other, but they haven't said all that much about losing every other right and freedom the Constitution promises them. But then again, who has. Not many.

What part of my heritage or your heritage are we supposed to be proud of? Which people from which country, religion, race, sex, or other organ of society should we belong to and be proud of because as a member of that group we all stand

for something, believe in something worth taking a risk to defend — really?

What do you stand for? What group do you belong to that really stands for anything at all. Please, please !! Don't make me laugh.

If you and/or your group are the exception, I hope you understand... please forgive me... I'm not referring to you.

Now I understand that most people so far remain unaffected by the loss of their privacy. And so they think, what's the big deal. The big deal is that this is just the beginning. With the loss of privacy it becomes almost impossible to oppose further degradation of the Constitution. How do you plan a strategy to protest or pass legislation if your opposition knows every move you intend to make. Lose your privacy; lose your right to speak out and challenge injustice, and you've lost your freedom.

Liberty lies in the hearts and minds of men and women;
when it dies there, no constitution, no law,
no court can save it; no constitution,
no law, no court can even do much to help it..."

—Judge Learned Hand

First they came for the Jews... and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the Communists...and I did not speak out because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the trade unionists... and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for me...

...and there was no one left to speak out for me.

— Pastor Martin Niemöller

2013... First they came for the whistleblowers...

What to Do About the NSA and Our Freedoms

7/23/2013

Here's what I am thinking. We all need to upgrade our courage and integrity. The NSA, et.al. have destroyed the integrity of the internet and our communications systems. It is wrong for us to accept this. My recommendation is that every citizen should from this point forward refrain from purchasing any additional hardware or software from any company having to do with communications until we fix this unconstitutional fraud and deception.

All of the companies that we use have betrayed us. Apple and Microsoft, for example, have many billions of dollars in their coffers and yet they don't have enough honor and patriotism to spend some of that money to hire lawyers to challenge the legality of having to provide the NSA with secret back-door access to our information without a court order as the Constitution requires.

We don't know which companies have provided the NSA with back door access to our computers or phones. I feel sort of sick now every time I get a message from a software company that wants me to update their program, because I don't know if they are trying to protect my security and

privacy or only updating the NSA's ability to hack my computer. How can I trust any of them.

They have all betrayed us. They should have been leading the charge to protect our security, rights, and freedoms, but instead... profits come first.

Where are all the Snowden(s) in the country who know how to read the Constitution? Why are we accepting this treason without a fight?

I say, take this message that I am writing, expand on it if you want to, and send it to everyone you know and ask them not to buy or download anything else from any company that could possibly be part of our communications systems, unless that company can certify that they have not acquiesced to improper, unconstitutional, illegal, immoral, or unworthy activities requested by anyone, including and most particularly the US Government. That is the least we can and should do.

I'm not asking anyone to sacrifice their income or well-being. I'm just suggesting that if you can put off your purchase, with perhaps a minor amount of inconvenience, it's worth the effort in order to preserve our freedoms and security.

It is not I who am asking you to muck up the system; it is our government that is mucking up the system... and if we have any courage or sense left, we will not pay, support, or allow these

cowardly, treasonous people to perfect the NSA's ability to cheat us out of our rights and freedoms because they are too afraid to defend the Constitution and stand up for what is right.

Each of us has a role to play, as citizens, in standing up for our own rights and freedoms. You may think that since you don't care about politics enough to talk or write about or complain about what's going on that you are safe and have nothing to worry about from the NSA or other agency. But that's just not true.

Our elected representatives, judges, lawyers, teachers, people in business... anyone... can be blackmailed or otherwise cheated by those who secretly acquire personal information on those who are in a position to make decisions that affect all of us, including legislation, court cases, jury decisions, zoning laws, contracts, or any kind of political initiative at all.

Everyone's security and future can be compromised by people who are able to gain unfair advantage over other people... and one way they are trying to do that is to secretly acquire private information they have no right to have. If we allow them to do this, our security and freedoms are doomed even if we are not the ones who have the information that is secretly being stolen.

If you believe in freedom, stand up for our rights. Do not support those who have betrayed our trust and lack the courage or decency to stand up for us and with us. Do not buy products from people who cannot certify that they have not acquiesced to improper, unconstitutional, illegal, immoral, or unworthy activities requested by anyone, including and most particularly the US Government.

Our anti-virus software should be protecting us against unlawful searches, not helping the government bypass our attempts at protecting ourselves. Is that what they're doing?

Where are all the Adults?

7/16/2013

I've had my fill—at least for the moment—of what's not working. What I would prefer to concentrate on now is what we can do about it. Surprisingly, while I do have some suggestions, I don't have any easy answers.

The older I get, the more it seems that most of us never really grew up. Not really. We all still seem to be immature adolescent children underneath our wrinkles, chubby bodies and thinning hair. I mean there are perhaps 200,000 people working for the NSA, FBI etc. and each one of them took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution.

Did the powers that be really think that none of them would ever break their silence after discovering that what they were being asked to do is specifically prohibited by the Constitution and the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)?

And then when the powers that be get caught, they make excuses, blame the truth tellers and conspire to take vengeance upon them.

These powers that be...too embarrassed to simply admit they just got caught with their hand in the cookie jar, are too afraid to face the music and tell the truth about what they've been doing.

How immature is that? And these people are still pretending they're grown up adults even though most everyone else can see through their flimsy facade. It's kind of foolish when you consider that what's at stake is freedom itself, the rule of law, and the well-being of every nation, every family, and every person on the planet.

I used to think that any effort one makes to improve things is better than nothing, but now I even question that. If we protest in the streets we will be facing people just like ourselves in a way. The police and security agents are really just our neighbors who have jobs and bills to pay like the rest of us. And apparently, like a lot of us, when given the choice between retaining their job... or their honor and dignity...they lean more heavily towards keeping their job. Well, how can you blame them? And yet the price we all pay is freedom itself. There are exceptions, of course. But the price wouldn't be so high if more people stood up for their own rights and freedoms.

The police and other government agents agree to take orders from superiors who are supposed to have good common sense, along with some courage, honor, and wisdom, but who turn out to be particularly challenged and clueless in those four areas.

Maybe that's understandable, when you consider how much risk and how much courage it took for

Edward Snowden, and others before him, to make their decisions. One certainly has to admire the maturity and strength of character it took for them to finally choose the most difficult but also the most honorable path. Snowden provided a great service to every person on the planet, to our posterity, and indeed, to the very cause of freedom itself. We can only hope his courage and possible sacrifice wasn't in vain.

The real culprits, if there are any real culprits, never have to enter the fray so to speak in pursuing their goals. When there's push back from angry and betrayed citizens, the culprits hire "goons" with guns, tear gas and batons to do the dirty work for them. So what I'd like to know is how do we get the "goons" to lay down their weapons when apparently there's a reserve of misdirected, under-educated "goons" ready to take them up again if they do? Not an easy problem to solve.

Amazingly, I find very little discussion about real solutions... and by solutions I don't mean how things ought to be... once things have changed. I mean how do we get to a place where there's a real chance of putting those kinds of changes into effect... without too much bloodshed, that is? Maybe what I'm asking is what everyone's been trying to figure out. We're all doing our best, I suppose, but it looks to me like the situation is just getting worse in spite of our efforts.

More and more, the world is looking like an insane asylum run by the inmates... or at best, people looking like, but only pretending to be, mature adults. So where are all the grown-ups? That's what I'd like to know. We sure could use some right about now.

Corrupting the Morals and Sensibilities of a Population

2013

This article expands on something I wrote in 2003, entitled *How I See It* (p. 824).

Recent revelations, that certain agencies and/or corporations are recording and saving every email and phone communication citizens make, indicate that the US is deeply engaged in corrupting the morals and sensibilities of American citizens and perhaps a significant part of the entire human population.

I think it's imperative that we ask ourselves how it affects a person's mental health and psyche to know that every electronic communication he or she engages in is being recorded, saved, and possibly read, listened to and perhaps even shared with unknown others, now or in the future, and for who knows what purpose.

I don't communicate with every person in the same way even if I am conversing with them on the same topic. In fact, it would be inappropriate for me to talk about some things the same way to different people. With some people it is appropriate to share one's most intimate thoughts and feelings, whereas it might be totally inappropriate to do so with others. I also believe

it is totally inappropriate for you or anyone else to secretly eavesdrop on any communication I might have with anyone I choose.

And certainly, eavesdropping on other people's conversations won't necessarily provide the eavesdropper with an appropriate contextual framework to truly understand what is being said, meant, or construed.

The government is corrupting the morals of any agent they are paying to eavesdrop and record my or your communications. The government can't be trusted to use this information appropriately. There is no such thing as "appropriately" in this context.

Furthermore, the knowledge that a government would institute and then defend such a practice corrupts the morals of everyone who understands what is being done, and who at the same time accepts it as a legitimate way for a government to conduct its business. In point of fact, it identifies the American government as an illegitimate, immoral, and unenlightened institution, and, if allowed to continue, it identifies the American people as a docile and subservient lot, disrespected, mistreated, and unloved by those who were entrusted with their well-being.

By insisting that software, internet, phone, and other related companies allow the government secret back door access to information I might

have in my computer or phone also corrupts the morals of those working for such companies. It forces their employees, knowingly or unknowingly, to pretend, lie, and deceive their customers about what it does or doesn't do. It undermines the Constitution and corrupts the entire enterprise we call America. It creates mistrust, divides people, adds to fear, crushes hope, promotes sadness, and makes a mockery of one's patriotism.

Ordinary citizens, knowing that their communications might be monitored and one day used for illegitimate purposes are likely to alter, consciously or unconsciously, the way they communicate with one another. Instead of encouraging people to be honest and open with one another, it almost forces them to do just the opposite. Instead of society becoming more open and honest, it will tend to make society a more closed off, fearful, and lonely place.

If we only feel comfortable being open and honest with people we meet face to face, the quality, depth, and breadth of our relationships will diminish and become less rewarding. And soon even our face to face meetings will be less honest.

This new reality is not for the advancement of the human condition; it is a giant and tragic step backwards for every person on the planet.

It doesn't matter if you or I have anything to hide or not, although I would venture to say that we all have a right to hide some of our thoughts and feelings from whomever we choose, especially when we have no idea who might become privy to them in a deceitful manner, or how they might use that information, even after we have taken honorable pains to share our special thoughts and feelings privately and exclusively with very special people in our lives.

Furthermore, the potential and probability that such a system will be abused is almost surely as close to 100% as one can get, particularly when you consider what the state of consciousness must be of those who would think up such a program in the first place and put it into effect in a manner that disrespects the Constitution, the People, every government employee, and a great many businesses.

Honorable, well educated, thinking people will not want to do this kind of work and so over time those who do end up in these jobs will be those most likely to abuse their position of trust, particularly when they find out that there is no effective way to report or correct whatever abuse they see going on around them. And the government will not want to hire people of high moral character (like the Bradley Manning(s) and Edward Snowden(s) of the world) because you

never know what such people might do when asked to perform disreputable tasks.

To give up one's freedom and the right to develop inspiring, honest, loving personal and working relationships, which is in some sense what life is all about, in order that the government might one day be able to intercept some remote terrorist plot is an idea so lacking in both truth and wisdom that I admit to having no adequate words to describe it. It is much more likely to inspire terrorism than to discourage it. Maybe that's what our burgeoning security industry is really trying to do. This is not what democratic governments do, nor what a sovereign people would ever accept.

I'm not saying that governments should refrain from monitoring potential enemies. But whatever methods a legitimate government develops to protect its citizenry, their strategies need to be honestly and legitimately structured so that those providing oversight are qualified, fully informed, people of unquestioned integrity who have the strength of character to insure that the rights and freedoms of ordinary citizens are protected to the highest degree possible. Informed sources indicate that proper oversight to the program now in operation is not in any sense available, nor do we currently have in place what any well informed person of integrity might call a legitimate government.

Will We Ever Know True Freedom Again

7/3/2013

The following is a letter I wrote that was published in my town's local newspaper on July 2, 2013

Dear Editor,

Last month you printed a letter I wrote in which I said that Obama ought to be impeached. I also said that what we need is to have a public airing of what is happening to our Constitution. Since then we have the revelations of Edward Snowden and Russ Tice, whistleblowers who tell us that the government has recorded for some time now the contents of every email and phone call we've made. This means that any citizen or public official can now conceivably be blackmailed and/or shut down by the NSA or whoever it is that controls this information. So this revelation has convinced me that I was wrong to advocate for Obama's impeachment. The truth is that we have no mechanism by which he could be impeached and have his impeachment make a difference. Most members of Congress, the Supreme Court, military leaders and captains of industry, particularly those who run the so-called fourth estate and the military-industrial complex that Eisenhower talked about are now so

corrupted, that we no longer have what can legitimately be called in the United States, a true democracy. To restore the rights and freedoms the Constitution promises would require that the people who have had such a corrupting influence, acknowledge their infidelity, tell the full truth about what they've done and what they know, and then step aside so that we might try again to form a more perfect union. Frankly, I don't believe this is going to happen. We live in a very special place here on Vashon, and yet I'm left to wonder... if the citizens of every other town and city in the country care as much about protecting our rights and freedoms as most Vashon residents do, will our children and grandchildren ever know true freedom again?

—Mark A. Goldman

The Implications of the Surveillance State

7/01/2013

Even those who are deeply incensed at the thought that the NSA and others are snooping on every American do not necessarily understand what the implications are; how this program has already destroyed most of what we thought it meant to live in America.

Most Americans do not realize that the country that exists in their minds has already been dismantled. In some sense this ignorance is now our only hope... but only because our illusions are really our cherished memory of what we think we have and what we really want. Only now what we think we have no longer exists and if that's what we still want, it will have to be reclaimed... it will have to be won all over again for we now live under a tyranny that we don't all yet recognize or experience because up until now the dismantling of the Constitution has been a secret or at best a taboo topic for public discussion.

No branch of government now operates as it was originally intended or visualized by the Framers. Those who are in control have corrupted every important aspect of what it means to live in freedom and in a democracy. We have to deeply

lie to ourselves in order not to see what we have become as a nation, as a people.

Those who hold high office are being blackmailed. They live in fear of losing face, status, reputation, position, money, or whatever is important to them. They follow orders and no longer think for themselves. Many don't even know that what they believe has been programmed into them, defining the limits of what they are allowed to think if they wish to hold onto their position in life. You don't have to be an elected official for this to happen to you.

To be elected to public office requires that you gain favor from certain individuals who possess wealth and power. And yet you can't get elected unless you get enough votes. So to get elected and to stay in office you have to tell voters what they want to hear but later, behind closed doors, do just the opposite of what you told them. You have to ignore injustices you discover and sign legislation that contributes to injustice in ways you may not even understand. And those injustices can include some of the most horrific crimes that human beings can contemplate and carry out against other human beings. You have to spend your time dialing for dollars rather than doing the people's business. You have to pass legislation that funnels money into the hands of the already privileged and undeserving few at the expense of ordinary citizens. You have to support

war and war crimes. You have to tow the party line, fall into place, and follow the lead of people you fear. If you don't fall into line you can be destroyed by someone who has the goods on you and knows how to use that illegally gathered information to get what they want. There are exceptions, of course, but you live and operate within the confines and in an atmosphere of systemic corruption. And this is true whether you are a judge, an elected official, or an appointee to a position of power.

The specifics that prove what I am saying is true are what whistleblowers have been trying to tell us and what those in power don't want us to know; for if too many of us did know and understand, and if we believed in ourselves, we might actually try to do something about it and succeed.

Of course if we never try and don't succeed, we will continue to lose more of our freedoms, our wealth, our dignity, and our happiness.

Regarding the Criminality of Edward Snowden

6/30/2013

I keep hearing, particularly in the mainstream media, that Edward Snowden has broken the law. Even Edward Snowden confirms that he has broken the law. But let's take a look at this law that has been broken; let us shine a light on it, and examine it carefully:

Congress passed laws which essentially gave permission to certain government agencies, (at least according to how they secretly interpreted them), to engage in extremely serious crimes and unconstitutional activities, and to keep those crimes secret and require the same of anyone who becomes aware of them, and further, to take no action to inhibit or prevent those nefarious crimes from continuing.

What Snowden and others have done is ignore this legislation, and instead of accepting as valid any law that sanctions crimes and unconstitutional activities, the whistleblowers have honored their sacred oath and citizenship responsibilities, namely, to steadfastly preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution against any enemy, foreign or domestic, which, as it turns out, includes the very people who passed these laws and those who use this legislation as cover to

engage in, cover up, and lie about their unconscionable crimes and immoral activities.

What we now know... what has been revealed to us is that there are a great many enemies of the Constitution now operating in the United States who have acquired the power to do great harm to the Constitution and the citizens of this country for their own selfish purposes. Among them include many of our elected officials (including the President and members of Congress), but also many judges, lawyers, appointed officials, members of the military, those who run the security apparatus of the government, operatives in the mainstream media, and others who have been willing to sacrifice their honor and integrity for personal profit, position, or power, such as corporate executives and consultants who are part of what has been called the military-industrial complex.

What we know now is that Edward Snowden and other whistleblowers are attempting to bring to light what essentially amounts to the effective overthrow of the legitimate government of the United States. Snowden and others are honorable, brave, and steadfast patriots who possibly have saved the nation from ruin. If we are unable now to save the Constitution from those who would destroy it, along with the hopes and dreams of every American and our posterity, it will not be the failure of the likes of Edward Snowden.

Let us tell and describe in great detail to the American people what laws Snowden and others have broken; how those laws are being implemented, and why Snowden and others have stood against them. Let us tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. And let us deal appropriately with those who try to keep the truth from us. So far, the truth has not been told because those who live and perpetrate lies are hiding behind the most egregious illusion, smoke screen, and lie they would have us believe: that to tell the truth will put us in danger.

Someone once said, seek the truth and the truth shall set you free. What he might have failed to remind his listeners, was that the failure to do just that will, in times like these, most certainly cause you to lose whatever freedoms you still have left... possibly for the rest of your life, and maybe the lifetimes of your posterity for generations to come.

I say to you, if we fail to seek the truth, we will lose our freedoms, our joy, and the right to pass these sacred gifts on to our children and grandchildren. Now, like never before, is the time for all good people to seek and find courage, honor, strength, and faith, in pursuit of the truth... and justice, and forgiveness too.

In honor of, and with great admiration for, all those who have found and keep searching for truth, honor, dignity, compassion, courage, and love.

Let's make one thing clear: I am not suggesting that every citizen become an expert in political matters or spend great numbers of hours trying to study the past political actions of every candidate for public office. But what I am suggesting is that any citizen who pursues his or her life with an attitude of seeking truth, honor, dignity, compassion, courage, and love in whatever they do will develop keener skills in identifying candidates for public office who do the same.

After all, every office holder in this country takes an oath of office and yet how many office holders today, whether Democrat or Republican or whatever, actually stands up and tells the truth about what the leaders of his or her party are pursuing and what effect those pursuits are having on the integrity of the Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or on the pursuit of justice. Anyone who is afraid of standing up and telling the truth do not deserve your vote, no matter what office they hold or seek.

The Opportunity of a Lifetime

6/24/2013

America - A place where a handful of individuals who stayed true to their oath of office and citizenship responsibilities have exposed hundreds of elected officials and thousands of lap-dog journalists as betrayers of their country and their professions... something they have apparently been for a very long time. The disclosure of their infidelity, which is confirmed by their lies and the hypocritical reaction to the unveiled truth as it is now revealed and available for anyone who wants to examine it, has shaken the trust of many citizens who could never before have conceived that their well known elected officials and journalists could stray so far from their stated purpose and the trust their fellow citizens had in them. The hypocrisy will be almost too much for many to bear.

On the other hand, this disclosure offers this nation and perhaps other nations too, the greatest opportunity of our lifetimes. We now have disclosed to us the information we needed to further expose and foil the plans of those who would have enslaved us and our posterity for an eternity. Instead, if we act with wisdom, determination, honor and good will, we have the opportunity to turn this treason around and bring our government and our culture into alignment

with the hopes and dreams of citizens throughout the world.

Let us now reclaim our country's stated ideals and move toward a world that believes in and aspires to make the dignity of the human spirit a reality. Let us not fail. Let us pursue and honor always... the truth. Let us seek our freedom and share the blessings of freedom with everyone who welcomes it and everyone who is willing to learn and grow and strive to make it a reality.

Truth or Treason: Where Do We Go From Here

6/23/2013

We now know that Obama had his communications monitored by one or more government agencies and/or private corporations while he was still a Senator. We also know that since becoming President his policies are 180 degrees opposite to what he said they were going to be before taking his oath of office. It is only natural to suspect that one possible explanation for why he is betraying his own well spoken words and sentiments then is that he is being blackmailed by whoever is now in control of the government, which conceivably might be a group of people we never even heard of, let alone elected to public office.

Certainly, any thinking person who is even half awake and has any sense of justice, (including the Barack Obama who was once a candidate for President), knows that Julian Assange, Bradley Manning, Edward Snowden and others, were honoring their sacred duty when they had the courage to alert us as to how the President and those who run the NSA (and/or others who hold positions of power) are violating their sacred duty.

Every citizen and public servant has a sacred duty to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution against any enemy foreign or domestic. That obligation trumps any other promise or consideration any of us might make along the way. No one is obligated, nor should anyone obey, any law that violates the fundamental rights of citizens as spelled out in the Constitution. If anyone is guilty of treason or otherwise betraying their oath of office it is those who conspired to plan, execute, and then cover up the infrastructure and their misdeeds by which our fundamental rights as citizens have been dismantled.

Unfortunately, we now know that most of our elected officials and others who took an oath of office have been negligent—(some criminally negligent, some criminally inclined, some simply incompetent)—in executing their responsibilities as public servants. To correct these crimes will require that they do much more than have a change in attitude. They have clearly demonstrated that they are incapable of living up to their sacred responsibilities and our trust. They need to step down or be removed and be replaced.

The level of infidelity that permeates our government and many of our institutions demonstrates that the culture in which we and they currently conduct the affairs of state are

fundamentally corrupt... and a cancer on the Republic. Whether that can be corrected remains to be seen.

Those who put their lives on the line to try to warn us in hopes of saving the union are heroes, and until they are treated as such, we are all in grave danger of losing our lives, our freedoms, our financial well-being, and our happiness.

The only thing that can save us now from certain tyranny is the Truth. If those who have first hand knowledge of where injustice dominates our institutions and public spaces are unwilling to come forward and tell the truth about it, and/or if we are unwilling to listen and learn and take responsibility for cleaning up those spaces, this Republic will not survive. If citizens who know where the skeletons are buried come forward and we, in a spirit of good will, take responsibility for cleaning up the mess, maybe we have a chance.

In the words of Ben Franklin, "It's a Republic, madam, if you can keep it." Well, now the day has come when we're all going to find out if we can. May God help us all find our honor, our faith, and our courage.

The NSA has Corrupted Thousands of American Companies

6/16/2013

The NSA has corrupted and ruined the reputation of thousands of American companies. I have read and now have reason to believe that the government asked for and received from financial, software and hardware companies secret back door access to the computers and software they provide to their customers. This fundamentally threatens my business and my Constitutional rights, because it means that if I write or say something that some ignorant or unscrupulous government agency or official doesn't like, I am potentially threatened by their power to shut me down or otherwise take revenge on me for whatever it is they might not like.

Without taking any action at all, they have destroyed my fundamental rights and freedoms simply by having the illegitimate power to hurt me without due process of law. They operate in secret and therefore are unaccountable for their actions leaving me with the burden of having to worry whether or not I have the right to speak my mind to defend myself or the Constitution.

I regularly download updates to my Microsoft software, but how do I know now that what I am downloading is there to protect me or make me more vulnerable to a back door assault. I don't know that now and how can I trust anyone's word on this matter? Microsoft does not know how the government might use its powers and government officials lie whenever they want to. The same can be said for any other program or hardware I use, including my cell phone. In fact, every American software company is now damaged because we don't know and cannot know which companies have been corrupted and which have not been.

This is the beginning of tyranny and the government has no right to seek such power regardless of what its motives are.

Every citizen is obligated to protect and defend the Constitution from any enemy foreign or domestic and our greatest enemy now is our own government and the companies with whom they partner. And the people who work for these companies have also been damaged because they have to fear that to deny the government what it asks for might damage their business or their personal careers.

The government is unraveling the Constitution in front of our eyes and our freedoms are now hanging by a thread and whether or not we can

turn this around is problematic to say the least. But one thing is clear: if we don't turn it around, our Constitution is destroyed and we are no longer a free and sovereign people.

Attacking Edward Snowden

6/14/2013

Some people have been asking how it is possible that 29 year old Edward Snowden, our most recent whistleblower, was hired and given so much authority when he was a high school and college dropout who eventually only got his high school credentials through a G.E.D. program. They ask, how could anyone so young be given so much responsibility particularly when he has such an undistinguished educational background?

Interestingly, this is not an indictment of Snowden or those who hired him. If anything, it is an indictment of our failed educational system: a system which every year graduates from high school and college people who have been programmed to not think for themselves; in fact, programmed to forget, that a person's character is a critically essential part of being an educated, intelligent, useful contributor to society. How many college graduates now employed by our government or industry simply do what they are told to do without considering whether or not their jobs constitute useful work and honorable citizenship? Among those asking questions about Snowden are elected officials, who spend most of their time raising money for future election

campaigns rather than doing the job they were hired to do.

Apparently, by not staying in school, Snowden was able to retain his ability to think for himself and then muster the courage to do what honor required of him despite the misanthropic forces that now would rather have him simply follow orders and hopefully forget why he and his classmates used to put their hands over their hearts and pledge allegiance to a republic that promised liberty and justice for all..

To Those Who Don't Mind Government Recording All Their Communications Since They Are Doing Nothing Wrong and Have Nothing to Hide

6/9/2013

Given that we now have ample evidence that our government regularly betrays our trust and commits horrific crimes, the problem with that same government recording every communication or act we initiate or receive, by phone or on-line, is that trying to stop them now will likely be dangerous or improbable for anyone who tries.

Such a government can conceivably steal anyone's money or identity, be able to infect anyone's computer, corrupt, detain, or impersonate anyone's communications, resort to black mail, threaten anyone's loved ones, prevent them from succeeding at any job, from regaining their sovereignty as a citizen, or effectively opposing government crime.

Any government that would secretly aggregate such power to itself lacks respect for the sovereignty of its people. What they have done is expressly prohibited under the Constitution making its execution a high crime and misdemeanor. It is naked treason—which is to

say, a small group of individuals conspiring to place themselves above the sovereignty of citizens—and if not that, certainly one of the greatest acts lacking in wisdom ever undertaken in secret by a group of government employees and private contractors now conspiring to cover up and justify their crimes and stupidity.

And even if no government agency or private contractor actually uses these new diabolical powers, there is no way they can guarantee that some rogue employee, who knows how to navigate the system, could not figure out how to do so for their own illegitimate purposes.

How do we know that the data collected has not already been used to compromise some or most of our elected officials, forcing them into silence while others vote for or accept policies that no honorable public servant would believe is in our country's best interest? We don't!

Part of the problem is that the fear of failure on the part of those working in security are blinded to the unintended consequences of their solutions. Allowing any government agency to obtain this kind of power is a greater threat to our freedoms than any terrorist organization could ever be; it's the infrastructure for tyranny. Our elected officials risk our freedom and our safety every time they betray their oath of office and

now we know a great many of them do so on a regular and consistent basis.

And if all this is still ok with you, I suppose it's time to close the book on Ben Franklin's admonition, "It's a Republic, Madam, if you can keep it."

I guess we cannot.

<http://www.commondreams.org/video/2013/06/07-1>

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article35212.htm>

"Liberty lies in the hearts and minds of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it..."

—Judge Learned Hand

Our National Emergency

6/5/2013

Quote the Raven... Nevermore!

After you've read and researched hundreds or thousands of related articles by credible authors as I have done, it becomes obvious that the Constitution is no longer the law of the land. It was abused, now fallen into disuse, no longer being preserved, protected, defended, or followed by the President, Congress, or the Supreme Court. It isn't being defended by most military personnel, civil servants, or other professionals who took an oath to defend it when they were licensed and/or authorized to work in their respective careers. Likewise, what we call the fourth estate is also ignoring and abusing its purpose and mandate.

It is easy to provide evidence that the President and Congress now only follow the Constitution when it is convenient to do so. When it gets in their way, they circumvent the rule and/or spirit of the law without consequence. War and war crimes are regularly pursued, invasions of citizen's privacy is ubiquitous, the writ of habeas corpus is suspended, cruel and unusual punishments are carried out in secret, while secrecy at all levels of government has become the standard operating procedure for abusing

human rights and honorable process. Principles of justice, freedom, and basic human decency are ignored as certain classes of individuals have separated themselves into those who are above the law and those who are not. Those who are above the law have been enormously enriched, while most of those who are not above the law, have been, or in the foreseeable future will likely be, impoverished. Ignorance and avoidance of the law, of principles of justice, of honor and fairness is not limited to those who promised to make it their life's work to understand, preserve and protect the Constitution. The lack of concern and dedication to its principles is now the general state of consciousness of most ordinary citizens and professionals alike. The overwhelming evidence is their ignorance, their silence, and their personal abdication of responsibility. Most will say, "He's not talking about me, he's talking about them." Well, if most citizens honored their citizenship responsibilities, the Constitution would still be the law of the land and nothing I'm saying would be at all necessary.

With most citizens, elected officials, officers of the court, members of the military, now... allowing, ignoring, and denying the perpetration of egregious affronts to principles of justice and freedom... the Constitution has been, for all intents and purposes, terminated. The evidence is overwhelming for anyone who takes the time, has the heart, and cares enough to review it.

How the Banks are Going to Eat Your Lunch

May 15, 2013

If you've been paying attention, you've noticed that the stock market has been doing quite well lately. At the same time, most citizens are struggling, trying to make ends meet. Stocks are not breaking new highs because business is booming and sales and profits are high; they're breaking new highs because banks are using the \$85 QE3 Billions they get each month from the Fed to buy stocks and invest in a new crop of future black swan derivatives instead of loaning money to businesses to grow the economy (the way banks used to do).

I might point out that the Fed is not a government agency, although sometimes it's referred to as a quasi-governmental agency. It's really an organization made up of bankers whose main function is to support the interest of bankers. The Federal Reserve is the name they came up with to misdirect your mind.

The Fed manages the money supply under the ruse that what they do is for the good of all Americans, and because they have this cool name, they've been given permission to create money out of nothing using a few strokes on their computer keyboards.

The Fed is often accused of printing too much money, but the truth is, they don't really print it; they just type a few numbers followed lots of zeros into certain accounts on a computer screen. That's how it's done these days. But that's beside the point.

Now you may have heard that with all the money the Fed is creating, we ought to be worried about runaway inflation. That's what it's called when a whole lot of newly created money chases the same amount of goods and services. But that's not what I see happening. First of all, the Fed is keeping interest rates close to zero. The banks are taking their monthly government QE3 fix and using it to inflate the stock market. Why would they do that? Well, they're hoping that pension fund managers - and you - will decide not to sit on the sidelines while stock prices keep going up, but rather will put more of your IRA, 401K, and 403B money into this great stock market in order to keep up with inflation. As this great bull market begins to permeate the American consciousness, they're hoping the momentum will grow so that more and more citizens will decide to get in on the action. When they do, the banks will be unloading their accumulated stock into this flood of new cash coming their way. Once the banks have gotten out of the market, or when QE3 stops, that's when prices will crash.

Why will prices crash? Because the prices being paid for stocks today are in no way justified by current or anticipated future corporate earnings. After all, the economy is still only limping along. Families are spending less because they have less to spend. Stocks are going up not because earnings are going through the roof. They're going up because the money the Fed created out of nothing is driving prices higher. The expected result will be, that you will take the money in your retirement accounts and exchange it for the stock the banks have been buying.

Soon thereafter, the value of your stock will go down 50 or 60%. No inflation. Just the inevitable behavior of an inscrutable stock market. The banks won't need QE4 because your money will make them whole or at least a lot better off than they are now.

The newly printed money created by the Fed as part of QE3 will not have entered the mainstream economy, it will have been used only to prime the pump until you get the idea to take your savings and buy a ticket to nirvana. When all is said and done, the banks will eat your lunch, but you will get the tummy ache.

If you think you are smart enough to make some money in the market and get out before the crash, lot's of luck. Most people who try will get

an experience they'll never forget. In the end, no one will suspect that this was a well thought out plan. It will be billed as just another market correction that happens sometimes in the stock market. Surely, no one could have seen it coming. Of course not.

Well, I wouldn't worry too much about it: I could be wrong, as I've been told I have been wrong about a lot of things.

Happy Trails.

Two Suggestions to Help the Ones You Love

4/19/2013

Democracy cannot survive in a society where a small minority of citizens owns and receives the lion's share of the nation's wealth and income. In the United States, those who own that wealth now easily dominate the media and corrupt the country's most important institutions — including the political process — in order to acquire for themselves an ever increasing share of the nation's bounty. In fact, our country is no longer managed or administered of, by, and for the People.

With a certain class of individuals now operating above and outside the law, the Constitution is essentially suspended, and the repercussions are reverberating throughout every corner of our society. These facts have been documented adequately by me and others. Citizens can no longer trust government officials to adhere to the rule of law, and confidence in our institutions is breaking down almost universally: citizens no longer believe that our system of health-care, our legal and law enforcement institutions, our banking system, the media, our transportation system, food production, our energy policies, our schools and institutions of higher learning, our scientific institutions, our military, or our domestic

and foreign policy initiatives are operating with integrity for the benefit of our society or the world community as a whole. Instead they operate for the benefit and profit of those who dominate our key institutions by virtue of the power that accrues to them through their ability to acquire wealth... not their acquired knowledge, wisdom or integrity.

Progress as we once thought of it is not happening. The Earth's ecology is degrading; a mass extinction has already begun. Economies are becoming more unstable. Peace is not advancing or anticipated. Critical thinking is taking a back seat to illusions, delusions and popular entertainment. Respect for the truth is dwindling. Standards of living are declining and democratic institutions are breaking down.

Not everyone agrees with this assessment. Some are oblivious or in a state of denial. Some say it's always been this way, but I don't think so. I think our posterity is on the verge of losing their birthright: the right to live in freedom and peace and receive the blessings of liberty, decency, and goodwill among peoples.

I know a lot of people now finally agree with what I am saying. Some people are awake and conscious to what's happened. These people — you — are the hope of the world. What I wrote above is a preface to making two suggestions

which I think could possibly make a difference. It might be our last and only chance:

1) Never again vote for any candidate for any public office who does not have the courage and integrity to tell the truth about the current state of affairs and explicitly demonstrate by word and action that they are prepared, willing, and able to keep their oath of office... which is to say, they understand what's happened and convincingly intend to restore "We the People" to our rightful place as sovereigns of our own republic and then honorably preserve, protect, and defend our Constitution and the rule of law.

(I might add, this means that very few of those currently in office — from local officials to the President of the United States — qualify for the office they now hold.)

2) Read and understand the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and devote your time and energy to making sure that each article is honestly being pursued by every organ of society, particularly those who occupy elective office and those institutions and organizations with which you personally engage and support.

With respect to Item 1 above, this probably means that our system of voting must change. If it does not, most citizens will continue to be afraid to vote for people we know we can believe in for fear that it will only help elect those we

particularly do not believe in. This has to change if we expect our grandchildren to live in a free country. We have to win back that freedom and to do that means we will have to reclaim our own honor, integrity, and muster the courage to change the way we participate in life and relate to the world we live in.

If You Don't Get a Grip, You and Your Family Will Continue to Lose

2/7/2013

You won't win if you lack integrity. Airplanes that aren't built with integrity are not safe to fly. Nothing built, managed, or pursued without integrity will be as solid and as strong as it could be. And to keep your freedom you will need all the strength and grit you can muster. And if you keep voting for people you know are criminals, potential criminals, or people who are willing to tolerate criminals, you are not going to live in a country that operates with integrity, or one that is governed by the rule of law.

I know that you believe that if you vote for third party or independent candidates for public office that you are wasting your vote, because you believe that other people will not vote with integrity. You believe they will continue to vote for the least worst criminal or potential criminal among the two major party candidates, and you would rather have what you think is the least worst criminal in power than the worst one. This strategy will never work. Never! That's a strategy that guarantees that criminals will always be in power.

So maybe you believe that among the two main choices at least one of them is not a criminal or

someone who will tolerate criminals. Maybe that's just because you haven't done enough research to find out what kinds of policies those candidates have pursued in the past. Maybe you haven't done your research with integrity.

I'm not talking about the policies they say they believe in and will pursue if elected; I'm talking about the policies the record shows they have actually pursued. My view is, that if they don't have a record of faithfully striving to keep their oath of office, which is to say, a persistent effort to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution, then they are not worthy of holding office. And I am not talking just about the office of President of the United States. I'm talking about any and every office where you get to vote for a candidate, for the winner of every election takes an oath of office before occupying their post.

The wisdom of this practice was meant to insure that the Constitution would be protected since every political office holder's first and primary responsibility was to make sure it was protected. How did we ever lose sight of that? I don't know.

How can you overcome the possibility that when you vote for someone who is truly worthy of your trust, someone else will have a better chance to win than your candidate? You can't. You can only try as hard as you can to convince others to vote with integrity too. If a majority of citizens will not

eventually figure out that their freedom and their happiness depends on their integrity, and vote accordingly, we will all surely lose. And if you can't understand that your freedom and happiness depends on your integrity and you continue to live and vote with your integrity impaired, you will lose. By now you should be able to see that you have already lost a great deal. You will continue to lose until you align your words and actions with what you really want.

With a government made up of honorable public servants... this is what the people of the richest country in the world would be enjoying right now, or could be enjoying in the near future, followed by the rest of humanity soon thereafter...

12/6/2012

1. Restoration of habeas corpus and all other rights guaranteed under the Constitution.
2. Unlimited single payer health and dental care for every citizen, including a national plan to insure adequate numbers of health-care providers to handle the needs of new entrants coming onto the rolls of the insured, so that health providers could do their jobs in an honorable and professional manner.
3. High speed internet service for every American. Unlimited, secure, and safe from government deceit.
4. Unlimited access to clean water for personal use.
5. Unlimited access to clean air for every citizen in every neighborhood.
6. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) ratified by the Senate, and a

- national plan to align all institutions with the goals stated therein.
7. Publicly funded elections.
 8. Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) for the elections of all elected officials.
 9. Reinstatement of the Glass-Steagall Act.
 10. Affordable higher education for all who are qualified to attend.
 11. No further funding of basic schools through real estate taxation. i.e., every student is entitled to the best primary education we can envision regardless of the financial resources of any student's parents or the value of the real estate where he or she lives.
 12. Clear recognition that corporations are not people and do not have the rights of citizens.
 13. Strict adherence to the separation of church and state at all government institutions, including the military.
 14. Strict adherence to the separation of business and government institutions. Government answers to and serves all The People, not just the wealthiest among them and their institutions.
 15. National program for rebuilding our transportation systems and other aspects of our social and physical infrastructure.
 16. National program for reaching energy sufficiency and sustainability in time to stop

- or reverse global warming and the destruction it could otherwise inflict on humanity.
17. Social Security taxation for all income earners above a certain amount to insure the indefinite sustainability of Social Security Benefits.
 18. Income safety net for the unemployed, needy, and disabled at similar levels achieved by other advanced societies.
 19. Return to legitimate rules for calculating the Consumer Price Index to insure fair cost of living increases of promised government benefits.
 20. Revision of penalties so that punishments are fair and appropriate to crimes committed and the elimination of corporate owned prisons where there is an economic incentive for prolonging incarceration as long as possible.
 21. Elimination of negotiated pleading of criminal offenses. i.e., no one has the right to offer someone accused of a criminal offense the right to plead to a lesser crime than he is accused of committing.
 22. A transparent, responsible, trustworthy government that adheres to the rule of law.
 23. Peaceful coexistence with the peoples of other countries who would have no reason to hate us.

24. A national commitment to seek and ask forgiveness, and make amends, for the crimes our government has inflicted on other peoples in our name.
25. But of course that would mean we would all first have to be a nation of honorable people who are educated and committed to building a society that recognizes the value of peace, justice, kindness and compassion in the running of all institutions including the government, law enforcement, and the military... for how else can we ever honor our commitment to our posterity.

There is No Fiscal Cliff

11/16/2012

There is no fiscal cliff. We already went over the fiscal cliff when we passed the Bush tax cuts in 2001. At that time (Feb, 2001) I wrote a commentary entitled “Bush’s Tax Tragedy” in which I said...

“The Bush plan is the greatest rip off that has ever been postulated. It probably represents the largest single publicly sponsored transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich that was ever purposely devised.”¹

It turns out that I was exactly right. You can trace the fiscal debacle in 2008 to the passage of his plan, which later was complimented perfectly by the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act under Clinton. Those two acts of deceit and dishonor nearly collapsed our entire economic system and, more importantly, has all but ended what we might have previously considered our working democracy. And now, in order to keep that tax tragedy in place, we are being told that allowing that legislative stupidity to expire will throw us off some imaginary fiscal cliff. We already fell off and are now crumpled at the bottom of that cliff, bleeding and nursing our bruised and broken bones.

All you have to do is look at the distribution of wealth in this country and you can see we are approaching the end of our republic as it was conceived to be. A democratic system of government cannot survive with almost all the growth in national income over many years accruing to the wealthiest one to five percent of the population.

Our first order of business if we are to recover what's left of our republic is to redistribute the wealth and income of our people. We need to repeal the Bush tax cuts, restore Glass-Steagall, reform the tax code, take money out of politics, prosecute all the criminals who have committed fraud upon the people of this country—so far without accountability—and put what's left of our wealth to work for the benefit of all our People and our posterity.

The Founding Fathers were not a perfect enlightened breed of men. For example, despite their lofty rhetoric about freedom and democratic rule, even Washington and Jefferson couldn't see their way to giving up their slaves... or allowing women to participate in electoral politics. But at least they had the courage not only to talk about freedom and democracy but to actually try to build into the framework of their new government the mechanisms by which the People—if we could hold onto our ideals—might expand and refine those values, and for the first time in history

actually create a working model of how people might live together in freedom, peace and harmony in a land governed of, by, and for the People.

The Bush tax plan and ending Glass-Steigall did more to kill and bury those ideals than any piece of economic legislation in our history. That legislation transferred to the richest 1% of our people all the power they needed to undermine the rights and freedoms of the other 99%.

Our Constitution, for all intents and purposes, has undergone a shredding which has turned our sacred document, with the help of the Obama administration, into what Bush called, “just a goddamned piece of paper.” The institutions of power and culture in the United States are now so corrupted by what has taken place over the last couple of decades that no one seems to know how we might recapture the sense of civic decency that the Founders once tried to create.

If we don't return legitimate power to the People, America is on track to becoming a third world country as the Great Experiment—after all the blood that has been spilled and treasure squandered—ends in absolute disgrace and total failure.

Our first task then is to go over this so called fiscal cliff if we have any hope at all to regain our legitimacy as a people. We need to creatively

transfer the unearned wealth that has accrued to the wealthiest Americans and return it to The People who very much helped make that wealth possible, and restore some dignity to those who have been denied their rightful place in our society, which includes restoring their legitimate share of our national income.

But none of this will make any difference if we don't also restore dignity to the Constitution, take responsibility for the crimes we've committed, have the Senate ratify the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and truly endeavor to live up to what these documents... which is to say, We the People proclaimed and promised to ourselves, our posterity, and to the rest of the world. If we can't do this, "The Great Experiment" is finished.

¹ Mark A. Goldman, "Bush's Tax Tragedy", *The Answer*, (The Presidential Press, 2003), Pages 63-66

No Easy Day by Matt Bissonette, Kevin Maurer

A Book Review by: Mark A. Goldman

5/26/2011

My Review at Amazon.com

2.0 out of 5 stars Written by a pro, not a hero,
November 12, 2012

Amazon Verified Purchase

This review is from: No Easy Day: The Firsthand Account of the Mission That Killed Osama Bin Laden (Kindle Edition)

The author correctly points out that Saudi Arabia is governed by a brutal corrupt and despotic regime that keeps its people subjugated and impoverished. But he forgot to point out that this is possible only with the support and military backing of the United States. In effect the US makes sure the people of that country remain subjugated, for which the government, i.e., the Saudi family, makes sure the US receives the country's oil resources at favorable prices. Osama Bin Laden, a member of the Saudi family, seeing that the US corrupted his own family at the expense of his country's people, first turned against the Soviets and then the US and his own family in order to free and/or avenge the

subjugation of his countrymen. He's not my hero, but he's not what the propaganda says he is either. Bin Laden also sought revenge for what he says was the murder of over half a million Muslim children by the United States (see pg. 836) when the Clinton administration bombed various parts of Iraq's infrastructure and then enforced an embargo which they knew would impoverish and deprive hundreds of thousands of children of food, medicines, and sanitation facilities causing hunger, starvation, malnutrition, sickness and death among the population, but mostly children.

The US claimed that Osama Bin Laden was responsible for the destruction of the twin towers on 9/11, but never offered any proof that he was involved in any way. Bin Laden celebrated the event but denied he was responsible for it. The bulk of the evidence in my view suggests that 911 was probably an inside job. Thousands of experts around the world, including over 1,500 American pilots, architects, structural engineers, demolition experts, physicists, chemists and other scientists have petitioned the US for an honest and proper investigation to explain all the evidence that contradicts the official story, (such as why Building 7 collapsed at free-fall speed, even though it was never hit by any airplane).

No fair and honest investigation has ever taken place. So while the Obama administration celebrates and takes credit for the murder of

Osama Bin Laden, those who committed crimes against the children of Iraq, and the people of Saudi Arabia, and the American people, and our troops and others who were unwittingly induced to participate in those crimes, have yet been brought to justice.

I feel sorry for the author's parents who tried to do their best for their son. Unfortunately what they couldn't do is teach him how to think for himself. Or maybe they did succeed. The book appears to be written by a professional writer, probably, the imbedded journalist. I'm sure this book will inspire a lot of kids to follow in the author's footsteps. They will become elite professionals who will do what they are asked to do, which, unfortunately, is unlikely to forward the cause of freedom. The book is a very well written piece of propaganda, which not surprisingly leaves out the essential truth and significance of the operation.

Treason at the Ballot Box

11/3/2012

Anyone who votes for Obama or Romney for President in this next election is knowingly or unwittingly supporting treason. Obama is an enemy of the Constitution and so is Romney. And so is nearly every other elected official who is either a Democrat or a Republican. So is nearly every soldier , police officer, lawyer and judge who offers them support. And here's my proof: Obama...

1. Continues to suspend the Writ of Habeas Corpus.
2. Continues to obstruct justice by refusing to investigate the overwhelming evidence that the destruction of the twin towers was an inside job or somehow assisted by the government.
3. Made himself an accessory-after-the-fact by failing to prosecute known criminals, including former presidents and other holders of high office who are known to have committed war crimes and other serious affronts to the rule of law. He continues to obstruct justice by not prosecuting criminals who defrauded the hundreds of thousands of citizens out of their homes. No official action has been taken to correct these injustices.

Apparently, US citizens are supposed to accept that Presidents and others are above the law and not subject to the same legal restraints that apply to ordinary citizens.

4. Egregious war crimes have been committed, and continue to be committed on his watch, with no accountability on the part of the perpetrators.
5. Torture has been used by our government and is still being used against suspected civilian and military detainees. Perpetrators of these crimes are not, and have not been investigated or prosecuted even though known perpetrators of these crimes have admitted their culpability.
6. People are being punished for crimes they didn't commit and/or are being held, some for years, without any legitimate due process whatsoever.
7. Obama believes he has the right to murder people or detain them without due process of law on his own say so and has committed that crime multiple times.
8. Obama believes he has the right not only to murder suspects but also, through negligence, to murder people in the vicinity of those suspects without any due process of law and in public places far removed from any battlefield. He has no

- legal authority whatsoever to do this under the Constitution or international law.
9. First amendment rights have been grossly degraded and privacy is no longer respected by our government as a general rule. Your phone can be tapped, your body can be touched or groped, your emails read without legitimate due process.
 10. Homes have been foreclosed on thousands of people even though the documents used in the process were not legally executed. Those who committed fraud have not been held accountable. The rights of victims have been neglected.
 11. Patents are being issued on life forms that were known to exist for eons. People are losing their farms or being sued when the wind blows unwanted genetically modified seeds from neighboring farms onto their land which begin to sprout.
 12. Police officers are being trained not to protect the rights of ordinary citizens, but instead to follow the illegal orders and attitudes of superiors that degrade the rights of ordinary citizens. Police officers and their superiors who commit such crimes are generally not prosecuted.
 13. People who do not work for corporations are sent to jail for crimes they commit while corporate officials who commit far

more egregious crimes are allowed to walk free while the penalty for their crimes, if they are pursued at all, are converted to fines which are then paid by their corporations.

14. This list could be greatly expanded. Basic principles of jurisprudence, the rule of law, is under attack. Your job as citizen is to defend those principles. It's everyone's job. What I see is a general failure of the legal community to take responsibility for itself, when the legal community by all rights should be leading the charge.

These facts show that the President and almost all of those who now hold office have betrayed their oath of office. Together they have conspired actively or through negligence to commit treason, to tear up the Constitution and the rule of law. Because of them, the United States no longer stands for the code of conduct it holds itself out to support and represent.

And if you have ever taken a pledge to offer your allegiance to the flag of your country you too are betraying the oath you took if you continue to support these known criminals in leading this lost nation to a place we were never meant to go.

I and others like me are apparently a minority of Americans who are still loyal to the Constitution and what it stands for. The majority are standing

idly by, throwing our birthright away and cheating our posterity out of the rights and freedoms for which others fought and died so that we all might live in freedom. By doing so most are also cheating God who intended for us to have those unalienable rights and freedoms.

I am not about to defend the Constitution by making war on those who have apparently lost their way. I don't believe this treason is being committed by people who deserve to die for their ignorance, negligence, lack of understanding, cowardice, or weakness. But I, along with others, have not given up my right to tell the truth and defend the power of the truth as I see it. Good people have and are being misled into being something they are not, something they were never meant to be.

The United States and its leaders simply have no legal right to destroy other peoples lives in order to covet resources that belong to others. And that essentially is what our leaders are doing... trading away our honor, dignity, rights and freedoms for economic gain. Neither they nor those who support them will get away with it without all of us paying a heavy price for their infidelity. In the end, justice will prevail and that justice will likely be commensurate to the crimes committed.

This is how I see it. You are a child of God just like I am. You are my brother or my sister and I love

you. Be true to yourself. Vote, speak, and be who you really are. I understand the risks, but without our defense of the truth, our children and grandchildren will never have the kind of future we want them to have.

If It Please The Court

10/19/2012

I come before you to fulfill my pledge of allegiance to the flag and the people of my country. I come before you to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. I have a first amendment right to speak out and to carry out my responsibilities of citizenship.

Every officer of the court, every member of the armed forces, every government official has the obligation and duty to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States against any enemy foreign or domestic. Anyone who would knowingly damage the integrity of the Constitution and undermine the rule of law in order to advance a personal agenda that is inimical to the sovereignty and well being of our People does not come to this court with clean hands. These people are enemies of our Constitution.

No government official, representative, or employee (and this includes the President of the United States) has any legal authority to kill, torture, incarcerate or otherwise suspend the rights of any person without due process of law. No government official, representative, or employee has the right to commit war crimes

prohibited by the Constitution, as defined by its derivative and inclusive laws.

No government official, representative, or employee has the right to obstruct justice. In fact, justice demands that my grievances be heard. Terrible and grievous crimes have been, and are being committed by members of our government and others, and ought to be stopped, and those who have been the victims of such crimes ought to be protected by this court.

I believe that the President, unnamed members of his administration and staff, as well as unnamed members of Congress, high ranking officers of various departments of government and the armed forces have knowingly damaged the Constitution and ought to be held accountable for their egregious illegal acts of inhumanity which are partially enumerated below:

Enumeration of Crimes Committed

1. The President as Commander-in-Chief has authorized the use of weapons fortified with depleted uranium (DU), which when used in populated areas causes birth defects and cancers. Even people not living nearby can be damaged by these residues which remain suspended in the atmosphere

and can be carried by the wind to anywhere. The half-life of these radioactive materials is estimated to be over a million years. This means that thousands or even millions of people on our planet will be damaged by our use of these materials over many lifetimes to come. This is genocide. No one has the right or authority to commit genocide and no one has the right to keep such information about our use of these materials from the American people or from any people.

The use of these materials has destroyed the moral authority, credibility, sovereignty, security, and viability of our nation. By engaging in genocide we have become indebted to the people of other lands beyond our financial ability to ever pay for the crimes we have committed. We are bankrupt, morally and financially if justice is done. And if justice is not done, we are, in any event, an illegitimate nation that is morally bankrupt if we do not stop our crimes and ask forgiveness. Forgiveness is possible, but only if we own up to our crimes and commit ourselves to permanent cessation of the use of these weapons, and reparations to the victims.

2. In addition to crimes primarily against children and the unborn through the use of DU, we have committed murder through the use of drone attacks, where the military has indiscriminately destroyed the lives and bodies of innocent men, women, and children in populated areas, by targeting individuals who are so-called suspected enemies.

We have no legitimate business being in these places. Our illegal attacks occur without proper authority from Congress, the UN, or the nations in which these attacks are perpetrated. Again, these are war crimes. I submit that other unnamed war crimes are also committed by our military forces, damaging not only the people who are attacked, but the sovereignty, credibility, and good-will of our own country and its people.

3. The President has suspended the principle of habeas corpus and taken it upon himself to incarcerate people indefinitely or kill people through assassination, abandoning due process of law. He has no right or authority under the Constitution to do this. This usurpation and denigration of every person's human rights, along with items 1 and 2 above, damages every American

and every current and future citizen of these United States, including me.

I ask this court to find the President of the United States, members of his administration, and other government officials who support these enumerated crimes, in contempt.

I have been damaged by these crimes and other crimes committed by this administration. My family, my friends and every American and world citizen and our posterity have been damaged by these crimes. Our country is lost if I and my fellow Americans cannot find justice where nearly every member my government has failed to uphold their oath of office. I ask the court and every officer of every court to intervene on my behalf and on behalf of our fellow human beings wherever they might reside.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Goldman

October 19, 2012

The Same Old Story

9/4/2012

Humans are having a difficult time trying to learn the same lessons over and over again. Societies rarely collapse from outside influences, but rather from the loss of confidence that citizens have in their leaders and the evolved system itself. That loss of confidence comes from internal corruption, a lack of integrity, and a loss of commitment to the ideals that once inspired citizens to trust that the future would always be better than the past due to constant and steadfast progress and advancement in all aspects of human development and consciousness.

What happens is that some people, in order to acquire for themselves more power or wealth than they rightfully deserve, will try to game what was once conceived to be a fair and honorable system. They will then try to cover up the decay that their corruption leaves in its wake offering instead a ubiquitous propaganda of lies and illusions in an effort to convince citizens that their actual experience of reality is the illusion while their propaganda is true. But lies have no lasting structure or integrity. There is no need to make war on a system or a government that is corrupt. When enough people begin to believe in the truth of their own experience again and compare it to

the values they once believed in, the system will readily collapse in on itself as people look for ways to have their lives make a real difference again, burying whatever corrosive remnants are left of the failed society they once held dear, striving now for something they can believe in again.

QE III Not Designed to Benefit Most of Us

9/15/2012

QE III is not a stimulus package; it's another bank bailout. The banks are holding billions of dollars of worthless assets on their balance sheets at inflated prices some of which the Fed intends to take off their hands in exchange for billions of freshly minted US dollars.

This will make the banks stronger, bankers richer and most Americans poorer by weakening the dollar and inflating prices. It will have a minimal effect, if any, on unemployment. Our main problem is not that there are hundreds of thousands of business owners who want and are ready to borrow money from banks to expand their businesses. The problem is that people are suffering; they've been cheated out of their homes by criminals who took advantage of them. Now they are unemployed and/or broke and don't have money to support their families, pay their medical bills or send their kids to college.

Meanwhile, American roads, bridges, schools, and public services are falling apart or being degraded and all most politicians can think about is how to save money by reducing benefits on all the programs that help ordinary working Americans. Their solution to our financial crisis is for

government to turn its back on past promises made to do what's best for all citizens and to defend the Constitution against those who would destroy it.

That would include offering all citizens decent affordable health-care, stronger civil liberties, a sustainable and safe environment that protects future generations, more opportunity in the workplace, and a way for ordinary folks to fund their retirement and provide their children with a good education.

The Fed is not a governmental institution. It has no business being in charge of the country's economy. It mainly functions to protect banks and bankers. It's the President and Congress who should be figuring out how to offer citizens more job opportunities, better health-care, a safer and sustainable environment, a more stable and energy independent economy, and meaningful jobs that produce products and services that make life better for ordinary people. They should be protecting us against those who profit from war and social dysfunction. They should be strengthening our judicial system and striving for peace and prosperity.

Instead they are busy raising money for elections and taking orders from bankers and war profiteers who are programmed to destroy the body politic with their ill gotten gains.

On the Biden/Obama Convention Speech

9/7/2012

If you liked the speeches Biden and Obama delivered at the Democratic Convention I can tell you why without having been an insider during their formulation: the advertising agencies hired by the campaign carried out a series of focus groups with the objective of finding out why so many people feel so negative about the Obama presidency, which provided them with the inspiration they needed to draft those speeches.

What they found in their focus groups was that Obama appears to believe in nothing that requires conviction. One might say he's an opportunist. He hasn't shown an ounce of courage or commitment to his oath of office since he took office, bowing instead to his feckless corporate selected advisors who are from the same school of thinking to which the Republicans pay homage...

...that's why we still torture people, particularly whistleblowers who try to protect the Bill of Rights, the rule of law, and their own honor and integrity;

...that's why we still use depleted uranium ordinance that results in birth defects and cancers

in thousands of children living in or around where our soldiers fire their weapons and in the process commit these egregious war crimes;

...that's why George Bush and his gang are not in prison for their treason and for ripping to shreds the Constitution (you know, that "Goddamned piece of paper") and for Obama's decision to ratify that treason by not only keeping those crimes in place, but expanding on them by engaging in his own;

... that's why the rules of habeas corpus, perhaps the main cornerstone of jurisprudence and our Constitution, haven't been restored... and why Obama still thinks he has the right to detain people indefinitely without due process of law.

...that's why Obama believes he had the right to kill Bin Laden and dump his body in the ocean (where's the honor in that?); and why he thinks he has the right to send drones into areas where innocent men, women, and children are regularly killed or dismembered "by accident."

...that's why there's still no real investigation of 911 which nearly every structural engineer, architect, and pilot in the country knows, and pretty much every first responder who showed up that day knows, was an inside job; hey, Mr. President how come Building 7 came down at free-fall speed when it wasn't even hit by a plane?

Didn't you ever wonder how that miracle happened?

...that's why we have Obama care and not a decent universal health-care plan like every other industrialized country has;

...that's why none of the criminals who took down our economy have been prosecuted; and why this administration's economic policies are designed to reward bankers and the military industrial complex, while ignoring the rest of the American People...

They were great speeches Mr. Biden and Mr. Obama. Congratulations!! No doubt your team will win another prize for the best advertising campaign of the year. Congratulations to your advertising team who put your speeches together, they really know how to write good copy and move the heart. Like me, I'm sure the American people were so very glad to hear that you get your inspiration from them. You sure do inspiring work and are a brand we can almost believe in.

Too bad for the American people that Romney and Paul feed from the same trough and bow down to the same people you guys do... and won't be one ounce better in office or any more honorable than you are if they get elected instead of you.

If You Want to Lead a Nation

8/30/2012

If you want to lead a nation, here are some things you must understand and be able to explain, and by example, demonstrate to your fellow citizens:

1. Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness... These are God given rights that are to be bestowed on every person who lives in this realm or in any other.
2. No one is permitted to take another person's life and no one is permitted to deprive another person of his or her liberty. Every person is entitled to pursue their happiness as they define it for themselves.
3. There are, however, limitations to each person's right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Each person has a responsibility to not infringe on any other person's right to their life, liberty, or pursuit of happiness either directly or indirectly.
4. Sometimes it is not clear when one person's right to pursue their happiness must be limited in order to preserve the rights and happiness of others.
5. Sometimes the resolution of such conflicts can be difficult to resolve. In

such cases, the rule of law must be invoked. The proper administration of the rule of law requires that all persons be treated the same and without regard to their position or station in life. That means justice is to be pursued in all cases.

6. Most of the time the resolution of conflicts can be resolved using common sense inspired by a commitment to intellectual integrity. This simply requires being steadfastly honest about how the maximum level of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness can readily be preserved for everyone involved. Here are a few examples:

- a. If you inadvertently make a mess in the process of pursuing your happiness, you are responsible for cleaning up that mess. Why? Because the messes people make usually impact other people in some negative way, either directly or indirectly. Sometimes cleaning up the mess you created includes honorably compensating those who have been hurt by your actions. If you can't pursue your goals or dreams without making a mess that negatively impacts others, you should not pursue those goals or dreams until and unless you've figured out how to do so without

making a mess or until you've gotten permission to proceed from those who might be negatively impacted by what you intend to do.

b. If you have acquired some wealth, power, or position in life, you have no right to use your resources to influence other people to lie, deceive, cheat, betray the public trust, or to otherwise undermine other people's rights, or the rule of law, or the spirit of doing what's right and honorable. Why? Because doing so would be creating a mess. You have the right to enjoy what you've honestly earned, but you have no right to deprive others of their rights, or freedoms, or equal treatment and justice under the law.

c. Sometimes a person's liberty, or the pursuit of their goals or happiness needs to be curtailed, such as when that person loses sight of other people's rights and freedoms and causes hurt or damage. But a person's rights and freedoms may only be curtailed after a proper hearing, operating in accordance with the best practices of jurisprudence, has come to such a determination.

7. For a general recitation of the basic rights and freedoms to which all peoples are entitled, one should refer to the

principles enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Any person who would ignore or fail to align him or herself with the principles enumerated therein is not qualified to lead any nation or any other organ of society. The same is true for any person who does not understand that other people are entitled to all the rights, freedoms, and consideration that he or she would want for themselves or their posterity.

8. The principles mentioned herein is not meant to be inclusive of all the principles that a leader of people ought to understand and express.

We Are Already Waging Nuclear War

8/17/2012

I'm writing to recommend a new book called *Devil's Tango: How I Learned the Fukushima Step by Step* by Cecile Pineda. I quote,

"Ninety-five days following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear explosions and meltdowns, statistical evidence from the Centers of Disease Control shows that in eight cities in the northwestern United States (Boise, Seattle, Portland, Santa Cruz, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, and Berkeley) infant mortality (i.e., deaths among infants under one year of age) has increased from an average of 9.25 per week to 12.50 per week amounting to a statistically significant increase of 35%, whereas the total for the continental U.S. rose about 2.3%."

The book offers extensive research into the nuclear energy industry and documents how fraud and corruption have allowed Americans to become misinformed about their safety. According to her research the design of the nuclear plants in Japan were known to be faulty before going on-line. Identical GE Mark I plant designs now operate in 32 locations around the world. The Fukushima meltdown was not caused by a tsunami. The tsunami only made it worse. That was just a "lucky" coincidence that allowed

its operators to misinform the public about how dangerous nuclear energy is and how vulnerable we all are.

Even if plants could be made safe, humans have yet to figure out how to safely store nuclear waste. A by-product of the uranium enrichment process (called depleted uranium) is used to make munitions which are now as I speak probably poisoning people and ecosystems wherever in the world our troops are firing weapons. Every time US and NATO forces fire a weapon with DU ordinance, it's a war crime, and cumulatively probably genocide. Many regions in Iraq and Afghanistan are already unsafe for human habitation... for all intents and purposes, forever. DU has a half-life of many thousands or perhaps millions of years.

Birth defects and cancers there, particularly among children, are at epidemic levels. If you think that nuclear war has been avoided since WWII you are mistaken. We are waging nuclear war right now and have been for years. Every person on planet earth is in danger. While local landscapes are hot zones where these weapons are used, the truth is, weather systems can lift toxic particles into the atmosphere where they can be transported and inhaled any place on the planet air currents can carry them. You'll find extensive documented research on what's going on in Pineda's book.

The Truth About God and Abortion

8/17/2012

Some people believe they are doing God's work when they try to prevent or make it illegal for women to have abortions. In my understanding they are doing just the opposite. They are interfering with God's wisdom and justice when they do that.

There's nothing I know of that leads me to believe that God would give any religious or political faction the right to interfere with the covenant that I believe God has made with women.

I don't believe the issue centers on when the soul enters the body, although my guess is that the soul enters the body when a mother and God decide they want it to.

The Covenant:

God says, "Mother, as long as it is in your body, you are to be guardian of this child, having sole authority to determine its future, with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto, including whether it will be born into life or not. This is only fair, for it would be grossly unfair to vest these rights and privileges with anyone else but you."

The mother says, "I will carry this child and do what I think is best in my understanding. I will trust that God will help me make whatever decisions I need to make regarding this child and then stand by me when I do."

The child says, "Mother, my loyalty and my love is with you. I put my faith, my trust, and my fate unconditionally in your hands. Being helpless and dependent, I trust you to do what you think is best and I accept your decision whatever that might be. Whether this is my time or not, I leave that all up to you."

It is, then, a mother's God given right and responsibility to decide if now is the right time for this birth to take place, and no one has the right to interfere with her decision, because it is hers alone to make. God loves freedom and God is fair and God is just. Our role as fellow travelers on the planet is to love and support her no matter what her choice might be.

All life is precious in God's eyes and so it is hypocritical when some people say they want to protect the unborn and yet have disdain for the mother and her life, or choose to disrespect the relationship that God has with women. If you would love and cherish every child that comes into the world, then you would love and cherish every potential mother too. And that love would

not stop on the child's birthday, but would endure throughout both their lives.

Every child born into this world is entitled to be loved and protected as if it were our own. That means our attitude and intention should be to help insure that every child is able to enjoy all the rights and opportunities we would want for our own children.

To those who want to do God's will, God desires that we have compassion for and offer every potential mother as much love and support possible as she faces her decisions and her future. Offer her your personal support, and/or work for the establishment of a society that supports the needs of mothers and their families. You can do this by making sure that opportunities are plentiful and that families will have the safety net they need to never want for the basic necessities that sustain life. Further, you can offer your support through legislative and social initiatives—the means by which all families have access to the resources they need—to insure the success and happiness of families and their children, such as funding for education, medical care, food, shelter and other amenities or opportunities. This would be in keeping with God's wishes and would support His honorable covenant with women and with children. No woman should have to consider an abortion because of economic hardship that some mothers and

children now face because they live in a hypocritical, unjust, and uncaring society. In the United States, many of the same people who would speak out against a woman's right to have an abortion, at the same time remain silent when children who have already come into this world suffer unnecessary deprivations, or while their government causes thousands, or tens of thousands of children to get cancer or be born with grotesque deformities by poisoning them or their mothers with depleted uranium. If I know anything at all about God, I know He would never authorize these people to speak for unborn children. They have no right, nor the moral authority to speak for the unborn. Google search: "depleted uranium"

For Men Only

8/16/2012

I had an epiphany the other day. There's a small window in my downstairs bathroom through which a bright focused beam of sunlight was shining directly into the toilet. It provided that kind of illumination that lets you see suspended dust particles in the air. As I stood there peeing into the pot I noticed that as my stream hit the water, there were minute particles of spray that bounced out of the toilet and onto the rim and a few over the rim and onto the floor. Now those that escaped the toilet, I admit, were very tiny droplets but there they were nevertheless. I now know that when I am standing and peeing into a toilet, I am probably at the same time peeing on the floor... not very much, but something.

Now the truth is that most of the time I have gotten into the habit of sitting down when I pee. A few years ago I had a problem with an enlarged prostate that was, for the most part, corrected with laser surgery. Prior to the surgery, my urine stream was not always predictable and when urinating standing up I would get some drops on the toilet rim which I always wiped up before flushing. Sitting down when I pee saves me the trouble of that extra step. Another symptom of this condition, then and now, is that after urinating there remains a drop or two that I need

to squeeze out and wipe before I zip my pants. So before I pee, I always grab a bit of toilet paper to wipe myself after.

Grabbing a bit of toilet paper before I go has been a habit of mine for a number of years now and this is why in a men's rest room, whenever possible, I use a stall rather than a urinal. And if I choose, on any particular occasion to pee standing up, I wipe the rim of the toilet after I go no matter where I am, whether it's in my home or in a public rest room.

Lately, I've been standing up a little more often than I used to. Now, having seen the light so to speak, I will do so less frequently, at least when I'm home.

This experience with my prostate and my attention on urination has raised my consciousness a bit. And now I see, after all this time, here we are in the twenty first century, I'm 68 years old and I never knew that when I stood up and peed into a toilet that I was also peeing on the floor. And there's no getting around it. Even when a urine stream hits the water, if the splash itself does not propel droplets out of the pot, there are usually some bubbles that form... and when those bubbles burst, I saw that that pop is sometimes sufficient to propel and allow a tiny droplet to escape. If you don't believe me, get a

bright, highly focused light, and try it yourself. How come no one ever told me this before?

It is not unusual to go into a public stall and see that some fellow or fellows before me didn't bother to lift the lid before they went. And after they did go, they didn't bother to wipe up after their sloppy selves. Sometimes it's embarrassing to be a member of my gender. I always lift the seat before I go and then wipe the rim of the toilet after. For years now, I have made it a point to always wipe the seat of a men's room toilet if I see that the person before me "forgot" to. This has been my unselfish unsung gift to mankind. I would not be mentioning it now except that maybe someone else will find it useful to know that there are all kinds of ways to make a difference in the world, even if it never gets noticed or amounts to much. You never know.

So, this is what I've learned about men: When no one is watching, a lot of them don't clean up after themselves. This means that a lot of men can't be trusted. You can see it in the men's room and you can see it in life. When I think of certain men in public life, I can almost guess which of them probably wouldn't think to clean up after themselves after peeing on a public toilet seat.

Now I don't really expect a lot of men, after reading what I have just written, to change their behavior and begin to pee sitting down, even

though they probably should. I suspect that I am not the only one who has for most of his life unwittingly been peeing on the floor. But once some men form a habit, particularly when that habit has gender overtones (such as... this is what real men do), it's probably not that easy to get them to change.

We should be teaching our boys to sit down when they pee and/or at least clean up after themselves when they pee standing up. If we teach them now, maybe when they grow up it could make a difference. The world already has enough men who don't give a damn where they pee or how the way they pee might affect other people. Unfortunately, there are a lot of adults in this world, particularly men, who never learned to clean up after themselves, and way too many who refuse to admit that they should.

Why The Constitution Has Been Destroyed, Prisons are Being Built, and the Country is Being Turned into a Police State

8/8/2012

Americans who have committed acts of genocide and other crimes against humanity and continue to commit such crimes, know that if you understood what they have done and if you had the power, you would hold them accountable.

They cannot stop committing these crimes without admitting what they have done. They don't as yet have the courage or the integrity to do that; they are unable and/or unwilling to do that.

To avoid being held accountable, they are stepping up their crimes. From their point of view we too must now be disarmed, impoverished, destroyed, or otherwise made impotent and powerless to act. For now we are to them a potential enemy... now that we have access to the large body of evidence against them. They apparently are willing to destroy the human race and even life itself on this planet rather than admit their guilt and face the consequences. They have the power to destroy life on this planet, and they are, in fact, continuing to move

in that direction, having decided so far to stay the course and defend their agendas.

In the end, I think we will have no choice but to declare full and unconditional amnesty and forgiveness for what they have done, assuming of course that they will accept our terms. In some sense we are all complicit, having been negligent or unconscious participants along the way... at least until now.

Our political and economic institutions have evolved in such a way as to allow these crimes to take place. Some are more responsible than others for committing the most serious offenses, such as murder and genocide, but nevertheless we must stop this destruction and begin to rebuild sustainable institutions that support life rather than destroy it. For that to happen, those who have acquired unjust wealth and power must be willing to step down and not stand in our way as we try our best to save this planet... if it's not already too late.

Stepping Back, Gaining Perspective

7/1/2011

We are at a point where almost every developed economy in the world is now in decline due to greed, ignorance, fraud, corruption, and the gross mismanagement and/or misallocation of raw materials, capital, and people.

So far, those who hold positions of power and could work for peace and economic justice do not have the wisdom or the desire to do so, while those who might have the wisdom and the desire, do not have the power. Change is inevitable nonetheless. Unfortunately, the trajectory we're on now points to change that will not come peacefully or end equitably... and so political and economic security for the world's extended human family is probably a pipe dream without an unprecedented transformation of citizens and their institutions.

A peaceful resolution to the world's shrinking economies would require that honorable and competent citizens at all levels of society be active, intelligent, conscious participants in reinventing education, government, commerce, and other aspects of a decaying culture. What is required is a return to the basics, which is to say, the establishment of a vision that lays out a revised set of common goals for humanity, and

the bringing of all aspects of our culture into alignment with that vision and those goals. We have extensive experience now with much of what works and what doesn't work. The question is, do we have the wisdom and can we muster the courage to tell the truth about it?

One reason the challenge is so daunting is that most of us have been from birth compromised, born into a society of individuals and institutions, most of which are consciously or unconsciously dedicated to deadening our God given faculties of perception and reason. These institutions now operate to perpetuate the myths and traditions that society lives by and which are intended to keep us uninformed, misinformed and vulnerable. Even those who love us and intend for us to succeed often unwittingly propagate false information, having themselves been successfully indoctrinated with illusion after illusion, unconscious and unaware of their own vulnerabilities.

Could what I've just said possibly be true?

Let me share with you the results of an experiment I once read about, the original details and source of which I am unable to cite. But here, I think, are the essential facts, which illustrate how vulnerable we all are to unconsciously acquiring learned responses that are inimical to our own well-being:

A number of chimpanzees were placed in a room, the ceiling of which was fitted out with a sprinkler system. On one wall was a one-way mirror through which the psychologists who ran the experiment could observe the chimps and activate the sprinkler system at will.

In one corner of the room, a bunch of bananas were hung from the ceiling which the chimps could not reach on their own. A ladder was conveniently positioned below the bananas so any one of them could climb the ladder and get a banana any time he or she wanted one. For several weeks the chimps were allowed to climb the ladder and retrieve a banana at will, the supply of which was regularly replenished and always available.

In the fourth week things changed. Now every time a chimp climbed the ladder and grabbed a banana the researchers immediately turned on the sprinkler system and drenched all the chimps in the room with cold water, an experience they all vehemently hated. During that week every time a chimp would climb the ladder and grab a banana, the group would get drenched. After awhile, whenever a chimp started to climb the ladder the others would drag him or her down and punish them for even thinking about climbing the ladder. By the end of the week, no chimp in the room was willing to risk retrieving a banana for fear of being attacked.

The next week, one of the chimps was removed and a new chimp was introduced to the group in his place. The new chimp, a total stranger to the group, had never been in this room before. It didn't take long for the new guy to notice the bananas and the ladder and figure he'd go get himself a treat. Of course, as soon as he set foot on the ladder, all the other chimps attacked him viciously. Several times the new chimp tried again and each time he was dragged down and pummeled. It didn't take long before he realized that trying to climb the ladder was not something he was willing to attempt anymore.

The week after that, another member of the original group was replaced by someone new. When that chimp predictably went for a banana, she was also pulled down and attacked by the others.

Joining in the attack was the most recent member of the group who joined the week before. In subsequent weeks, one by one, a chimp from the original group was replaced with a new chimp until none of the original chimps remained in the room. Each subsequent week the staff continued to replace a member of the group with someone new, and still any chimp who ever attempted to retrieve a banana would be viciously attacked by all the others.

As the psychologists continued to replace older members of the group with new members they came to realize that they would never again have to use the sprinkler system. Now no chimp in this particular society of chimps would ever be allowed to grab a readily available banana even if they tried. This was true even though none of the chimps in their society had ever experienced being drenched by the sprinkler system for trying to get one, and none of them would ever have any clue as to why they got beat up for trying to retrieve a banana, or why they were readily willing to beat anyone else up who tried.

So what are we to learn from this experiment? What I conclude is that humans are probably as vulnerable as chimps are to corrupting influences in their environments even though humans have larger brains, language skills, education, sophisticated tools, established institutions and history books that chimps don't have. Maybe we humans do not usually physically attack members of our society when they stray outside accepted norms, but like chimps, we are all highly influenced by how the rest of society thinks and behaves even though we might not understand why we or they think or behave the way we do.

For example, in our culture few of us would think of eating roasted worms or grasshoppers for a snack; and yet in some cultures they do it all the time. We are simply conditioned to think and feel

a certain way about some things without necessarily being conscious of how or why we came to think or feel that way.

Sometimes group pressure “forces” us to behave in very sub-optimal ways such as when we engage in war or gang violence even though the potential loss of life and treasure would suggest to any rational observer that such behavior is almost always unnecessary and counter-productive. We live in a world where some of us are very well off while others are barely able to survive. Greed, envy, fear, prejudice and other negative attitudes thrive in our society even when a review of our personal experience or human history can demonstrate over and over again, that the pain and unhappiness we inflict on ourselves and one another was never desirable or necessary for our survival or well-being.

It appears that when we don’t consciously have all the information we need—which is to say, when we can’t see the big picture or when our attention has been purposely misdirected or co-opted by lies, myths or illusions—we can end up making decisions and carrying out acts that are detrimental to ourselves and others.

A student might go to school intending one day to become a great investigative reporter, hoping to put his or her talents, judgment and character to good use for the betterment of their fellow man.

After graduating college and being hired by a major newspaper to begin a promising career, they might soon learn that they can't always write about everything they discover during an investigation, at least not if they want to advance or keep their job. They might learn that there are powerful people who don't want what they learned to become general knowledge, and those people are powerful enough to keep that information from being published even though our would-be journalist remembers what he or she learned in school about journalistic integrity, their first amendment rights, and their duty to stay true to their purpose and values.

Many managers or politicians today find it more practical to maintain a reputation among their constituents, customers, or stockholders that they or their institutions are worthy of being well thought of, not by going through the inconvenience of actually holding fast to the ideals they claim to live by, but by manufacturing that illusion through dishonest collusions, deceit, various public relations schemes and propaganda campaigns.

But even well meaning people can propagate illusions, myths, and disinformation unwittingly. Much of what we believe about spiritual matters, for example, might largely have been shaped by our parents and other well meaning people who taught us what to think and believe about God,

even though the people who taught us, despite their good will and intelligence, only knew what they were taught by their parents and teachers, as did all those who came before them going back generations, and maybe even thousands of years.

We often choose to believe what we've been taught, which information might be confirmed by millions of other believers who will gladly testify to its truth, even though neither we nor they have any first hand evidence as to why we should believe it.

Many believe in times past that God spoke to Noah, Moses, and Jesus and that the bible is God's definitive word... that He helped write, edit, and/or compile that book a long time ago, and then promptly retired from literary pursuits confident that we, a few thousand years later, would understand its message and not be in need of a more modern update.

And yet if I told you that God spoke to me, would you believe that I am both sane and truthful, that God really does exist, and that He really did speak to me personally? Probably not. We often hold some things to be true and not other things, without proof, based on how many other people in society hold them to be true, even though maybe not one out of a billion other people who hold a particular belief to be true, really knows any more about the topic at hand than we do. We

say we have faith, but do we know why we have faith in some things and not others?

You see, the chimps who took part in the experiment I described didn't do anything wrong. They weren't stupid, bad, or foolish. They just didn't have all the information they needed.

Given their innate abilities or lack thereof, there was no way for them to get that information or to make sense of their artificially manipulated environment. What the experiment demonstrates is that some human beings can steal the joy from a society of chimps (and probably also people), by putting them in a situation where their perspective is so artificially limited or skewed that they are unable to understand key aspects of their reality and as a result come to erroneous conclusions about how to respond appropriately.

This makes them vulnerable to being manipulated into thinking and behaving in ways which, through no fault of their own, causes them to lose their natural and rightful place in the world. After all, there was no way for the chimps to figure out why trying to obtain a readily available banana ought to be so difficult, or inspire so much violence, in themselves or others.

They had no way of knowing that they or their ancestors were manipulated by unseen forces that purposely misinformed them about how life worked, altering their perception of reality, and

which probably would remain forever distorted in the absence of some outside intervening force that could expand their perspective and set the record straight. Without new input about how things really work, and how historical events shaped their present state of consciousness, they might never come to understand why they came to believe or act the way they do; or come to understand that some of what they believe might actually not be true; or come to realize, that how things are, don't always have to be this way.

Similarly, a lot of what we humans think we know is the result of how other persons, known or unknown, now or in the past, take or took advantage of our inexperience and ignorance, or our progenitor's inexperience and ignorance, for their own purposes. This surreptitious behavior, which has been used by some to the disadvantage of others, has persisted throughout history. This is true even though we humans have at our disposal advantages and resources that chimps don't have.

Some people may not know why they are afraid of the truth while some people actually make it their business to keep other people ignorant and vulnerable and spend considerable energy thinking up ways to make them afraid; or conspiring with others who are similarly motivated, to keep their own elite group in the know, and everyone else ignorant.

Some of us, through curiosity, perseverance, determination, or serendipity, have been able to look behind some of the one-way mirrors of the world and are now in a position to tell others what we've found to set the record straight.

Of course, if their agenda is threatened, those who work behind those mirrors will try very hard to discredit what we have to say or shut us up in order to keep their game going.

Certainly you can imagine that if the chimps in the experiment were able to mate and bring their new innocent infant chimps into the world, that the mothers of those chimps would try to teach their young not to venture up the ladder in search of bananas. They might do this to save their offspring the trauma of being attacked by the group which might be far more dangerous or uncomfortable than learning a little self discipline.

Perhaps you can even imagine (stretching your imagination a bit) that if the elders of the group could talk, they might invent stories about how this all came to be and how the God of chimps told the world's original chimps not to taste the fruit of the banana if they wanted to remain in paradise. But of course those first chimps eventually did taste the banana and were then thrown out of paradise forever and this is why things are the way they are and will always be that way... so stay off the ladder!

If you were a chimp who somehow discovered that all this time you were being kept in a room as part of an experiment to see what you would do when you or one of your roommates went for a banana, predicting that if any of you tried to get a banana, that you would either get beat up or unpleasantly drenched, what would you do?

Wouldn't you try to tell the others what you know about what those human beings behind the mirror are up to? But what if the others couldn't understand you or wouldn't believe you... then what? Or what if they did believe you? What could you all do about it anyway?

What would you do with the realization that all your life you've been an involuntary prisoner of human beings, unable to live out your life in peace and in freedom as others do... others who are only constrained by the natural world around them rather than by some artificially created place run by human beings who don't love you, and don't care what happens to you or the rest of your species. In fact, sometimes it looks like humans don't even care about what happens to the rest of their own species.

The truth is... most of us now live in a world of illusion. Our institutions, our culture and we ourselves have been corrupted by a world far more complex than what the chimps experienced,

run by people who don't love us and maybe even by some who do.

We live by false gods, myths, traditions, and other cultural realities that rob us of our natural inclination to live in peace and in harmony with others. Think how difficult it has been for some people, trying to navigate their way through complicated structures of society and the physical universe, particularly when they've been conditioned to not see reality as it is, or even have a desire to see. Maybe in some ways we've all been conditioned not to see, or even want to see, things as they are.

But why bring all this up now? Hasn't it always been like this? Weren't there always those who wanted to deceive others for their own purposes? Maybe.

The problem is... some of us have come to believe that our inability to see and respond to things as they really are, has brought us to the brink of systemic failure—a failure that could threaten all of us personally, and maybe even life itself on our fragile planet. In any event, wouldn't it be better if we could break free of illusory forces that cause us all so much distress, and instead begin to live in peace and harmony with one another? In our culture, some humans have not only learned how to condition chimps to engage in mindless acts of violence, some have

learned how to condition soldiers and police to commit mindless acts of violence too. We have learned how to make would-be journalists into instruments of propaganda. Others have successfully turned scientists into corporate profiteers, bankers into thieves, and politicians into prostitutes for special interest groups. We now issue patents to corporations for identifying life forms, and we can now get plants to stop reproducing themselves so that farmers will no longer be able to use seeds from prior harvests for subsequent plantings (as they have for thousands of years), but instead will have to buy new seeds every year from some corporation perhaps forever. We can get hourly workers to manufacture foods that risk our children's health. We can get teachers to condition pupils not to think, and get professors to inspire their students to make a lot of money instead of inspiring them to make a difference.

We can get lawyers to ignore or obfuscate the law and doctors to prescribe dangerous, ineffective or unnecessarily expensive drugs. We can make the rich richer, the poor poorer, the sick sicker, award peace prizes to war mongers, celebrate stupidity, denigrate intelligence, and teach ourselves how to stay entertained while others plot to rob us and our children... of our freedoms, our financial and emotional security, and our sense of well-being.

Please don't get me wrong. Of course human beings can and do a lot of great and wonderful things too. Advances in technology and science open up our understanding of the world around us in unimaginable ways. And yet, it just might be possible that we're at a point where the "good" things we do are being overwhelmed by the "bad" things, to the point of threatening the society in which we live, if not the very survival of our species.

We know from history and archeology that some cultures have unwittingly destroyed themselves. In some ways, we seem to be following in their footsteps. We now live in a society where a lot of us know that something fundamental is wrong. And yet we haven't as yet found a useful way to talk about it, or a clear path to make it right. Many husbands and wives, family members and friends, can no longer talk to one another because one of them might be focused on what they see is an unfolding tragedy, while the other refuses to acknowledge or talk about anything that they perceive is negative or makes them feel bad.

Some people believe they no longer can find a job that doesn't diminish their dignity in some way. Giant corporations behave like enemies of society. Bankers and politicians collude in fraud. To some, the rich seem evil and callous, to others the poor seem lazy and naive. Our entertainment seems—

more than ever—to be violent, mindless, obscene, misleading, a distraction from what’s important, underhanded propaganda, and/or a waste of time... and yet we can’t get enough of it.

We go on about our business trying to hang onto our sanity as the mind tries to identify who or what is the source of our fears and discomfort. We are vulnerable to propaganda designed to make us believe falsely that we know who the enemy is, and convince us that if we would or could only get rid of them, everything would return to normal.

And so we might be told that the enemy are the Muslims, Jews, rich people, poor people, capitalists, socialists, or communists, dark skinned people, white skinned people, intellectuals, rednecks, bankers, politicians, CEOs, men, Americans, Israelis, Arabs, religious fanatics, left wingers, right wingers, Republicans or Democrats, or who knows what.

And yet the truth is, maybe we’re all our own worst enemy. Some of us do wicked things or support others in doing wicked things to our supposed enemies in reaction to our skewed view of reality that was orchestrated by forces we don’t understand and can’t identify.

We are all like those chimps who are now mindlessly attacking anyone who attempts to do something that we believe is “bad” and yet in

some sense we too are “bad” for we will attack (in our minds or in our hearts) anyone who we think probably deserves it, without trying to understand how they got that way or how we got the way we are, or how to stop them, or stop ourselves ... because even if we stop, other people won’t, so what’s the point?

And so we give up trying to figure it all out or we become secret Avengers, which is to say, we become justified in treating some segments of humanity not as we would want to be treated but as we think they deserve to be treated... because they are in some way evil while we are not. We discard the Golden Rule, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and any other morality from our cultured past because we now believe that we must not be swayed by some quaint philosophical abstraction that we were taught as children, (and still teach our children), even though it no longer applies to us, because now we are told and accept that basic human decency was not meant to be a suicide pact... meaning that if we hold fast to our ideals, we surely will die, be damaged or compromised, and so we decide we no longer will or should.

And if we are not doing that, then we hide our heads in the sand, unwilling or unable to see the downward spiraling tragedy unfolding all around us. Instead, we arrange our lives so that we never have to deal with anything that is

unfamiliar or uncomfortable, shutting the pain of the world out of our lives and out of our consciousness. We pretend we are unaffected by realities we refuse to acknowledge, not admitting to ourselves that one day we will release our children and grandchildren into this cauldron of deception for which they will be entirely unprepared and to which we all contributed our own version of helplessness by no longer believing that there is really anything that we can do about it. When asked how we're doing, we pretend everything is all O.K., making sure that every conversation we engage in is some form of happy talk, never really connecting in any intimate or truthful way to even those we love, let alone the rest of humanity around us.

Some of us conclude that the only thing left to do is try to get by until we are finally saved by our own death, Armageddon, or some other event over which we have no control... and anyway... its always been this way, and it always will be this way, and things will go in cycles... times will change to something better or something worse before it turns around and then goes back the other way again... so deal with it, but leave me alone... I don't want to talk about it. No one has the answer. And besides, I'm busy.

Of course there is an alternative... In fact, I believe I have an answer to this problem... this problem being, how do we transform this reality

into one where all humans have a chance to live in freedom in a large diverse community of well adjusted, well cared for individuals who have compassion for one another.

My answer:

Things will turn around when you finally learn how to love other people's children at least almost as much as you love your own.

What would that mean? It would mean that you recognize that there is no child in this world who is not entitled to be loved.

Naturally your emotional ties and commitment to your own children will almost always be deeper and more profound than someone else's, particularly with respect to children you never met and who live somewhere on the other side of the planet.

Nevertheless, there is no child in the world that is not entitled to basic human rights as enumerated in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (see index.)

There is no child in this world that is not entitled to the truth... by which I mean, that no child deserves to be purposely lied to in order to deny them the full measure of their dignity or rightful place in the world, or to cheat them out of the right to experience life as it is so that you or

others can take advantage of their ignorance or inexperience.

Every child deserves a fair chance to succeed in life, to be treated with justice, to enjoy freedom of expression, economic security, the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness... to be treated as you would have others treat your children.

Is there any reason why your children should enjoy these gifts of life and other children not? To love them almost as much as you love your own is to acknowledge and to strive to live your life in such a way that other people's children are not denied these gifts of life if you have any say in the matter. And the truth is, you do.

Why do you have a say in the matter? Because you're here... you have a voice... and you have a conscience. How can you make a difference? You can't not make a difference. All any of us do is make a difference, because all we ever do in life, moment by moment, is make choices. Perhaps we would make a different kind of difference if we made more conscious choices and better informed choices.

So we all have a lot of thinking to do and lot of truth to acknowledge. Those thoughts and that truth requires freedom from the false teachings, practices, traditions, myths, and belief systems that keep humanity (us) stuck, impoverished,

unhappy, and vulnerable. Once we recognize the extent of our ignorance, we're going to have to discover what to put in its place.

We must restructure our institutions and revise our philosophical understandings as to how people ought to behave towards one another, and then bring ourselves and our institutions into alignment with our recreated vision as we let go of those unworkable and outdated traditions, myths, and belief systems that we ourselves still live by.

So how do we do that?

If you've read this far, the work has already begun... in you. I already told you how. You don't need to know or understand anything else to begin. You don't need anyone else's permission. You only need to want to begin by asking yourself...

"What would it mean to love other people's children at least almost as much as I love my own?" If you are willing to take that first step honestly and with integrity, whatever else you need to know will be revealed to you. One thing will lead to another. If you are truly honest with yourself, the world... your world... will change. That's how it's done... one person at a time, beginning with you.

Now I am mindful that human experience is drenched in dichotomies. You always have a choice. You can always turn right or turn left, because there is both a left and a right. You can always look up or look down, because there is both an up and a down. You can always say yes or say no, because you can choose to say yes or say no. And every time you make a choice there are always consequences and new choices to be made.

Is it possible that all human beings could live happy, productive and satisfying lives? I believe that is just as possible as all human beings living unhappy, discouraging, and unsatisfying lives.

Some of us can imagine the second possibility much easier than we can the first. But why should we believe that one reality is more possible than the other? I suppose it's because we are quite familiar with how much suffering so much of humanity experiences and always has.

I'm telling you that that can change. I can imagine how it can change, and I can imagine it changed. You can choose to imagine what I can imagine or you can refuse. I believe that if you are willing to step back in order to gain a wider perspective than what you now have, you will make better informed choices. It's possible. I will tell you this: God is real and not a myth. But God is not a religion and God is not the fool most

people think He is. God is not angry, jealous, vengeful, spiteful or cruel... but God is kind, understanding and forgiving. God is closer to you than your own breath. You are not forgotten. You are, in fact, greatly loved. And you have a choice. You can choose to love other people's children at least almost as much as you love your own, or you can choose not to. You can choose to love other people's children even if you don't have children of your own.

Now the only thing left for you to do is... choose.

By the way, I don't believe you need to justify your choices to me or anyone else. I love you just the way you are. I simply had something to say, and so I said it.

On the other hand, maybe you do owe us some answers... but again, that's for you to decide.

There's a Time for Everything

4/18/2012

We are beginning to talk about the election. I can't help wondering why citizens would vote for any incumbent, local or national. Every elected official takes an oath to preserve and protect the Constitution. Virtually all have totally failed to keep that oath. Consider this:

- 1) A bowling ball dropped from the height of the Twin Towers in free fall, in a vacuum, would theoretically hit the ground in 9.22 seconds. On 9/11, each of the Twin Towers totally disappeared in 10 seconds or less. The official story is a fraud. The government's explanation as to what happened on that fateful day is physically impossible given those two facts alone.
- 2) The wars that we have pursued in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere are illegal and criminal. A long list of war crimes have been committed and continue on a daily basis with no American official being held accountable.
- 3) The President failed to prosecute Bush's war crimes. Instead, he commits his own, including... renditions, drone strikes, torture, and claiming and acting as if he has the right to indefinitely detain and/or kill

- anyone he chooses without any legitimate due process or authority.
- 4) People are now being tried and convicted in courts of law in the US who are not even allowed to see the evidence against them. Other recognized principles of jurisprudence are being totally ignored in courts all across the country.
 - 5) The Supreme Court recently affirmed, on the current administration's insistence, that any person who is arrested for any reason may be strip searched before being incarcerated on the say so of local enforcement officials. A nun who is arrested at a political rally can be strip searched and so can a bicyclist who is arrested for failing to have a proper bell on his bike. The apparent intent is to humiliate and therefore dissuade citizens from publicly protesting against the crimes and injustices now being committed by our government. The Bill of Rights is, for all intents and purposes, being shredded in front of our eyes. The Constitution and general principles of jurisprudence developed over hundreds of years, both national and international, are being systematically ignored or extinguished.
 - 6) When the rule of law is corrupted, economic justice also unravels, and we see this happening all around us.

The greatest challenge of our time is whether or not we and our fellow citizens will be able to preserve our natural ability to feel empathy and compassion for other human beings who face grave economic, political, and social injustice at the hands of those we elect to represent us or those who run the institutions and corporations that dot the skylines of our cities. The press has been silent, our local elected officials have been silent, most lawyers, police officers, other officers of the courts have been silent, and an apparent majority of ordinary citizens now give the impression of being undisturbed or totally unaware of this evolving tragedy.

When raising such issues in the past I was told that these are not local issues and therefore this is not the time or place to talk about them. I say, the heritage we pass on to our children is a local issue. Our freedoms and our dignity are as close to home as you can get. Now is the time to talk about these issues and educate ourselves about the unspoken realities of our failing institutions.

There is a time and place for everything, and now is the time to acknowledge every person's right to live in a society that treats all people with dignity and justice. Before we try to figure out what we should do about all this, we first need to discover what's been happening to our republic and be willing to know, confront in consciousness, and feel with compassion and empathy, how it

challenges our humanity. The information we need is available to anyone who is willing to look for it. If you don't know where to start looking, you can spend some more time right here on this book and/or referenced web sites.

Declaration of Legitimate Government

[With paraphrasing from The Declaration of Independence and The Gettysburg Address]

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF EVIDENT, that all people are created equal, that they are endowed by virtue of their humanity with certain inalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments may be instituted by people, deriving their just powers from the consent of the Governed; That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive to these ends it is the Right of the People — indeed it is the Duty of the People — to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, that to them shall seem most likely to insure their Safety, Liberty, and Happiness;

That fundamental to the establishment and protection of such Government are the guaranteed rights of free speech and public assembly — including the freedom from persecution or discrimination for holding or

expressing political, social, or religious views when such views are expressed peacefully;

That the only legitimate government of any people or any nation is government of the People, by the People, and for the People, which honorably strives to promote and observe the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) as, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948;

Further, that any legitimate government when called upon to do so shall be willing to publicly state and stand by these principles in order to identify itself as a legitimate government of People.

I am Un-Suspending my Candidacy for President in 2012

1/7/2012

I am un-suspending my candidacy for President in 2012.

On December 17, 2011, I endorsed Rocky Anderson for President.

I took this action because of his strong showing in the media when he announced his candidacy. It looked like he was going to enjoy a wide following and I wanted to support the effort because it sounded to me like his reasons for running were quite similar to my own; he has political experience, and he also has an enviable record of defending human rights. He's a worthy candidate. I thought it would help the cause for me to bow out and support him.

But I've changed my mind. I have nothing against Anderson. I wish him well. But I want to continue now from where I left off on December 16. Despite my admiration for Anderson and his abilities, I have to be myself. I don't want to start or join any political party. I think each citizen should always support and/or vote for whichever candidate is best qualified for the job, period. The fact that someone might belong to a particular

party, by itself, doesn't tell you enough about the candidate to earn them your vote.

With respect to members of Congress I believe honor requires that each elected representative vote his or her conscience on every issue that comes before them regardless of party affiliation. With respect to my platform, I outlined what I believe in and what I will strive to accomplish if given the opportunity.

I am not going to spend any time trying to raise money, nor am I going to do anything beyond filling out an application in order to be on a ballot. If it takes money to be on a ballot my name won't be on it.

What's the point? The point is, I'm not trying to win an election; I'm trying to be who I am and live what I stand for so that citizens can confidently decide if who I am is who they want to represent them. In my writings, I've considered a great many issues, offered my thoughts, and did my best to make my case on each issue. But now the issue is this: Our government has morphed into a criminal enterprise.

I have no illusions about being elected President of the United States. I'm not even sure if someone like me can get elected, even if a majority of the electorate wants me to be president. But I do think running and getting

votes does serve a useful purpose in any event. So if I am what you want, you should vote for me.

I'm not anxious to be president. But I'm willing to serve. I don't know if I am the best candidate this country can produce, but at this moment in time, I would rather you vote for me than any of the other candidates now running.

I refer you to the original announcement of my candidacy and to my platform. After reviewing all the information that will become available to you in the months ahead, I am asking you... on election day, please vote for the person you think would make the best president.

I am greatly offended by the wave of treason being propagated throughout our country by so many of our elected officials, and others, who do not believe in or understand the power of the truth or have appropriate respect for intellectual integrity. I am appalled that so many Americans don't seem to care that our freedoms and the rule of law is being stolen from us, right in front of our eyes.

A vote for me would be a vote for change... a vote for the restoration of the integrity of our Constitution, and the rule of law. A vote for one of the major party candidates, I believe, will be a vote for more of the same — the further degrading of, and/or the dissolution of, our Constitution, our rights, and our freedoms.

I'm giving you a choice. What I stand for is reflected in my writings which can be reviewed at my web site. If you are not willing to strive for what you want, what you value, what you believe in... then I think it is foolish for you to expect to manifest something of greater value than the effort you are willing to put into achieving it. If what you believe in are illusions, then perhaps what you will really be voting for in this next election is the opportunity to experience your illusions up close and personal, so they can be experienced and revealed to you for what they really are.

Apparently, recent experience is not enough for many Americans to gain insight from, or draw conclusions about, where our country is headed, let alone what needs to happen in order to make an appropriate course correction.

I believe the electoral system in this country has been purposely designed to make sure you and I can't win. If we vote for what we truly want, we greatly increase the chance that we will get exactly what we don't want. They want us to believe that we are better off voting for what we know in our hearts is the lesser of two evils. Voting for evil, lesser or otherwise, is not going to get us what we want... not now... not ever. But it might get us what God thinks we need... to catch up on lessons not yet learned, or to experience

what we deserve for having neglected lessons we ought to have learned.

There are those who say that people who have high hopes, dreams, and ideals ought not to seek political office. I strongly disagree. I think this is a foolish idea and one that's logically indefensible. In a government of, by, and for the people, the people are the government. A government of, by, and for the people elects a government of, by, and for the people. An educated population that values and strives for intellectual integrity cannot be bought, cannot be corrupted, cannot be fooled into giving up their sovereignty or their dignity. An educated and incorruptible population does not elect or retain ignorant and corruptible servants.

The question is, is it possible to educate an uneducated and corrupted population? I think it is possible if those who are truly educated choose to educate... which is to say, if they educate by choosing to live what they teach, that is. I understand that remains an open question. We won't know if that can be done unless we try.

The only way to win a new chance to live in freedom is to open our minds, raise our voices, and stand up for who we really are, what we have become, and what we truly want.... those who can, that is. Maybe if we would do that we would

inspire others to do the same. But that choice comes with great risk. I realize that.

My guess is that there's no more than a one in a million chance now to turn this treason around. Those are not good odds. When Thom Jefferson sat down to write the Declaration of Independence, the odds that something good would come of it might very well have been better than our odds are right now. But this is where we are. This is what it's come to... our ignorance and negligence.

If you want to know what it felt like for John Hancock, John Morton, Josiah Bartlett, Wm Floyd, George Walton, and 51 others, to put their signatures on the Declaration of Independence, knowing that doing so might cost them everything they held dear, including their homes, their freedom, and their lives... well, this year or next you might just get a chance to understand what taking that kind of risk feels like. For some, maybe for just a few... it is worth risking everything... everything... to have the chance to be, and/or not to lose... the truth, honor, dignity, compassion, courage, and love... that each of us is capable of becoming.

Impoverishing the World Might Not Be The Best Strategy

1/2/2012

Both major political parties are engaged in a strategy to impoverish the world, citizens of the United States included. The reason politicians would do that is because they do what they are told to do. They will be rewarded personally for complying, while the rest of humanity will suffer because of it.

Why would the folks who rule the world want to impoverish you and me? Simple. We are at peak oil. The world runs on oil. Future supplies are limited. The more poverty there is, the longer supplies will last. Those who own and control oil also control the political landscape. They will not give up their monopoly for the sake of humanity, and bankers will not give up trying to extract as much wealth as possible from each world citizen before each economy collapses under the strain.

And so the United States has become a machine for acquiring oil reserves. That's the agenda of the government. That's also the primary function of the military. We are at war with every nation that has significant oil reserves. No nation that has oil reserves will be allowed to become or remain a democracy.

Any democracy that has large oil reserves would want to retain those resources for the benefit of its own people. Any nation that has oil reserves could conceivably become a wealthy nation. Of course, under our current strategy only a country's puppet regime and their affiliates are made wealthy while ordinary citizens are left to languish in poverty. That's just the new world order.

The United States has fashioned itself into a predator in search of fossil fuel. If you have some, our country will eat your lunch... sooner or later. Even so, the jig is up. There's more demand for oil than there is supply. That's why the world is being impoverished. The less you have, the more will be available for the predator class. Pursuing this strategy is straightforward and absolute. If you have it, we want it. If we think we can take it, we will. Nothing personal.

But is this our best strategy? Surely it is the simplest and the most straightforward. The only problem is, you first have to extinguish the democratic process and moral sensibilities in order to execute the strategy unencumbered. In the US, those preliminary steps have, for all intents and purposes, been accomplished.

Being the top predator is a good place to be... as long as you can keep that spot indefinitely. But can you? In the long run, oil reserves will still be

depleted. And in the interim, the expense of oil extraction, the cost of ongoing predation and the need for defenses against reprisals will all increase over time. And when extracting oil is no longer profitable, then what? By then there may be no options left... for anyone.

It's easy enough to see why the strategy is attractive though. It's a winner over the short run.... but a winner for whom? The ruling class wins, but only temporarily. Even the size of the predator class diminishes over time as reserves are depleted and everyone else becomes their enemy.

A Better Choice?

Perhaps a better strategy would be to shrink the military, end our predatory practices, and instead, pursue an aggressive program developing alternative sources of energy, not including nuclear or any fossil fuel. This would grow the economy and facilitate sustainability. But of course, in a democracy, trying to accomplish any big project is difficult... so difficult that you don't see any presidential candidate from either major party proposing that we try it.

Why not nuclear? Because nuclear is not safe at any speed. Why not fossil fuel? Because global warming will end life as we know it.

So what do you want to do?

Money, Politics, and the 99%

12/22/2011

No group of people are dumber than progressives when it comes to money and politics. They realize that money has corrupted their government and the media, and yet when a candidate comes along who doesn't plan to raise much money... instead of supporting that candidate, progressives will say....

“Well, even though I like the guy I'm not going to vote for him. Without much money or an honest media, this guy can never win . If I waste my vote on him, the Republican will win. I'm just going to continue to vote for the guy I know screwed me in the past and probably will again, but what can you do.”

You can lead a thirsty horse to crystal clear water but you still can't make him drink it.

If the 99%ers really believed in the ideals they espouse, they would vote for what they believe in, and keep voting and keep working for what they believe in, until they win. There's no reason why they can't do that and, at the same time, Occupy whatever space they think will help their cause. The problem is, they don't really believe in anything all that much... not really. They just don't like being a member of the group they're in.

If the 99% all loved freedom, democracy, intellectual integrity, and courage, they would identify and vote for people who also loved those things, and then we could all go back to work and do our jobs and let our representatives do theirs.

The problem is, we elect people just like ourselves. That's why we have such a corrupt government. I get the sense that if most Americans, (progressives or otherwise), were offered an unfair advantage over other people, they would take it. That's all that's happening here. The rich were offered even more riches in exchange for their unspoken promise to return some of those riches to their favorite politician, so that that politician could stay in office and continue to buy their votes with legislation that would get them even more riches... and so it goes... round and round.

If the 99% had a little more integrity and courage, they would spend their time trying to find leaders who would represent true decency... vote for them... get them elected... or at least scare the hell out of the 1% by trying. Unfortunately the 99%, can't think outside their little box.

The truth is, the so called 99% aren't really anything close to 99% except to the extent that the 1% has more money than they do. It's my guess, judging from the blogs I see.... that

probably 90% of the 99% don't have any idea what any of the fuss is about anyway. They get their news from the 1% and listen to the speeches their president makes, taking all of it in at face value. If the Occupiers can't convince the 90% that they're really in trouble, they surely aren't going to convince the 1% to change their character or fundamental world view.

The folks who don't have a clue about what's going on, need to be educated and it's a certainty they're going to get that education. Unfortunately, the way things are going, it will probably be the hard way.

"We won't try for what we want because we can't afford to lose." That's their argument. My suggestion is, don't lose. Actually your very life and freedom depend on you winning. So give it everything you've got and don't give up until you do win. You've got everything on your side except confidence in your own ability to pull it off. Every human being on Earth is counting on you. This is not a time for holding back. If you would stop worrying about what everyone else is going to do or think, and just go for what you want, you might just surprise yourself and get it.

*"By three methods we may learn wisdom;
First, by reflection, which is noblest;
second, by imitation, which is easiest;
and third, by experience, which is bitterest."
— Confucius*

The US Government is Now a Lawless Enterprise

12/21/2011

Our elected leaders have sold us out. They "raped" our citizens financially by putting into place laws that resulted in the great transfer of wealth from the weakest members of our society to the wealthiest. They refuse to prosecute those who commit fraud, and they won't hold the real perpetrators accountable. The responsibility for protecting our well-being and sovereignty lies with our elected representatives. We entrusted that job to them and they betrayed that trust. We actually no longer know who runs our government... who pulls the strings... who sets the agenda.

Instead of the honorable execution of their duties, they instigate wars and other projects designed to steal the resources that belong to other peoples, and when those people resist, our leaders perpetrate acts of violence against them resulting in the death, dismemberment, and dislocation of large segments of their populations in addition to the destruction of their property, their infrastructure, and civil society. In the process, our crimes now include crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, leaving behind poisoned land, unfathomable destruction, crimes against the unborn who now come into the

world with horrendous birth defects resulting from our illegal use of depleted uranium munitions. They have mutilated the rule of law itself in our name. We are a nation in disgrace... and in denial.

The United States government holds itself above the law, both here and abroad. In political discourse we often talk about preserving the rule of law, but in reality, the rule of law is near death, in a coma, having been water-boarded to the point of drowning in the bathtub of ideological and criminal lunacy. Whether or not future generations will ever live under the rule of law again will depend on whether or not we can create it out of the rubble of what is left of our republic after years of deceit foisted upon us by our major political parties and those who pull their strings.

All this is not to say that we no longer have the trappings of law in the United States. We still have police officers who apprehend criminals and courts that prosecute them. We have courts that settle legal disputes between parties with some degree of equanimity... but these trappings of law are only legitimate to the extent that those who rule our country do not have a vested interest in the outcome. For when they do, the arm of lady justice, which holds the scales of justice, are painfully twisted to tilt strongly in their direction even as her blindfold is ripped from her face. And so even what appears legitimate has become

illegitimate, for the law of the land is no longer uniform, or equally executed. Officers of the court are little more than accomplices to a looming tyranny.

Many who are innocent are imprisoned without legal process, those who are guilty are protected and enriched. Justice is a tortured memory. The Bill of Rights are just words on a piece of paper.

These are my conclusions after much research. Information supporting these conclusions are available at my web site and in the public record for those who have the desire, time, and the skill to review such information.

Any new political candidate who runs for office and takes office will have to face this lawless enterprise, while a large portion of the electorate, occupying the full spectrum of political leanings from left to right, unwittingly collude with and support the lawless culture our government has erected with the help of corporate media, which now facilitates the illusion that we are a country that still has a legitimate government.

Greed, ignorance, poverty, and despair all contributed to our nation's downfall. Whether or not our highest ideals can be resurrected from the ashes that remain, will depend on the wisdom, honor, courage, love and integrity of every citizen who is now willing to strive for freedom, peace and dignity here on Spaceship Earth. Now it will

be our national education system and our culture that will take a final exam. And our final grade will be our testament to nobility or bitterness.

“Liberty lies in the hearts and minds of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it...”

—Judge Learned Hand

Rocky Anderson for President

12/17/2011

I just learned yesterday, December 16, that Rocky Anderson, the former mayor of Salt Lake City, Utah is a candidate for President and is forming a new party called the Justice Party.

I didn't know anything about Mr. Anderson before yesterday but I am very impressed with his credentials to say the least. He has a long history of progressive activism and, as far as I can tell, has a record of achievement that makes him a serious and welcome candidate to the race.

The announcement of his candidacy, which apparently took place on December 12, 2011, has already been well received by the media and also by ordinary citizens who have been looking for someone like him to come along. Below are a few links I found, including his appearances on the Rachel Maddow Show and Democracy Now!

You can also find him on YouTube as well, and I suggest you do your own research after reading this. In light of this news, I am herewith suspending my own campaign for president, effective immediately. Anderson seems to want the same things I want. Essentially, I just want our children and grandchildren to have the future they deserve: a place to live where they have the

opportunity to reach their full human potential, and in a world where all peoples live in peace and enjoy the full measure of freedom and universal human rights.

Anderson apparently has the consciousness, experience, and presentation skills that I would be looking for in candidates for public office. Even though I just met him, so to speak, I am asking you and others to put your attention now on Rocky Anderson and support his candidacy if you think he deserves it.

I realize that some people are put off by the way we do politics now in our country, but I still think it would be a mistake for citizens who are looking for change to ignore this next election. I suggest you mention him in your blogs and promote his campaign whenever you can, to give him the best chance possible to win this race.

I haven't decided at this point how I will support his campaign or even if my continued public support helps his chances, but I'm sure yours would. Please look these links over and watch for more. If you think he makes sense, please give his candidacy the support it deserves. Thanks so much.

All the best,

Mark

**Announcement of My Candidacy
for
President of the United States
in
2012**

(Announced: 8/23/2011 with subsequent edits)

My name is Mark A. Goldman and I am herewith announcing my candidacy for President of the United States. I am taking this action to give you the opportunity to vote for the kind of person you might want to vote for but otherwise might never get the chance.

If your first thought is that a vote for me could never be more than a wasted vote, I would ask you to seriously consider... how have your other votes for president worked out?

If you voted for Nader and thought that was a wasted vote, it didn't have to be. All we needed or need to do is to make sure that Nader or someone like Nader continues to get enough votes to keep a Democrat from winning... for as

many times as necessary until citizens realize that if they want to win they will have to vote their conscience and stop playing politics.

The fact is, that if there is no one like Nader (or me) running, things will not turn around and we will all be losers until someone like me can get elected.

It may be true that Democrats and Republicans intend to spend over a billion dollars each to convince you to vote only for their candidates; it's also true that no matter how much they spend, no one is going to go into the voting booth with you to keep you from voting for the person you think would best represent your interests. It looks to me like we can no longer trust the main stream media to help us make prudent decisions. This is why I'm not going to rely on the main stream media to announce my candidacy. They probably wouldn't anyway.

Instead, I'm giving you the opportunity to judge for yourself. If you will rely on your own research, intellect, and judgment and not the usual polls and other propaganda we're going to get during the coming election circus, I believe you'll come to a better decision than if you only rely on what the candidates or the media put out. But don't worry. If and when people begin to take my candidacy seriously, I'm sure the main stream

media will be happy to provide you with commentary as to what you should think of me...

Whether it's me or someone else... this time... vote your conscience. Vote for the person you think would make the best president among the candidates running... regardless of who you think can win. It's the only way the best possible candidate can ever win.

If we play the game the way they've set it up, no one like me will ever be president. My way, there might be a chance. But only if you are able to think outside the box.

The fate of the country is in your hands.

Mark A. Goldman

Q & A

Q1. *Why should anyone pay any attention to you? What have you accomplished in your life that would indicate you are qualified to be President of the United States?*

A1. Good question. The only real qualification I have for the job is having become who I am. That includes a state of being, an understanding of the problems we face, the courage to face those problems, and the intellectual curiosity and integrity to inquire about how things are, tell the

truth about them, and offer my services in helping to resolve them, if I can.

Well, I suppose I should also mention that I'm 67 years old and I have a degree in economics and an MBA in Finance. I've spent most of my career advising people on financial matters. I also develop computer models for financial and estate planning purposes. Over the last 10 years or so I've written three books and many commentaries, most of which in an effort to protect and defend the Constitution and the rule of law. I felt I had to do this because most of our elected officials won't.

Surely there are many American citizens who are smarter, better educated, better informed, more experienced, more accomplished, more articulate, more well known, more skillful, in better physical shape, younger, and better looking than I am. But they are not necessarily better suited to handle this particular job than I am, and perhaps most important, they aren't running.

Find me someone who is willing to run and is also likely to be a better leader and President than I would be and I will step down and support that person for President. None of the current candidates qualify.

A question you might ask yourself is, "Do I have the consciousness, intelligence, integrity, and

honor to vote for the candidate who, if elected, would make the best President."

I've spent the better of my life preparing for this job; how well prepared are you to do your part as citizen?

<http://www.gpln.com/citizen.htm>

Without honorable, well educated and well informed citizens to stand with me, neither I nor anyone like me will ever get elected. And if that happens, you and your loved ones will have to live with the consequences, probably well into the future.

Q2. *Why do you say that all the current candidates (as of 9/15/2011) are unqualified to be President of the United States?*

A2. First of all, the most important qualification of any would be public servant is their ability, willingness, understanding, honor and courage to keep their oath of office.

As far as I can tell, of those currently running only Ron Paul has made any significant effort at all to do this. But if any of the candidates were qualified in this regard they would have been saying many of the things I have been saying for a number of years and they haven't done that.

<http://www.gpln.com/timetotellthetruth.htm>

Ron Paul did oppose the Iraq war and he is sensitive to some issues as they impact our rights and freedoms, but having been called upon to protect the Constitution, he has not fully risen to the occasion.

Nevertheless, I believe Ron Paul is an honorable person who intends to do his job as well as he knows how. But it's important that a public servant also understand how an economy in a democracy is supposed to work or needs to work and why our government is failing miserably in that regard.

One of the primary functions of government is to insure that there is a level playing field on which every citizen has the opportunity to live out his or her life in a manner that supports their dignity and ability to become all they can be as a citizen and human being.

Government needs to be big enough and honorable enough to protect everyone's basic human rights in the face of powerful economic forces that work to diminish them.

<http://www.gpln.com/udhr.html>

This requires enough legislation and regulation to limit those forces that give unfair advantage to a privileged few at the expense of everyone else. I don't believe Paul understands this and

unfortunately, this is particularly important in today's world.

http://www.gpln.com/reflecting_on_soros.htm

Ron Paul's stated economic policies would continue to benefit the rich and well connected few, at the expense of the many. He doesn't support a universal single payer health-care system (such as Medicare for all) when it's the only approach that makes both moral and economic sense.

One more thing. Ron Paul is not going to advocate to the general public that it would be in their best interest to replace most of our officials who currently hold office. Nor will he suggest that the current two party system we have is a total failure at advancing democratic principles, protecting our freedoms, improving our culture, or helping other peoples of the world experience peace, justice, or success.

Q3. The nation looks to me to be irretrievably divided. How do you suppose you can make positive change when half the population sees and experiences life in a manner 180 degrees opposed to the way the other side sees and experiences life? Even in your writings you say that the nation is divided as far into the future as you can see. What can you say or do to bring us together in pursuit of peace and brotherhood— in

pursuit of truth, honor, dignity, compassion, courage, love?

A3. Do you believe in love? This is not about me. This is about you. The truth is the truth. When you are not afraid of the truth, of how the truth might change you or change your life, an opportunity opens — a doorway through which you can go to observe who you really are — and as you begin to see yourself more clearly, the divisions will begin to disappear.

This is not about me. This is about you. It is for you to choose. I am just an invitation. The rest is up to you.

Q4. *I don't understand why you're not doing more to get your name out there. How come you didn't announce your candidacy using normal channels like everyone else... how about TV or newspapers, etc?*

A4. I need to do it this way. Even the local newspaper in the small town where I live didn't consider it newsworthy when I informed them of my candidacy. So that's not an option, and the fact is, I don't want to be in the news, raise money, or be on TV... at least not yet. Why? I am not well known enough to raise the amount of money it would take to be an independent candidate and still compete on an equal footing with the major party candidates. And if I were in the news, no mainstream pundit would speak of

me favorably or even consider me to be a viable candidate. In fact, they would do everything possible to make sure I am not taken seriously. I know what I'm talking about in this regard. Maybe it's not fair, but that's how it is.

The only way my strategy can work is if you decide to accept my leadership in conducting this campaign. Here's the first part of my strategy for building a better America:

- 1) You need to decide that on election day, no matter what, you will vote for the person you believe, if elected, would make the best president of those running;
- 2) You need to communicate to others that you have decided, that on election day you will vote for the person you believe, if elected, would be the best president among those running, regardless of who you think will win;
- 3) And please tell them, that I will be one of the candidates they can consider before making their final choice; and
- 4) Please send them a link to my web site (or a copy of this book) so they can begin to do their own research to see if they too would be willing to help execute this strategy as I've outlined it.

If you need to get a better sense of who I am... what I look like, how I speak in public, that will come in time. I want to win this election without

doing anything to raise money. If we can do that, this country will be transformed even before I take the oath of office. The only real power a president has, comes from you, but that's another story.

Money is not speech or votes. You can speak out and you can vote without spending money. And you can think for yourself without having people in the media tell you what to think.

By executing this strategy the way I've outlined it, there will be no need for people to ask for money, hold protest signs, or march in the streets in order to get those in office to act like decent human beings.

And it won't be necessary for citizens to put up yard signs either, or any of the other ways politicians waste money and people's time trying to get themselves elected, most of whom are totally unqualified for the offices they want to hold.

If the people we elected to office were qualified, we'd have a government that works. It's not that difficult to understand. We need people who are able to keep their integrity intact and stay loyal to you rather than to their corrupted party leadership or campaign contributors. Money has a funny affect on people.

What I am asking citizens to do is think for themselves, act like adults, have some integrity and be conscientious about choosing the best people available for the jobs that need to be filled. Honorable people can make government work. There are many competent, wonderful people in America who don't participate in politics because it's become a dirty, stupid business... and it doesn't have to be that way. We need qualified, honorable people in politics and we need to develop a process that encourages our best men and women to seek these critical jobs that require a high level of competence and integrity.

Our government is not too big, but it is much too corrupted. In this campaign you will have the opportunity to learn at least as much about me and how I would likely conduct myself in office as you will learn about the other candidates whose faces you will have to watch and listen to on TV for weeks or months on end, not to say how many pundits and pollsters you will have to endure who will, more often than not, have little to say that will be worth hearing.

Politics in this country is now, for the most part, an exercise in distributing disinformation to unsuspecting citizens who are being set up to be fleeced. That's what you get when politicians tell you what they think you want to hear or what they want you to believe, rather than what you

need to know. And let's face it, to a large extent, it's your own fault... because you never really bothered to understand what your job is in all of this. It doesn't take a genius to understand... that you can't change something that's broken into something that works if you don't even know that what you've got is broken in the first place?

Anyway I don't think my campaign will be more of the same. Stand with me so I can stand with you. Get on this peace train... Be the little engine that could. This time for real.

Q5. I still don't get it. I think you're just another nut case. There's no way in hell that you will ever win this election. So why should I spend one more minute listening to or thinking about you?

A5. This is not about me and whether or not I can win an election. This is about you and whether or not when the election is over you will have won or lost. There are a lot of good people in this country that probably would not only make a great president, but might also strike you as being electable. I'm not going to argue with you about that. But if after this next election, one of the candidates now running wins and that person is not me, one day you might wish that you had voted for me. I can't prove this. But I'm giving you a chance to avoid making that mistake.

What I'm suggesting is that it would be in your best interest to either get someone on the ballot that you know you would be proud to vote for, or take the time to learn enough about me to see if perhaps I could be that person. I hope you will make an intelligent choice between me and the other candidates when the time comes, particularly if that special someone you really want to vote for hasn't shown up yet.

I don't think you're going to get a second chance at this. This country cannot afford five more years headed in the direction we're going. And as far as I can tell, all of the candidates currently running right now, except for me, are headed in the same direction... over a cliff.

*Q6. Our society has always had its ups and downs. You sound like some sort of dooms dayer who tries to scare people into paying attention to them by telling them the sky is falling. We had slavery and we got past that. We had McCarthyism and we got over that. Vietnam was a b*tch but now that's behind us. Blacks can now sit at lunch counters or anywhere else they want, even in a big chair at the White House. We have problems, true. But we can weather whatever storms come our way and we can do it without any help from you.*

A6 . Well these are good points you're making. You know, I've been advising people on financial

matters for a long time. I've been helping a few people manage money and I also create computer models in my work for analytical purposes. Recently, one of my clients sent me a fifty page report produced by a large organization filled with all kinds of economic data, including graphs and charts, thinking that I might find it of interest. I looked it over and came to the conclusion that this kind of analysis is of limited value to me now no matter how good it is. The same is true of my own computer models. Why? Because the political forces at work in today's environment now overpower the underlying assumptions of almost all econometric models. We are at war... with other people and with ourselves. Those who set policy have their own agendas and those agendas are not goal oriented towards peace, prosperity, democracy, or other values that any society or culture on Earth would normally favor.

For example, I believe our country's energy policy is literally insane... and its execution is criminally insane. Extraction of the planet's oil resources are damaging the ecosystem even as they are being depleted. We're depleting our carbon based resources, a process which in geological time is almost complete. It cheats our posterity out of the same opportunities to use oil that we had. For example, oil is a fundamental ingredient in all kinds of miracle products such as plastics, chemicals, medicines, etc. And yet we are

burning up those resources primarily to move vehicles and heat homes when we know that renewable technologies such as wind, solar, and geothermal would make much better sense than carbon based technologies in performing those tasks, if we would only make the commitment to use them.

Scientists tell us that over the last 150 years or so we have used up about fifty percent of all the oil that ever existed or will exist on planet Earth in our lifetimes. At current rates of use, we will deplete what's left sometime this century. Now it took maybe 200,000,000 to 300,000,000 years for nature to make this stuff and now we are on target to deplete it all in our grandchildren's lifetimes. And we're doing this knowing full well that our use of carbon is a threat to life itself on our planet. And this is happening for no other reason than that those who run things value their own personal wealth and political power above the survival of our own species and maybe all species. How does one even begin to quantify that level of irresponsibility and selfishness?

And that is just one example of the insanity. Nuclear energy is another. The risks are so high for nuclear energy that nuclear facilities are privately uninsurable. Our use of atomic energy has put every man, woman, and child on earth at risk without first getting permission to do so after fully disclosing the potential dangers. The same

can be said for some aspects of genetic engineering.

Like I said, the political forces at work bearing down on us are inspired by people who are, when you consider what we have now learned by experience, quite literally, insane. The inmates are running the asylum. Maybe they seem normal to their families and associates. But to pursue agendas that could conceivably lead to the end of life as we know it on Earth; that's not normal sane behavior. People can do crazy and unconscionable things when they're motivated by fear.

So what difference do economic charts make if those holding our lives in their hands are hell bent on pursuing a mind warped trajectory? We know they're on this trajectory because we read and hear people argue for it every day. Economic data can sometimes help investors make investment decisions, but that's not what's influencing the political forces at work shaping our grandchildren's future. I sometimes wonder if our grandchildren are going to have a future.

I'm sorry for sounding a bit dark. I'm just reporting how I see political forces in the world evolving. That's why I'm running for office. We need people who are better prepared to make responsible decisions than those now making those decision. Could I be wrong? Maybe. I hope

so. But how much risk should we allow our leaders to take when we're not really sure that their policies are even consistent with sustainable life on this planet? Who are the people making these decisions and how did they get to such a state of mind?

I will tell you this. If I am elected President of the United States, I will do what I can to leave as much oil in the ground as possible as I try to create programs that insure the sufficiency of our energy needs without cheating ourselves, our posterity, or threatening life as we know it.

I'm laying my cards on the table for all to see. I'm a candidate for president and I'm asking for your vote.

Q7. Well damn, I think it's pretty unfair to characterize people in the oil industry, in the finance sectors of our economy, or in politics as being insane because they want to insure that the American people have sufficient energy resources to keep our engine of democracy going. You're not going to run airplanes on solar energy, and while maybe in the future technology will improve enough to have solar and wind energy compete with oil and gas on an even basis, the fact that we're not there yet does not make people who have devoted their lives to bringing us an abundance of energy, insane. You

are dark, and I don't like your attitude. Sounds much too hateful to me.

A7. Well, I think we have to expand our discussion to deal with your comment.

My research, based on what I think are reliable sources, indicates that over a million innocent Iraqi civilians have unnecessarily lost their lives as a result of our illegal war in Iraq. If you consider UN sanctions put in place by the US during the Clinton years, you have to add over half a million dead Iraqi children to those stats.

Many thousands or hundreds of thousands of children have been killed, maimed, starved, or orphaned by this war and many thousands of surviving children now have birth defects or cancer because of the depleted uranium weapons we used there. Iraqi women will continue to give birth to such unfortunate children well into the future. You can't quantify the suffering we have inflicted on these people. The land has been poisoned with radiation and large areas may be uninhabitable, or ought to be uninhabited, for maybe tens, hundreds or thousands of years. Many millions of people have been displaced from their homes or have otherwise become impoverished by the war. Essentially the country has been destroyed. And I'm only talking about Iraq here, not all the other countries subject to our military interventions.

What I am describing are horrendous war crimes perpetrated against these people by our leaders and their followers. We were told that the reason we had to employ our military might against this nation was because their leader was developing weapons of mass destruction that would be used against us.

These were all lies and there's plenty of evidence that they were intentional lies and not simply mistakes. I believe, based on my research, that we went into Iraq to secure their oil resources and also to make sure Saddam Hussein didn't have the opportunity to influence other countries to trade oil in currencies other than dollars.

Hussein was in the process of trying to end the monopoly of the US dollar being the world's only reserve currency. He was set on selling his country's oil to other nations in currencies other than dollars. This of course would undermine a US monopoly, a great advantage the United States has over the rest of the world. So we took him out.

I can understand why the powers-that-be wouldn't like this. But that didn't give us the right to commit grievous war crimes against those people. All people have a right to live in peace and pursue their own destinies on a level playing field based on international law and basic human rights. Killing them and their children and making

them suffer did not enhance their human rights, advance their society towards democracy, or help them to understand what real democracy means. And it didn't help us either... or our posterity.

In my view, the wars we engage in are designed to secure our control over other people's resources and to make sure their countries don't become democracies. If they did become democracies, they would likely choose to reclaim control of their own resources and kick us off their land. Of course our government tells us a different story. But our government lies. We (our nation) are engaged in criminal behavior. The murder and mayhem we create is, in truth, so devious, wrong-headed, immature and callous that the only way to accurately describe such behavior is to call it insane, criminal, or criminally insane.

And I will tell you this. I don't hate anyone, not even people who commit dastardly deeds. But we all have a responsibility to stop criminals in their tracks and to correct any injustices they perpetrate in our name. They are not bad people. (I don't really think there are any bad people.) But I do think there are plenty of people who are simply intellectually and emotionally unprepared to occupy positions of leadership and ought not to be given the opportunity to mistreat others. It's part of our job as citizens, and also a key function of government, to make sure our

fellow citizens and other world citizens are protected from intellectually, emotionally and spiritually unenlightened people.

When you give people who are unprepared to handle the responsibility of what amounts to almost unlimited military and economic power, the damage they can do to others is enormous. People can and do become corrupted by such power.

It's important to understand that as citizens we have a responsibility, and it's our primary duty to stop people who represent us from doing unsavory things in our name. We need to be vigilant. It's our job. We haven't done that. We've lost sight of who we are and what our responsibilities are.

Most of our leaders are not qualified to hold the offices they hold. They get elected by way of a system that is drastically flawed. We haven't been mature and wise enough to modify our systems so as to become well enough informed and intellectually prepared to hire (i.e., vote for) qualified people to represent us.

And so our leaders have not preserved our freedoms, advanced human rights, or insured the sustainability of life on our planet. We have instead accepted a worse than mediocre status quo.

We don't educate our children on how to handle the responsibilities of citizenship. We don't even educate them on how to handle economic life when they leave school. And we don't properly educate them on the importance of having intellectual integrity as a critical part of their character.

We too were educated by that system. Maybe that's why we're a little bit confused about why things seem to be going in the wrong direction. This has been going on for a long time now.

Many of our schools are failing, and so are many of our most important institutions. We're beginning to see that our way of life is collapsing under the strain and weakness of years of moral decay and neglect. Our people feed on myth, propaganda, lies, and corruption handed to us by confused people in authority. If we don't reverse course, there's no telling how much despair we and our offspring will eventually have to endure because of it. We need to understand the power of the truth. We understand the power of lies now very well. We see how lies allow some of us to control and manipulate others. We've sometimes been the victim of those lies and sometimes the perpetrators. Now it's time to experience the power of the truth. I'm not talking about some airy fairy existential truth. I'm talking about the simple act of telling the truth about our own experience, as opposed to

using lies as a short cut to get what we think we want, or to avoid responsibility for our behavior or lack of it.

Living in a sea of lies removes us from reality. We live now on the edge of insanity and/or collapse. If you look at the death, despair, devastation, hunger, war, and pain being experienced in the world now, what I'm saying should start to appear somewhat obvious.

Our leaders have killed or ruined the lives of millions of innocent people in our name. Our Constitution and the rule of law is in shreds. If you think there will never be a price to pay for this treason, you are living in a dream world.

We can turn this around. I think I can help. We all can help once we all understand the challenge. I don't have all the answers. But I think I can help. So can you.

Q8. You don't sound presidential to me. I appreciate your efforts but I don't think you can be elected. Sorry.

A8. Well... I understand why you see it that way, but here's the thing: If you go on the internet you will find bloggers and commentators, accurate and inaccurate reporting, and enough opinions to make your head spin. But as far as offering any real solutions or alternatives... well... not so much. Electing me to this office or even just

being willing to vote for someone like me would be real change and a beginning towards cleaning up the mess. The other people running are not more qualified to do this job than I am. Few of them have kept their oath of office or inspired us to do better. The lack of integrity and the incompetence is destroying our country and other countries too.

So listen. It might just come down to this: On election day there will be a Democrat, a Republican, maybe a Green Party Candidate, a Libertarian, and me as candidates for President (although my name might not appear on your ballot.) You're going to have to pick one. If you're smart, you'll vote for the candidate you think will make the best president whether or not you think he or she can win. And if you decide you want to vote for me, you might have to go to the trouble of writing my name in on your ballot. If you don't like that strategy, it's your right to vote for anyone you want.

I can't change your mind about anything. You have to do that for yourself. I respect your right and everyone else's right to make their own choices in life. I told you what I think might work, or help, and I'm offering my services. If you've got a better idea, by all means, go for it.

In any event, I think it's time to end this particular question and answer session.

Before I do, let me offer you an observation: I don't think most people really believe there's a God. Well, they do believe in something... I'm just not sure they know exactly what. Certainly not the God I know. That's understandable given what they've been taught. God is not a religion. But God is real and not a myth... and God is not a liar or a cheat. And for sure, God is not the fool so many people think He is.

By now you may have already made up your mind about me. If you still want to know more, I suggest you review the links on this page if you haven't already done so.

In any event, thanks for caring enough to read as much as you have. I really do appreciate it.

Best regards,

Mark

Vote for me or someone better.

Vision for Spaceship Earth

11/14/2011

I am borrowing the term Spaceship Earth from R. Buckminster Fuller, the philosopher, architect, and visionary of the 20th century, to describe the planet we all occupy. He pointed out that we live on a spaceship of sorts, hurling through space at a little over 66,000 miles per hour, in orbit around our miraculous energy source, a star we call the Sun. We carry with us on our epic journey through time and space all the supplies we need to sustain us on our long voyage. We are the crew of this, our round ship. Unfortunately, we have become an unruly crew, constantly bickering and fighting amongst ourselves, wasting supplies, thinking mutinous thoughts, and making the voyage an unhappy experience for a great many of our fellow travelers. It's a hell of a way to run a spaceship.

Fuller pointed out that we are managing things in a way that threatens our very survival. He suggested that the time is coming soon when we will have to choose... either we will learn how to work together — to man the ship so that it works for everyone on board, or we will end up on a dysfunctional piece of rock that works for no one at all.

I suggest to you that humanity already possess the knowledge of how to run this ship in a way that would allow it to work for everyone on board. We have in our possession a road map if you will — the documented wisdom of those who came before — showing us the way to proceed... a strategy that would allow us to transform our relationships with one another, and with our mother ship, so that we might avoid disaster, and instead make life on board our small vessel a valuable and meaningful experience for every passenger, and for as far into the future as we can imagine. Miraculously, the road map of which I speak is reduced to a single document — one that is available to all of us for review and study. It is called the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (see index.)

This document was signed and adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10, 1948. It identifies what we must do if we are ever to find peace and freedom from fear on board this ship, for ourselves and for our posterity. The question is, will we have the wisdom to offer them that opportunity — the opportunity to celebrate universal respect, decency, and justice among all nations with no one left out... or will we deny them our wisdom and cheat them out of their birthright?

After much consideration and study, every UN member state signed onto this road map for

universal peace. A few abstained from the voting, but no nation voted against the resolution which gives us and our offspring our best hope for universal success.

So each government agreed to give their people this chance; to give them the opportunity to read, study and come into alignment with the terms and conditions outlined in the document. Each member nation agreed that every world citizen has the right to know that this road map exists, that they have a right to read and understand what it says and what it means, and that they have both the right and the obligation to strive alone and with others to fulfill its promise.

Unfortunately, the leaders of many nations did not keep their word; not even our own government which sponsored it. The agreement was designed to fulfill the hopes and dreams of the common people in every compartment (i.e., nation) on our Spaceship. Had their word and our word been kept, all the peoples of the world would now be at peace with no one hungry or living in fear. This is how I see it. An unfortunate and sad commentary. And yet... I believe, it's still not too late.

The road map is still as valid today as it was when it was originally adopted. But time is running out. What we need to do is renew our commitment to the promise humanity made to itself. If we can do

that, we can secure for our children and grandchildren a bright and hopeful future. If we fail, we risk losing most of what mankind has learned and contributed in support of life on Earth. In fact, we risk the viability of life itself on this fragile ship of ours if we continue the wanton destruction of our spaceship's life support systems, which is what we are now engaged in doing.

What It Will Take

In just a few words I have offered you the solution to most of the problems facing all crew members that live on Spaceship Earth. But my saying it doesn't mean that you or others understand or believe it. And so for all members of the crew to come into alignment with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights will not be easy to accomplish. Not now, and I expect not without a great deal of controversy. To succeed will take all the wisdom, courage, intellectual integrity, dedication, honor and truth that you as a crew member can muster. For the culture that we need to transform, now exists in a heavy atmosphere of fear and mistrust. We will never succeed unless we allow ourselves to adopt and sustain an attitude of faith and trust in ourselves and in one another as we attempt to accomplish the required task.

What I have described is the strategy I would pursue if I were the Chief Administrator of the Executive Branch of the Government of the United States.

To accomplish what I propose we need to do, cannot be accomplished through deceit, lies, fabrications, violence, secrecy or the propagation of illusion. It can only be accomplished through truth, honor, dignity, compassion, courage, and love. It's not something one person can accomplish alone; it's something we will all need to accomplish together.

There are those who will say that to attempt such a thing is pure folly... an act of naïveté.

I say, that anything else we might try is pure folly, and an act of naïveté... and also a clear path to self defeat. What I propose is the best chance we have to secure a world that works for everyone, and therefore a world that works for us. To stay the course we're on, or to adopt the course that many others are suggesting, is to pursue our own defeat in a world that will eventually work for no one at all.

Wise men and prophets throughout the ages have offered similar strategies to what I am suggesting, only to be ignored and/or betrayed. What I am proposing is a refinement of what has been offered before, and yet it is true and consistent with all the best ideas that were offered before. It

is more clear and more doable than anything yet suggested to humanity in the entire history of mankind. It is an answer and a gift that for too long has remained ignored and unseen even though it has been right in front of our eyes all this time. This window of opportunity is now open. It is an idea whose time has come, but only if we are willing to make it come.

It is time to let go of the limited past and choose instead a better future in freedom, peace, and sustainable success.

There are no guarantees. I believe what I am telling you is both true and doable; that the universe is waiting to support this effort; that peoples everywhere are tired of war, hunger, pestilence and fear. My solution is the only viable solution on the table. It is the only course of action that can take us where we need to go, because it is the only destination to which the common people of Spaceship Earth truly want to go.

I am a candidate for President of the United States and this is the framework of my platform and my proposal for the next administration and others that follow. To successfully embark on this adventure requires a critical mass of humanity being willing to accept this challenge with honor and courage. Be what you hope for. If you

understand what I'm telling you, vote for me, even though you don't even need me anymore.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights outlines what each citizen and organ of society must strive for if we are to succeed as a species. And yet that alone does not quite say enough. For the Universal Declaration of Human Rights while laying out the goal to be achieved requires a better understanding of the responsibilities of citizenship. For we cannot succeed unless we are willing to be responsible citizens. What does that mean? It means that you may have to change your attitude; you may have to let go of illusions and misunderstandings whenever you discover them because you surely will discover them once you embark on this journey. We live in an atmosphere awash in lies. You must now seek truth with integrity in all that you do; you must strive to do your best... your very best as a crew member on this ship if we intend to survive and prosper.

I'm offering you a choice. Some of you have prayed for help. I am here to help. If you think that I am arrogant, I say no... that is not a good enough response. I am not saying that you must believe anything I say. But for you to be honorable, you must allow for the possibility that what I am telling you is true. It is your responsibility to search, to question, to think, and to read... with honor and intelligence in order to

discover for yourself if maybe, just maybe, what I'm telling you is for real.

Be willing to suspend your fear and mistrust long enough to be honest with yourself and with those you love. In the end, no one can make you vote for me. No one can make you vote for anyone. But when you do vote, I suggest you vote with honor... and that means, first be open to learn something new; do not align yourself with a party, or an ideology, or a past decision you have made... but align yourself with your own conscience, after honest investigation, and do so with as much integrity as you can muster. You asked for this in the silence of your hidden hopes and dreams, and now the opportunity is here. I am not your savior. I am not even your leader. But I am a friend if you want one. ...and as one American poet once said, “the only way to have a friend is to be one.”

You don't need me to do this. You can do this without me. But if you want me to try, I'll do my best not to disappoint you.

“We are not going to be able to operate our Spaceship Earth successfully nor for much longer unless we see it as a whole spaceship and our fate as common. It has to be everybody or nobody.”

— R. Buckminster Fuller

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

When You Stand To Fight The Good Fight¹

A friend is one who'll stand with you
When you stand to fight the good fight
When you stand to fight the good fight
And you're standing there alone.

A friend is one to shield the blows
When you're down and bent and on your knees
When you're down and bent and on your knees
And kneeling there alone.

A friend is one to risk his own
When your money's spent and you're stripped to bone
When your money's spent and you're down to bone
A friend will come and risk his own.

A friend is one to bring the light
In your darkest hour when you still must fight
When it's dark and you hurt and you still must fight
A friend will come and bring the light.

If you need a friend and you're bloody red
In the dark of night in a bloody bed
And you hurt and you ache, feeling almost dead
A friend will come, a friend will come,
a friend will come to shield your head.
A friend will come,
When you stand to fight the good fight.

¹*From The Answer by Mark A. Goldman*

To All Citizens Hoping for Change in 2012

12/14/2011

Any candidate who seeks public office for the express purpose of creating a new cultural, economic, and political paradigm that transcends the current corrupt and unsustainable one we now have, will appear at first glance, to be unelectable.

This is true even though a great many citizens are aware that the current paradigm — which is now thoroughly corrupted by greed, ignorance and fear — offers the body politic nothing more than a future headed towards tyranny and despair.

It is a common human trait to resist change, even positive change. This is true because it will always feel like to fight City Hall and win is not only improbable, but impossible. That is exactly what the current paradigm wants you to feel, and it is also that feeling of fear that can keep those who want change from ever achieving it. The question then becomes, is your freedom and your hope for a better future important enough that it inspires you to overcome that fear and move toward the kind of society you really want?

We don't have much time and the future is beginning to look a bit grim. The longer you wait,

the more time the opposition has to regroup and fortify their defense in support of the status quo. The truth is, that if you ever hope to achieve what you say you want, you're going to have to support candidates like me, even though success seems improbable. Candidates who say what you want to hear but continue play the game the way it's always been played, might seem viable, even attractive, but they are unlikely to be the change agent you are really looking for.

You have to begin to think in terms of the new paradigm. For example, if you don't like a political system that is corrupted by money, you're going to have to support candidates like me who are willing to move forward without trying to raise money, even though being without money makes the effort appear hopeless. It's only hopeless if a critical mass thinks it's hopeless. That means it's not hopeless if a critical mass thinks there's a chance to win and is willing to try. So whether it's hopeless or not depends on you and which critical mass you choose to create and be a part of.

It will be hopeless to the extent that you let the pundits do your thinking for you, rather than think for yourself, or otherwise base your own thoughts and actions on what you believe others might think or do. How else do you suppose you will ever transform a system that corrupts and seduces citizens with fame and money if you

aren't willing to let go of the past and vote for candidates who don't fit the standard model? If you're unwilling to be seduced by the current paradigm, then all the money in the world won't make you vote against your own interests when you get into the voting booth.

Change doesn't come easy and any change that's worth pursuing is going to be an uphill battle. If you're not willing to make the effort, it's not going to happen. It's time to stop complaining about everything that doesn't work and start trying to make things work. The Occupy movement is a good start because it allows those who have common aspirations to see that there are others just like them who are also fed up with the corruption and the injustice. It also offers a fantastic network for getting the word out in pursuit of transformative change. If the people who are now Occupying various landscapes around the country were willing to stand with me, the powers that be would really be confused. All you have to do is stay in touch with your deepest aspirations and you won't be confused. I suggest you get moving.

I am offering you a way forward. The channels of communication are now open. It's time to use them for their intended purpose. Review what I am offering you and if you think it has merit, spread the word. You have to start thinking outside the box and that means, open your mind

to possibilities you haven't considered before. I've laid my own ideas all out for you.

With respect to the election in 2012, the window of opportunity is not going to remain open indefinitely. You can choose me, Obama, or whoever the next Republican candidate will turn out to be. There might also later be a Green Party, Libertarian, Socialist and/or other candidates as well. You're going to have to determine what is important to you and what you're going to do about it. If you have a better idea of how to move forward than what I am offering you, I suggest you get clear on what that is and why you think that something else is better, and then take action to make what you want a reality.

Meanwhile, consider this: On November 22, 2011 George W. Bush was found guilty by the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal. They found him guilty of Crimes against Peace, Crimes against Humanity and War crimes. His culpability has been "suspected" for a long time. Now evidence has been presented and a judgment handed down by a legitimate tribunal.

Out of all the current candidates running for President only Ron Paul and I made any public statements during the Bush administration in an effort to get him to stop his criminal behavior and/or to bring him to justice. Obama and most

other elected officials refuse to hold him accountable. Though Ron Paul was a Congressman at the time, he never offered articles of impeachment. I did, but of course my articles didn't count for much in the halls of Congress. And now no one mentions that Obama has committed many of the same crimes his predecessor committed.

So now he advertises an end to the war in Iraq thinking that no one will remember that he's a criminal in his own right, or that he refuses to prosecute others who also were. In any event, it should be obvious by now that other than Ron Paul and me, none of the other candidates can be trusted to keep their oath of office and therefore, on that information alone, they ought to be disqualified as candidates for President in the mind of every honorable and thoughtful citizen. If you vote for any of them you are choosing to be complicit in the crimes they committed or abetted.

If Ron Paul were to become the Republican candidate of choice, while he deserves to be considered a viable candidate, his simplistic understanding of economics along with some of the unworkable economic policies he favors would continue to enrich the rich at the expense of everyone else, just as it has in the past. And given Paul's philosophy of how government ought to operate, he would not be inclined to put in

place the necessary regulations needed to keep the ruling elite from running amuck and taking unfair advantage of everyone else as they always try to do. Paul is an honorable man but he's not qualified to take us in the direction we need to go.

So what are you going to do? Whatever it is, I suggest you get busy before it's too late. The election is only a year away. The ruling elite are gearing up to win. How are you going to respond ... and are you going to respond in time to make the kind of difference it's going to take to save this country from ruin? Don't ignore this coming election. You don't have to play by their rules, you can play by mine.

Here is the announcement of my candidacy and my platform. Notice that I don't mention jobs in either of these documents. The economic change you seek isn't going to happen until and unless there's a paradigm shift. I can promise you that. And that paradigm shift is not on any other candidate's agenda right now but mine. None of the other candidates even understand what I'm talking about. I hope you do.

Thanks for listening,

Mark A. Goldman

Candidate for President of the United States in
2012

My Letter to Lawyers and Judges

11/23/11

I realize what I am about to say does not apply to all attorneys or judges, but it's pretty clear that it applies to most. I can say that with certainty given what I've observed.

What I'm about to say to you is also true of ordinary citizens as well. But lawyers and judges are a special case because as a matter of course, you study at some depth, the content and meaning of the law and the Constitution.

Most citizens appear to be undereducated or misinformed about what their citizenship and professional responsibilities are to the rest of society. It is for this reason that our country now faces the greatest challenge it has ever faced — the permanent loss of the Constitution and the sovereignty of its citizens.

Every citizen has a job to do and you apparently do not know what your job is. I'm not saying that it's your fault. And my purpose here is not to lay blame. But you and those you love face the possibility of losing your freedom, both political and economic. You have failed to carry out your responsibilities and that failure has put every person you know and love at risk of losing everything that is precious to them. Apparently,

you are not prepared to carry out your responsibilities. What responsibilities am I talking about? The responsibility to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States against all its enemies foreign and domestic. Rather than repeat what I've already written elsewhere, please read my short commentary on citizenship before continuing. (pg. 843).

The reason the title of this piece is directed at attorneys and judges is that you, if you are an attorney or judge, specifically studied the history and meaning of the Constitution, and what its significance is. In fact, you agreed to dedicate your life to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and the rule of law. How do I know you agreed to make that your life's work? Because you took an oath. If you had not agreed to make that your life's work, you would not have been allowed to practice law. Maybe you forgot.

"Oath: A solemn, formal declaration or promise to fulfill a pledge, often calling on God, a god, or a sacred object as witness." ¹

In the link I offered earlier, I make the case that every citizen has a similar responsibility, i.e., to protect and defend the Constitution when necessary. Citizens not trained in the law or otherwise not properly educated might not fully understand what their responsibilities are or how to discharge them. That's why I'm writing this

piece. My point is, the fact that you don't know, don't remember, don't care, or otherwise don't believe you have such responsibilities is why you and your loved ones have already lost some of your most precious rights and freedoms and are very close to losing all of them. What good is being a citizen of the United States if you lose all or most of your fundamental human rights that took centuries for western culture to identify, define and win?

You can't effectively practice law if you don't understand what the meaning of responsibility is. And you can't honorably practice law if you don't understand what an oath is or what the words in the Constitution mean.

Obviously, there are all kinds of things lawyers and judges might do that constitute the practice of law. And when they do those things, it's critical that they do them with integrity, which is to say, to the best of their ability. Everything they do when they practice their profession is their job. But there's only one thing you promised to do for which you gave your solemn and sacred pledge to your fellow citizens and to God. You swore on your honor to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States against any enemies foreign or domestic.

Now it's not only lawyers and judges who take that solemn oath as a prerequisite to practicing

their profession. Every soldier, every police officer, every naturalized citizen, and every elected government official does too... consciously and on purpose. Why do you suppose you were asked to do that? I will tell you why. It's because freedom is a precious and fragile gift for which a great many brave and honorable people sacrificed and died to secure on your behalf. Our basic rights and freedoms may very well be inalienable gifts from God, but for them to become and remain real in your life, you have to preserve, respect and cherish them, otherwise they can be lost, and once they are lost it might not be very easy to get them back.

Officers of the court, soldiers, police officers, and elected officials are the first line of defense against tyranny. When they fail, the responsibility necessarily falls upon the rest of us. Our children, our posterity depend on all of us to preserve their birthright.

When the president of Pakistan tried to illegally remove his country's Chief Justice from his post and also when he declared what attorneys in his country perceived to be an illegal state of emergency, those attorneys jumped out of their chairs and marched the streets of the capital in protest at the government's attempt to undermine the rule of law, some being injured and/or arrested in the process. Would you do that

if your government attempted to undermine the rule of law? Well they already have.

The fact is, the viability of our Constitution is now hanging by a thread and you are still going to work every day, earning your fees, working with your clients as if nothing has happened. You have not, for the most part, taken any significant action, which is to say you have not given your best effort to preserve our founding document as you promised you would do. Without your help now, not only is the economy likely to collapse, but life as you have known it is likely to collapse. Maybe not today or tomorrow... but that day is coming... and maybe it will be tomorrow.

How do I know this is true? Because I've been paying attention. The evidence is overwhelming that the Constitution has been degraded even though most citizens don't seem to know it or understand what the implications are of what has transpired. The fact that they don't understand is evidence that you, if you are a lawyer or a judge, have not explained it to them.

A Few Examples - there is a great amount of evidence that the following examples (listed in no particular order) are quite real, and evidence of such is available to anyone who is willing to take the time to look for it.

1. The Writ of Habeas Corpus has been corrupted or suspended.
2. A US President was allowed to take office even though he didn't legally win the election.
3. Overwhelming evidence suggests that destruction of the twin towers was an inside job and yet the events of 911 were never properly investigated.
4. Hundreds of thousands of citizens were defrauded out of their homes by bankers who were never prosecuted for their crimes, and those defrauded were never compensated for the injustice they suffered.
5. A President of the United States has become an accessory-after-the-fact for being unwilling to prosecute known criminals. He has also committed crimes similar to those he refuses to prosecute, and yet, so far, no official action has been taken to correct this injustice. Apparently, it is now accepted that Presidents are above the law and not subject to the same legal restraints that apply to ordinary citizens.
6. Illegal wars were started and egregious war crimes have been committed, and continue to be committed, with no accountability on the part of the perpetrators.
7. Torture has been used by our government and is being used against suspected civilian and military detainees. Perpetrators of

these crimes are not, and have not been investigated or prosecuted even though several perpetrators of these crimes have admitted their culpability.

8. People are being punished for crimes they didn't commit and/or are being held, some for years, without any due process whatsoever.
9. At least one President believes he has the right to murder people on his own say so and has committed that crime multiple times.
10. At least one President believes he has the right not only to murder suspects but also, through negligence, to murder people in the vicinity of those suspects without any due process of law and in public places far removed from any battlefield. He does this without a declaration of war and without any legal authority whatsoever.
11. First amendment rights have been grossly degraded and privacy is no longer respected by our government as a general rule. Your phone can be tapped, your body can be touched or groped, your emails read without legitimate due process.
12. Homes have been foreclosed on thousands of people even though the documents used in the process were not legally executed.

13. Patents are being issued on life forms that were known to exist for eons. People are losing their farms or being sued when the wind blows the seeds from plants their neighbors grow onto their land and begin to sprout.
14. Police officers are being trained not to protect the rights of ordinary citizens, but instead to use weapons and follow illegal orders of superiors that degrade the rights of ordinary citizens. Police officers who commit such crimes are generally not prosecuted.
15. People who do not work for corporations are being sent to jail for crimes they commit while corporate moguls who commit far more egregious crimes are allowed to walk free while the penalty for their crimes are converted to fines which are then paid by their corporations.
16. This list could be greatly expanded. Basic principles of justice, our Constitution, and the rule of law are under attack. Your job is to defend them. It's everyone else's job too and yet what I see is a general failure of the legal community to take responsibility for itself, when the legal community by all rights should be leading the charge.

During a recent TV debate among Republican candidates for President, six out of eight of them said that they approved of torture and would use it against detainees if elected, in effect, reporting to the electorate that they have no intention of keeping their oath of office, given that torture is both illegal under our nation's laws and also under international law. How is it possible that talk of torture is so generally acceptable if the rule of law is still respected in America?

At least one of these candidates reported that, as President, he would gladly sign agreements with certain of our trading partners purporting to advance trade and peaceful co-existence while at the same time carry out covert operations making undeclared war against those very nations that are party to those agreements (that is, as long as he was confident that he could get away with it without being found out), thereby telling the people of our nation and the world that not only is this person's word of honor worthless, but that the people of the United States are also without honor, lacking in respect for the pursuit of peace, and lacking in respect for their own dignity, and for the dignity of other members of a larger world community.

The policy of torture used by our forces against other peoples is a process whereby torture is applied to any number of individuals even though

none of them are known to be guilty of knowing or doing anything wrong, hoping that the torture might yield useful information for future military use. There is evidence that mistreatment of suspects and prisoners in the US prison system is growing in response to this unconscionable example being set by our government.

The truth is, you can no longer guarantee your client justice in America's judicial system. And if you cannot guarantee your client justice, you have failed in your duty to keep your oath, your sacred word of honor. In America, innocent people are being sent to prison. Suspects are not presumed innocent but are being punished as they wait for their trial to begin. Since when is it justice to fail to charge people for crimes they do commit, or to charge people for crimes they are known not to commit? And if a person does commit a crime, who gives a prosecutor the right to lower the charge to a lesser offense or raise the charge to higher offense than was committed? How do such practices serve justice?

We are a nation whose government is at war against the world and also against its own people, spurred on by profiteers wealthy enough to buy elections and corrupt legal processes for their own ends.

That so many judges and lawyers find it more convenient to value their daily schedules, their

amicable relationships with colleagues, and/or their own personal incomes more than they value the freedom of other human beings, or the right of other human beings to expect and receive justice when it's needed, is a disgrace.

Maybe it's already too late. I don't know. The failure of our most trusted professionals may have already cost all of humanity its freedom. Perhaps the rule of law is now like the walking dead, *where the moving finger has already written and where it's now too late for tears to cancel any line or wash out any word of it.*

But here we are. You are the front line defense and that line of defense is crumbling. If you do not think things are bad enough yet for you to raise your voice in support of justice and the rule of law, then how bad does it have to get before you will decide to do your job and keep your word?

I think you owe us all an answer.

The Next Presidential Election Will Be A Referendum:

The People will Choose Tyranny or Freedom

11/11/2011

The legitimate government of the United States has been overthrown. It is now in the hands of an elite few and is no longer a government of, by, and for the People. In the next presidential election citizens will either ratify the government we now have or reject it in favor of a government that was originally intended by the Framers.

The overthrow of the legitimate government is now well documented. You can review the evidence at my web site and at other web sites as well.

I have announced my candidacy for President of the United States. If I am elected, I will do my best to help restore the legitimate government and be what a President is supposed to be: a servant of the People. If one of the other candidates now running wins, the People will have voted for the status quo (assuming their votes are properly counted, that is).

If you review my work you will see that I have spent most of the last twenty years or so attempting to defend the Constitution and the

rule of law. In my view, the other candidates have spent their time participating, in one form or another, in its demise, either through ignorance, neglect, or active participation.

The announcement of my candidacy so far has been ignored by the mainstream media, by other formal and informal media outlets, and by most individuals who are aware of my candidacy. The only way the American People will know of my candidacy will be if you decide to spread, disseminate, broadcast, circulate, or otherwise propagate this information to others. In doing that, you might very well be risking your reputation, your job, and/or your standing in the community, just like me. It's even possible that your freedom or your life could eventually be at risk as well. If I am taken out, others will have to take my place.

There will be only a very few individuals that I will be able to contact directly, and so whether or not the People of this country will knowingly or unknowingly choose tyranny or freedom in the next election largely depends on what you choose to do. Your courage, dedication, and wisdom could very well make the difference between freedom and tyranny here and abroad. There is always a chance that I am wrong about all this, but this is how I see it. Again, that is where your courage, judgment, and wisdom could make the difference.

The freedom and success our nation has enjoyed to date was, save for a few, the work and dedication of those whose names you will never know. No doubt that's how it will be when future generations look back as well. They will not know the names of those who helped secure their freedom... or those who lost it.

“Liberty lies in the hearts and minds of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it...”

—Judge Learned Hand

“We are not going to be able to operate our Spaceship Earth successfully nor for much longer unless we see it as a whole spaceship and our fate as common. It has to be everybody or nobody.”

— R. Buckminster Fuller

My Objection to Placing FDR's Prayer on the WWII Monument

11/8/2011

Obama correctly decided not to allow FDR's Prayer to be placed on the WWII Monument. To some, this is a controversy. Part of FDR's prayer reads as follows:

"Our sons, pride of our Nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion, and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity."

To put such a statement on our national monument would be a defacement of the monument and an injustice to FDR. For while FDR surely meant well, these words were inappropriate and not well chosen. What our sons were certainly not endeavoring to do is preserve 'our religion.' For the United States of America does not have a religion. The Constitution specifically forbids our government from establishing a national religion. The attempt to add this prayer to the monument was dishonest on its face for it was a deceitfully blatant underhanded attempt by some to affirm that Christianity is our national religion, which it is not. Attempts in recent years by successive administrations to tear our Constitution apart piece by piece has been progressing faster than I

ever could have imagined, and this was just the latest attempt by some at shredding another significant piece of it. While Obama has done his share of undermining our country's founding document, at least this time he did the right thing. It would be wrong of me not to acknowledge it.

Why the Economy Can't Recover

11/3/2011

If you want to understand why the government and the oligarchs do what they do, sometimes you have to look beneath the surface of what is called common knowledge.

The reason it's difficult for most people to understand what I'm about to say is that it flies in the face of almost anything they hear or see in the popular culture or in the main stream media. The problem is that the main stream media is corporate media and it is not media from which one might expect the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. I'm not sure if the media was ever expected to live up to that standard, and yet on the other hand, why shouldn't we expect professional journalists to try?

Instead, popular media outlets appear to do the bidding of the government and oligarchs embarked on what Noam Chomsky and Edward S. Herman refer to as the manufacturing of consent - i.e., the managing of public opinion and the molding of popular culture to meet the illegitimate objectives (or, more accurately, to hide the illegitimate objectives) of an elite few. But we now live in a culture that has been and is seen by this observer, at least, to be constantly manipulated by the government and private

interests, unbeknownst to a generally unconscious public.

In any event, I'm going to tell you what I believe is now happening to our culture and our economy:

It's my belief that peak oil has been achieved and its arrival explains what is happening to markets and to our society. To understand more fully what peak oil is and what its consequences are I suggest you review [this](#) set of videos.

Essentially peak oil is that point in time when enough oil has been extracted from the earth's crust, such that the amount of oil that can be extracted in any given year has reached its maximum output and from that point forward will be in continual decline. It doesn't mean we are running out of oil anytime soon, but only that the amount we can extract in any given year will continue to decline over time, even as the cost of extraction continues to increase, until it eventually will no longer be economical to extract what remains.

The reason this is important is that as economies and populations grow, the demand for oil increases. While in the past, oil production has always been able to meet demand at reasonable cost, it now no longer will. Now when economies try to grow, the production of oil will not be able to meet demand at historical prices. Instead, the relative scarcity of oil in the face of increasing

demand will tend to force the price up which in turn will force economic activity to contract.

So what we will see from now on is an economy (ours and everyone else's) that is highly volatile and also consistently unable to break through to the upside over any significant time period. As economic activity shrinks, the relative scarcity of oil will abate; the price of oil will temporarily decline and prospects for growth will begin to look good again. But when the economy begins to pick up, demand for oil will again increase, shortness of supply will again inflate the price, and economic activity will again be constrained. The overall trend will look like a roller coaster but one that has an overall downward trajectory as the maximum production of oil in any given year will tend to decline as world reserves continue to be depleted. This process could go on for quite a few decades.

If you research this further you will find that attempts to increase supply by finding new sources of oil or by improving extraction technologies, will only produce temporary spikes in production but it will not solve the problem. Right now we have nothing in the pipeline that can replace oil. And yet those who make money from oil continue to do everything in their power to make more money from oil, including petitioning congress to divert national resources into finding more of it, and selling as much oil as

they possibly can while they can, particularly as the price spikes when shortages occur. All this while the US is without any long term energy policy that addresses the future needs of ordinary people.

Under these conditions the economy cannot recover. Oil is the lifeblood of the economy. And less oil means diminishing life and increasing lethargy for most, if not all, economies. Complicating the problem, is that if we try to use other fossil fuels, such as gas and/or coal to replace oil, the impact on global warming will only get worse, bringing us closer to ecological disaster, even if, or because those resources can remain plentiful over a protracted time period. In my understanding, almost none of the suggestions that you hear day in and day out from most economists or politicians, for expanding the economy or growing jobs, will make any difference at all no matter how good or hopeful they sound.

Government officials and oil moguls know this. Oil companies are trying to maximize profits and extract as much wealth as possible from the public while they can, while our government is engaged in making war in order to confiscate whatever oil resources are left in the world regardless of where they are located. The attempts they make at offering legitimate reasons for engaging in war are becoming more and more

ridiculous as their strategy unfolds, and this is likely to result in what the CIA refers to as “blowback,” i.e., repercussions from people who decide to fight back, the reason for which our generally uninformed population will not likely comprehend.

Unfortunately, theirs is not a strategy designed to help any society or any people who are not in the oil, war, security, or finance industries. War uses up so much of our resources and destroys so much of the assets and infrastructure of other countries that the net result is the accelerated destruction of economies, ours and theirs, even though it is still profitable for those who are on the payroll of those industries or otherwise own or control oil or have a vested interest in its protection, extraction, production, financing, or sales.

As long as our elected officials are bought and paid for, we will continue on this path, apparently until the oligarchs can't extract any more wealth from us or from oil producing countries; or until the economy collapses altogether; or until people wake up in time to embark on a more enlightened strategy for economic sustainability. With respect to this last option, it is doubtful that our current crop of leaders and oligarchs are either inclined to create, or intellectually and emotionally capable of creating, such a strategy.

The current state of consciousness is as follows: Oil runs the economic engine. When oil is in short supply, those members of society who are not critical to keeping that engine turning should be ignored, discarded, and/or impoverished, thereby freeing up additional non-productive resources that can instead be used to keep that hungry economic engine turning. Of course the destruction of other economies helps too for the same reason.

So in my view, this is what protesters are protesting about even though most of them probably don't know it. This is why social safety nets are under attack; this is why Obama and others aren't trying to grow the economy; this is why we're at war and this is why government is tooling up and training to handle a general citizens' insurrection. It's only a matter of time. The more time they have, the more prepared they will be. I don't rule out the possibility of some black swan event that could save us from the scenario I describe, but then again, black swan events are events that aren't predictable.

This is my theory, which, if you investigate the links I provided, you will see I extrapolated from other sources. I have no hard proof that this explains current events and behaviors as I experience them, only a lot of circumstantial evidence. (No Middle Eastern country accurately reports their reserves and certainly none will

admit publicly that they have reached peak oil until they have no choice).

If you think this won't affect you, you probably have a lot of financial resources which you believe will carry you through, and/or a lot of faith... or you may simply possess what one politician once called... the audacity of hope.

Everyone Thinks They Have the Truth

(and why there are protesters camping in the street)

11/1/2011

Everyone thinks they have the truth. And yet a person who has a high level of intellectual integrity will find that over time the truth changes. It changes because an honorable person is always open to learning something new and will sometimes take the opportunity to look at things from other perspectives. An honest person continually checks to see if new information they receive verifies or contradicts what they already believe or think they know.

To not question and examine new information or facts is to believe in dogma. People who believe in dogma are not intellectually honest with themselves or others. Everyone who is dedicated to being honest with themselves is also dedicated to being honest with others. They will eventually see the truth change and become more refined over time as they obtain more knowledge. And with greater knowledge, their understanding of the world around them deepens and matures, becomes more accurate, and their perspective changes... and that's how wisdom is born. A wise person knows he doesn't know everything and so he keeps learning. The more you seek the truth with integrity, the more you tell the truth with

integrity... the more truth is revealed for you to tell. Corporations were originally conceived and brought into being when a king decided he wanted certain risky projects to be accomplished. Before corporations came into being all merchants were personally liable for any debts they incurred in their business dealings. To equip and send a ship half way around the world in search of treasure was once a very risky thing to do. Later, to build large public projects like dams and railroads required so much capital that few individuals were rich enough to take them on without limited liability protection. For if a project were to fail because of some unexpected risk, it could wipe them out in the blink of an eye.

And so certain companies were sometimes granted corporate status to protect owners from personal liability, in order that those projects could go forward. Originally this privilege was granted for projects that were deemed particularly important to the king.

The first incorporated business (then called a charter) was granted to a mining company in Sweden by the Swedish king. The Dutch East India Company and the Hudson Bay Company were later formed to import spices from the new world. The British East India Company exploited the East Indies and Africa for their resources. Eventually, more and more companies were granted those special privileges until today

almost any person can go into business and obtain limited liability status for a small fee which protects their personal assets from the claims of business creditors. But the unwritten tacit agreement is that they are being offered limited liability to carry on their business in a manner that will benefit society as a whole.

So corporations were invented to provide valuable goods and services to kings and eventually to society. When corporations create valuable goods and services and do so honorably and legally they ought to be held in high esteem for what they accomplish. But to the extent that they do dishonorable things, which they sometimes do, they ought to be held accountable.

Similarly, when a president takes a sacred oath to preserve and protect the Constitution, he or she is honor bound to keep his or her word. And if and when they don't keep their word, citizens, through their elected representatives, have an obligation to hold them accountable. No one is above the law. That's the fundamental cornerstone principle of our Constitution. It's the founding principle of our law. The President is not a king; he or she is a citizen like everyone else; a servant of the people.

An honorable citizen pays attention and is willing to make judgments based on the facts. And an honorable person will check important facts they encounter, particularly if they have not done the

fundamental research to uncover those facts themselves, but got them from others who may or may not have a hidden agenda.

If a corporation illegally pollutes the environment they ought to be held accountable for the mess they make even though that corporation may very well also do useful things the rest of the time. A brilliant surgeon deserves a great deal of respect for all the good he or she does helping to heal people. But if a surgeon, say, murders someone he doesn't like, he still ought to be held accountable, face charges, and if found guilty, go to prison... despite the fact that he has done a lot of good work in his life. That's how justice works. Banks provide valuable services to customers. But if bankers knowingly cheat customers, that's fraud and they ought to be held accountable for the damage they do. A corporation owner needs limited liability because of the risks of doing business. But a manager or an owner is not entitled to limited liability or limited accountability in order to commit fraud.

Our Constitutional Republic was intended to foster justice and offer every citizen a fair chance to find success and happiness in the society formed under that Charter. The people we elect to office, if they are honorable, will put in place the best legislation they can honorably create—they will do their level best—to make sure that the system remains just and fair for every citizen.

What protesters are complaining about is surely not the same for every protester who participates. But most of them see, in one way or another, that today justice is not being served. They know and have substantial amounts of evidence that lead to the conclusion that certain bankers defrauded the country and its people to the tune of trillions of dollars and have not yet been held accountable. And that fraud has cost every citizen dearly. And they know that since that fraud took place, congress has not put in place any substantive legislation that would prevent them from doing it again.

They know that Presidents similarly have betrayed their oath of office; have perpetrated illegal acts at great cost to the citizens of this country as well as other countries, and have not yet been held accountable for their crimes. For example, torture is illegal. Period. And starting an unjust war is the worst crime anyone can commit under national and international law. And no one is above those laws.

Protesters have accumulated evidence that government officials lie and that those lies too often are made to cover up great injustices perpetrated against their own people or other peoples. They are not empowered to do that. When they do that, they break the law, dishonor their office, and ought to be held accountable.

Protesters know that corporations pay large sums of money to induce corruptible legislators into producing faulty and unjust legislation which favor the interests of those corporations over and above the interests of ordinary citizens resulting in dishonest and unfair practices that harm all of us.

They know that in order to earn illegitimate profits for its shareholders, corporations often pollute or otherwise damage the environment and pass onto society immense costs that greatly damage the health, financial condition, and happiness of innocent people. They also know that corruptible legislators allow them to get away with their crimes in exchange for campaign contributions that only serve to allow the corruption and injustice to persist.

Now if you don't know the facts, it's easy to remain unaware of the crimes that some people and some corporations commit and get away with. Without considerable research it might not be readily evident that this corruption persists. One problem is that this money also corrupts a corporate media that aids and abets criminal corporate and public officials by keeping ordinary citizens in the dark about their criminal acts.

But it's also a fact, that if you really want to know what's going on in corporate boardrooms and in legislative offices in your name, behind your

back ,and you are willing to put in the time to do the research, you can discover a good deal of what's going on for yourself.

Unfortunately, most citizens are just trying to make ends meet. They go to work and when they get home after a hard day's work they may not have the energy or the skills to do the kind of research I'm talking about. It takes a lot of time and a lot of dedication to discover what goes on behind the scenes in Washington and in the boardrooms of large corporations.

One thing I know for sure is how much time it took for me to become educated and to do the research I've done; many thousands of hours. The results of some of that research can be found in my books and at my web site.

The protesters who now fill parks and streets in cities all across America have legitimate grievances, whether any one of them knows what all of them are or not. They have been cheated. And so have you been cheated. We all have been. One study shows that the top 1% of citizens owned 42.7% of the country's financial wealth in 2007 and the top 20% owned 93%. That's a hint that something isn't quite right in how income and wealth is distributed among members of our society. Without the work of the bottom 80%, the top 20% would probably have to live in shacks, not in mansions... and ride to work on horses, not

in Mercedes. In any event, too many of that 80% are being totally left behind, and it's not fair.

A legitimate democracy is not sustainable at current levels of income and wealth disparity. An honorable person will take the hint and begin to look at how and why it got this way and why it will get worse if nothing is done about it. In our society now, money rules. And if money rules, this is not a society of, by, and for the People. An honorable citizen will want to know what can be done about it.

I like living in the United States and I like the home I live in. I know that for my home to remain a pleasant place to live I will need to make repairs and replacements from time to time when things begin to break down. If the roof leaks and I don't repair it, I know it will only get worse and if termites begin to nest in the walls I know my home will be in jeopardy if I don't accept responsibility for getting rid of them. If I want my space to be clean and pleasant, periodically I have to go around and look for dirt and whatever else might be amiss. That enables me to wipe away the spider webs, clear away the dust, vacuum the rugs, and straighten things up. You can't clean or fix things if you don't look for dirt or pay attention to what's broken or out of place. It's not the most pleasant thing to do, but it's the loving and responsible thing to do. I look for dirt

in my home because I like my home and I want it to continue to live there and continue to like it.

Well, the same is true with respect to my love of country. I discovered some time ago that the people I hired (voted for) to keep things in good order had run amuck. Instead of working a diligent 40 hour week keeping things in good repair, they were spending most of their time dialing for dollars in exchange for favors in order to accumulate money for themselves so that in election years they could afford to hire public relations people to lie to me about how diligently and honestly they've been doing their jobs so that I will keep them in my employ.

Now I know, that most of their time is spent keeping secrets from me and trying to fool me into believing they are serving my interests, when they are only serving themselves.

I found that the only thing they had been working hard at was making sure that I would never be able to figure out how to get rid of them even if I one day found out how dishonest and feckless they were. I realize now that I was negligent for allowing them to fool me for so long. I wasn't living up to my role as citizen. I was paying attention to the home I live in, but neglecting the country I live in. Now I'm trying to change that and I'm asking you to help because it's your country too and I can't do it without your help.

My Third Letter to Protesters

10/29/2011

Who are you protesting against? If you're protesting against the bankers and/or the politicians, you're wasting your time. They don't care if you protest. It doesn't cost them anything.

You really should be protesting against the apathy of your fellow citizens who seem not to have a clue what it's really all about. Well, chances are, you don't really know what it's all about either, not yet, not really.

Well, almost everyone knows now that we were all screwed by the bankers, and also other oligarchs, and the politicians who helped them do it, and get away with it. In the announcement of my candidacy for president, I explain some of the insanity.

But it doesn't seem like insanity from their point of view. They don't need you or care about you. They are in survival mode. They intend to strip what they can from the economy, and you, and retire to some safe hiding place where they intend to rule over the world in anonymity. The question is, who is going to rule. Is it going to be the oligarchs or the People; the oil men and the bankers or We the People?

There isn't much time to get your head on straight because if they win, we all will lose. And time is on their side not ours. Every day you don't have a job it will become more difficult for you to protest. And every day as the economy continues to shrink, the ranks of the unemployed will grow. And without inspired leadership there will be growing chaos... not in congressional offices or in the boardrooms of the oligarchs but in the living rooms and bedrooms all across America. Protest is not enough... you need to act.

You can rail against corporations and their owners and managers, but it won't be enough. Their public relations ploys will attempt to blunt your message, once they frame it. Thanks to the Supreme Court, corporations are now "people" too, except that corporations don't have a life expectancy and you can't send them to prison when they engage in criminal acts. How did that happen? Well, we elected presidents and other government officials who were liars and cheats and they allowed the appointment of justices to the Supreme Court who are part of, and sympathize with, the ruling class. And now we are getting ready to reelect these people again so that they can continue to do more of the same.

If you vote for them or help them win, you are digging your own grave. We need to dump them and start over. We need to vote them out of office and replace them with people who have a

different vision. If we can't do that, then we lose. Surely if we try to do that, they will spend billions to placate us and/or try to talk us out of it. We and our fellow citizens can either buy into their deceptions and lies, or we can stay on track.

Of course what I am suggesting will be hard work... a lot harder than camping out in a public square. We can't afford to lose. If you don't want to live in a corrupt society, you'll have to put some effort into turning things around. Citizens have responsibilities. "You can't be a traitor to life and then expect to live in a free and just society."

You know what's funny. The crimes and the treason that has taken place apparently don't bother most citizens at all. Well, maybe it's not so funny. In fact, it's a problem that's even more serious than the fact that the bankers and politicians committed fraud and got away with it. The US has undergone a coup and the government that was based on the Constitution has been overthrown. Our elected officials have transferred their loyalty from We the People, to the wealthy elite who fund their election campaigns. The country has been lost and most people remain unconscious about that, or too afraid to admit it... too afraid to even consider it a possibility. They are even too afraid to stop pretending they don't really care, fearing that if they were to speak out they might lose their job, their standing in the community, or some yet

unidentified future opportunity. They're hanging onto the false hope that it's your problem and not their problem because they still have a job or believe they will be able to safely afford their lifestyles well into the future. They don't realize yet that their financial future is as much in jeopardy as yours is.

Our ignorance and negligence as a People is the real crime... and it's a crime we perpetrated against ourselves and our own posterity. If it weren't for us and our lack of integrity, our politicians would not have been able to stay in power long enough to destroy what we once had. I remember Watergate. Publication of that small crime (relative to the crimes now being perpetrated) was enough to bring public opinion down upon the perpetrators and cause an administration to go away. The media then was on the side of the People. Now it isn't. Now we're on our own. And the public seems to have forgotten how to think for themselves. You need to help them see again. Of course you can't help anyone else see until you first open your own eyes.

So the American government that once defended the Constitution has fallen; the Constitution is on its death bed; criminals are running the country and the results are being felt not only in America, but all over the world... so much so that protests are happening in other parts of the world... even

as many more impoverished people already face starvation.

The same people running our country are also running, or trying to run, the rest of the world. Students are being defrauded, home owners are being defrauded, teachers are being defrauded, the elderly are being defrauded, and you are being defrauded. If you don't realize it yet, one day in the not too distant future, you will.

While protesters have taken up locations in various cities they don't seem to know what's really happening to them or what to do about it. If their protests do not energize the rest of the population to rise up in solidarity with them, we will all lose? If the People do not stand with them and take back our power so that the criminals can be taken into custody and tried for their crimes, allowing others to take their place to form a more perfect union and restore the Constitution to its rightful place, then it's all for nothing. But how do you inspire people who are afraid to be inspired?

In any event, you had better understand what I'm about to tell you: Restoring the Constitution will not, by itself, restore the economy. The economy is shrinking and without very major reform, it's headed for collapse. Until we successfully get ourselves off of fossil fuels the economy will continue to shrink until most of humanity ends up dirt poor and in debt peonage. The economy will

not be what it once was anytime soon and maybe it never will again. The question is, can we recreate an economy that will sustain us all, or is it going to be an economy where when the oligarchs no longer need or want you, you will simply be discarded? Are we going to be one People, with liberty and justice for all, or is it going to be liberty and justice, but only for some? If you decide to live for yourself and the hell with everyone else, I guess you won't be voting for me or anyone like me any time soon.

Now I'm a Candidate for President of the United States. But it's not important that I get elected. It's only important that you have enough integrity to vote for me, or someone like me... and others too who have a vision for a more perfect union... one in which the family of humanity behaves more like a family that loves one another rather than one that's at war with itself. If you don't think my vision is possible, it won't be, and our fate will be sealed. And I guess that's the bottom line. Don't just support and vote for people who can mouth the words; vote for people who actually believe and live them. Review their track records before you vote. If you don't think voting matters, I surely hope you have a better idea... one that you can execute before it's too late.

Meanwhile, I suggest you read this: [On Citizenship](#). And this: The [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). And this: [I rest my case](#).

Do your job. Spend an hour in Professor Bartlett's class. Do your homework. Give it all you've got... that is, if you hope to retain your dignity, have a decent life, and have something of value to pass on to your posterity.

The most important tools you have if you are willing to take up this challenge, are your integrity, your heart, your courage, your love of freedom, your willingness and ability to think for yourself, and your faith that with God's help, we will see each other though. I'll stand with you if you'll stand with me. No violence, just citizenship.

Broke and Broken

9/29/05

This commentary was written in 2005 and published in my book by the same name. You can purchase the book [Here](#).

One of the dire consequences of the Bush administration is the acceleration of what I would call the cannibalization of the American economy resulting in the destruction of real wealth in its many forms. This did not start five years ago, but the acceleration is now hyper.

This process goes largely unreported because results are not directly reflected in national income accounting. What allows this to happen is sleight of hand propaganda and accounting coupled with the fact that principles of economics are not widely understood by the general public.

One of the great tragedies of our time is the fact that US citizens have been brainwashed over a period of many years into thinking that capitalism is equivalent to democracy. It is not. Capitalism is an economic system and democracy is a political system. If you look at China and how it is transforming itself into a real powerhouse, you can begin to understand that totalitarianism and capitalism can coexist very nicely. Corporations are not democratic institutions and when corporate power marries political and military

power, what that invites is fascism... which seems to be the path we are now on. But there is a cost to all of this even though those who are drunk with power don't understand or care about that. Their drunken stupor might persist long enough to destroy an entire civilization if we let them.

Real wealth is that which adds to the quality of life. Clean air, clean water, a warm place to sleep, having food on the table, and being in touch with loved ones are aspects of real wealth... and so is freedom from avoidable diseases, unnecessary stress, crime and insecurity. In other words, those things that provide human beings with a true sense of security, well-being, and freedom are the main substance of real wealth.

So how is your government and the global economy affecting your real wealth? Well some of the choices being made on your behalf can add to your wealth in one context and destroy it in another. For example, spend your tax dollars on some weapon systems and they might offer insurance against an enemy attack. Spend money on weapons we will never need or use in order to provide jobs or to pay off political debts to unscrupulous individuals and corporations and it will rob those who pay taxes, those who get the jobs, and those who might have received something of value had the money been spent on something else.

Well you might ask, how can having a job rob someone? It can by having that person waste a lifetime of hours doing something meaningless when they could have been doing something useful with their time instead. This robs them of their dignity and the experience they might have had if, in those same hours, they had been employed adding something meaningful to life. Dignity is not an economic term and you won't see it listed on a balance sheet even though it is an attribute of real wealth.

Allowing a corporation to postpone the installation of anti-pollution devices, might bolster corporate profits, but it is also likely to diminish the wealth of everyone who lives downstream. The added profits will show up as positive numbers on the company's balance sheet and on the government's GDP report. But the real costs will not be measured or show up on any official document of either institution.

In fact, to later clean up the accumulated mess that results might require relatively huge amounts of resources, which economic activity will then also be added to GDP even though the entire clean up effort would have been unnecessary had the original anti-pollution devices been properly installed in the first place.

The savings that would accrue to a corporation in such a case will likely never balance out the real

long term cost. This is the squandering of real wealth and it takes its toll on real people who otherwise might have lived sustainable lives had those economic resources been properly spent in the first place, with the surplus invested at improving education, health-care, or any number of other socially beneficial endeavors.

And of course if the product or service that the corporation was involved in was really of little use or social value anyway, the result is even more tragic.

So what does GDP mean really in terms of real wealth. Nothing... in fact it is now more likely to mislead, misinform, and outright lie.

So when we spend billions of dollars on uncalled for tax cuts or on military adventures and weaponry, which then proliferate around the globe causing death and destruction everywhere, while at the same time diverting funds away from the building of adequate levees around New Orleans, for example, we are left wondering why are we so far in debt? And how come we have to rebuild an entire city now when some of that money could have been used to keep the city dry and the rest used to help the poorest of New Orleans' citizens become independent contributors to society?

The American economy is mature now, home of the world's largest corporations. The economy as

a whole can be expected to grow perhaps at a sustainable annual rate of 3-6%. But the investment community is looking to invest in corporations that will grow 15-20% per year. There is tremendous pressure on executives to meet these targets. How are they all going to do that year after year? Well most can't... at least not without cheating...

Remember a corporation's true function in life, and the reason they were granted a charter to do business in the first place, was theoretically so that they would contribute something of real value to the economy and to society.

Real growth accrues through innovation, improvements in efficiency and ends with consumer wealth and satisfaction... what we used to call progress. You find examples in every industry, but it's becoming harder and harder for most companies to be good corporate citizens and still grow at these high rates.

A computer you buy today is vastly superior to what you could have purchased just ten years ago. You can get several thousand songs on a portable player that can fit into the palm of your hand. A telephone now weighs just a few ounces, can go anywhere, and doesn't require a hundred thousand telephone poles and a million pounds of copper to complete a call to your mother. These

are examples of what progress and the accumulation of real wealth looks like.

But if a company has to cheat in order to grow... if it actually produces a net loss to society... that's not real growth. That's just a stealth transfer of wealth from the weak and vulnerable to the rich. So when a corporation installs TV sets in schools where they use stealth advertising to promote unhealthy foods or other products to impressionable youngsters who then develop lifetime consumption habits that will shorten their lives, increase their medical bills, dim their intelligence and corrupt their values... that might look good on some corporate balance sheet, but it leaves society with such unimaginable, immeasurable and unmanageable costs, that if we directed all of our available resources to make up for the losses incurred, we would never have enough money to do it... and we don't. This is an example of an economy and a society cannibalizing itself in the pursuit and production of illusions.

Corporations are devouring our accumulated wealth right under our noses. When corporate executives don't have the talent, the courage, or the integrity to grow their businesses "the old fashioned way" — by earning it through innovation, dedication, and simple hard work — but instead look for short cuts, like using their resources to corrupt the body politic or engaging

in questionable marketing schemes in order to gain special undeserved favors and incentives, every aspect of society is diminished. When an executive's life becomes the pursuit of bottom line goals at any cost, rather than simply contributing to life through the successful production of goods or services that add something tangible to life, real wealth is inevitably sacrificed.

So what do we have now? What we have are once-forbidden and socially undesirable mergers taking place, resulting in a reduction of competition, innovation, and real value added services. Which is to say, real wealth is being destroyed. Real wealth has physical as well as social and spiritual attributes. The media, for example, has the potential to educate, facilitate, and inspire society in its pursuit of real wealth. But now instead, we have radio station owners, for example, who own more than a thousand stations where they broadcast dumbed-down news and programming that replaces the public's need to know with their own selfish desire to grow.

Other forms of mainstream media, now owned by big corporations, are also engaged in this same destruction of the public wealth. They've lost their ability to function as the vehicle by which we as a people can find out what we need to know and understand in order to maintain a vibrant

democracy. We have instead a military-industrial-corporate-complex dominated government that is now powerful enough to corrupt this media and also shape foreign policy... and they use that power not for the good of our country or humanity but rather to accumulate even more power for themselves and to transfer more public wealth into their own coffers.

This happened when capitalism married government and gave birth to defective offspring. Like church and state... when you fail to keep Capitalism and Government separate... what you get is the corruption of both... and freedom, democracy, and real wealth is sacrificed. In fact, what I am describing is the destruction of a nation as we thought we knew it... the slow but accelerating decay of its infrastructure and social fabric.

We are a super powered political economy intent on consuming itself. If allowed to continue, eventually the decline in real wealth could make most of us so poor, economically and socially, that we will no longer recognize the country we now live in.

We now have in America more millionaires than ever before. But among the rich nations of the world, the real wealth of most Americans lags behind most if not all of them... higher infant mortality, lower life expectancy, higher cost and

lower availability of health-care, poorer health, less financial security, more criminal incarceration, a failing educational system, unfair tax policies, extreme gaps between the rich and poor... all the result of a corrupt system that is destroying the real wealth of most Americans.

The system is broken. Only when enough citizens begin to understand where, how and why... will we really try to fix it.

This link will take you to my basic strategy for fixing it: www.gpln.com/basicstrategy.htm

I Rest My Case

10/22/2011

In Items 1 and 2 below, I've laid out my case for why you should vote for me in the next presidential election. I recommend that when you read these documents you also read the links embedded with them.

Supporting my candidacy are three books and many commentaries I've written over the years which you will find at my web site.

Also at my web site you will find documents, commentaries and videos produced or published by others that I recommend you review, which I included whenever I thought someone else was particularly clear and articulate in supporting a point of view I agreed with... or if they provided information or expertise that I thought you should have... or if they said what I would have liked to have said and did so as well or better than I could have said it. Not included on my web site, of course, is a good deal of other research that I accumulated over the years that helped inform my thinking on matters of importance.

With respect to my candidacy, you can get a pretty good idea of how I think and what kinds of policies I would likely pursue if elected by reviewing the body of work you'll find here:

1. My Second Letter to Protesters
2. The Announcement of My Candidacy for President of the United States
3. My web site: (www.gpln.com)

Of course, you may eventually also want to know how I present myself in public. I understand that you don't want to be embarrassed by people who represent you. Right now a public forum is not available to me. If enough people show an interest in my candidacy that will change. I don't intend to raise money as part of my campaign. If my candidacy eventually captures the people's imagination, I'm sure there will be ample opportunity for you to get to know me better.

But I'm not going to buy time or space to make presentations or advertise.

I think it's also important for you to understand and be conscious about this: a person's integrity is more important than how they present themselves in public. We've had presidents speak poorly in public and also presidents that speak with smooth eloquence. I've seen examples of both and have found that you can't always tell who might be a liar and a cheat or who might be honorable and wise simply by how they speak in public. You find that out later when you compare what they say in public to what they do or say behind closed doors.

And here is something else you need to think about: There's only so much a president can accomplish if very few members of congress are aligned with what that president wants to do. And it's an uphill battle to get representatives to do what you want them to do if they do not already agree with you when they first take office.

That's not the conventional wisdom, of course. What we are used to doing in this country is electing people to office who don't believe what we believe, and then we waste our time between one election and the next trying to get that person to change his or her mind from what they are inclined to do to what we want them to do. It's a very inefficient way to govern and it doesn't work very well a lot of the time. That comes from the practice of voting for who we think is the least worst candidate among two front runners rather than who we really think would make the best president among those running.

Of course, it doesn't help if the entire process is rigged in favor of the two front runners to begin with. But that won't change until there is fundamental change in attitude among the electorate. Even though the system may be skewed in favor of two front runners, it's possible to change that system if enough people come to understand how they have been cheated and finally decide to change things. We won't get Instant Runoff Voting or something else that

might create a more level playing field until we eliminate unfair election practices. I've already outlined how my candidacy could help beat that system. But of course, it won't be easy.

So what I am saying is that if you decide you are going to vote for me, it's also important that you vote for other representatives who are similarly aligned in their thinking. If you can't find anyone running who fits that bill, I suggest you should run for office yourself if you're qualified, and/or encourage someone else to run if that would be more appropriate. That means there's a wide open field out there. Not too many of our current elected officials, (local, state, or national), are qualified to hold the offices they now hold. There's plenty of opportunity for qualified people to run.

Preferably, you want to vote for people who already have a record of defending the Constitution and also have provided some evidence that they have the wisdom and integrity to meet the challenges they're going to face if they get elected.

The ball now is in your court. I'll help when I can, but the rest is up to you. The question is: Who will stand with me, so I can stand with you?

My Second Letter to Protesters

10/19/2011

If you're going to protest against "the system" it's important that you first understand how the system is supposed to work. Don't assume you and everyone else already know. Even some of our most brilliant commentators sometimes make mistakes or lose perspective.

Point 1: Government in America is supposed to be of, by, and for the People. That means that the People are the sovereigns, the owners, the principals. The People manage their government by hiring representatives and delegating authority to them to administer certain specified functions for the owner's (i.e., the People's) benefit. We hire them through a process called elections which allows all citizens who are eligible to vote and play a part in the selection process. We hire and fire people who work for us. We are their employers. They have a responsibility to us. They take an oath promising to honor those responsibilities and faithfully execute their authority with integrity, according to the instructions and within the parameters we give them. Those instructions and parameters are laid out for them in our Constitution and in the body of law that supports it. If they don't live up to our expectations we have responsibility to ourselves and to each other to fire them and hire

others who we feel are more likely to do the job with the level of integrity and competence that the job requires.

Point 2: If we ignore our own responsibilities, by not keeping track of what our representatives actually do with their time and the authority we delegate to them, they can easily get the idea that they can do whatever they want to do, such as behave as if we gave them more authority than we actually gave them and/or manage things for their own personal benefit and gratification rather than for us and our posterity. If that happens, we run the risk of losing control.

That can happen over time if the people that work for us think that no one is "minding the store." They might decide that it's in their own best interest to usurp our power, take it from us, in favor of themselves, or give their allegiance to others who might promise to reward them for their infidelity. If that happens we could end up living under some kind of authoritarian rule instead of our own constitutional republic. And that could result in the loss of our freedoms, our wealth, and our happiness.

Point 3: Every representative we hire is given a set of guidelines which they are instructed to follow. In fact, before taking office each representative takes a sacred oath and pledges his or her word of honor to follow those guidelines

in the administration of his or her duties. Those guidelines are called the Constitution. Associated with the Constitution are a set of rules, which we call laws. So to follow the Constitution means to adhere to those laws, and also to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and its principles for the advancement of freedom, honor, justice, mutual respect, democracy, success, peace, and the pursuit of happiness, not only for Americans, but for all peoples.

Point 4: It's not only every elected official in America that pledges to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution. Others also take that oath, such as judges, attorneys, police officers, military personnel, as well as newly-naturalized citizens. In recent years, the integrity of every public official in America has been tested. Their record in office is available for review. We citizens have been tested too. We all have either a public or a private record we can review.

Point 5: It would not be honorable, in my view, to take an oath without understanding what you are promising to do. And how can you judge how well a public servant is doing their job if you don't even understand what their job is. Their primary job is to keep their oath of office. That's their sacred duty. Honoring that duty is what stands between us and tyranny. Certainly we should expect every elected official to understand the

pledge they make before taking office. The Constitution includes a bill of rights and their amendments in which all citizens are guaranteed certain rights and privileges. Article 6, Clause 2 states that all treaties entered into by the United States also become the Supreme Law of the Land along with all the other articles of the Constitution. Such treaties include, for example, the UN Charter, the First Geneva Convention, the Third Geneva Convention, the Fourth Geneva Convention, The United Nations Convention Against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and many other treaties as well.

Point 6: We now have a record to go by, a body of evidence, if you will, as to how well each of our local, state, and national elected officials have performed in office. We can see if our elected officials adhered to their responsibilities and if we adhered to ours. Who can we trust to protect our Constitution, our way of life? Who has overstepped their bounds or failed to act? Who has kept their word? Who should remain in office and who should not? I believe we need to ask and answer these questions if we hope to recapture our sovereignty or live in a true constitutional republic. And I believe we should not allow anyone to hold public office who doesn't keep their oath of office. And only after making that determination should we look to see how competent they were in carrying out their

legislative duties, such as, whether or not you liked what they tried to do through legislation. If they didn't keep their oath of office, they shouldn't be allowed to stay in office no matter what else they did or tried to do.

Point 7: I believe a review of points 1-6 above will clarify where we are, how we got here, and what we need to do if we are to reclaim our government, our freedoms, our self-respect, and the respect of the rest of humanity. Our freedoms and life itself might very well hang in the balance.

Point 8: I am offering you my own assistance if you feel inclined to accept it. I describe what I am offering here and also in the other links you will find along the way. If you follow the links as I suggest, and read with thought, care, and integrity, I think they just might help you get your country back. It took me many years and thousands of hours to write it all down and all the while, I was learning, failing, trying again.

Let me make one more observation: the people we elect to represent us, most likely, will not have any more integrity than we do, unless we're very, very lucky. That means if we want a better country and a better future, we must do our best in everything we do and do it with integrity. If we want to know the truth, we must be willing to tell the truth. When we have integrity it makes it

easier to identify others who have it too. And most important, when we fall down... we need to get up and try again. And, oh yes... we have a lot of work to do. The next election is only a year away. I suggest we not waste any time, lest we risk ending up working for people who are supposed to be working for us.

I wish you the very best.

“Liberty lies in the hearts and minds of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it.. ”

—Judge Learned Hand

You Don't Have to Occupy the Streets to Protest

10/18/2011

If it turns out to be impractical for you to live on the streets and in the parks to protest, you can still protest right from your home. Let me suggest one way you could do this: you could spread the word that I'm a candidate for President of the United States in 2012 (if you think I represent your thinking and would make a better president than any of the other candidates, that is.) And you could vote for me, or someone like me, in the next election. The process of informing others about my thoughts and ideas would serve several purposes:

1. It would offer a more focused agenda to your protests. I think if you review what I have to say, you will find that I am in alignment with what you want.
2. It would give you and others an opportunity to deepen and expand your own thinking about what has happened to our country, what the causes are, and what can be done about it. At my web site are not only my contributions but those of many others as well.
3. It would be a bold action that the oligarchs in power would not be able to kill or control. They could take me out or close down my

web site or the internet, I suppose. But that wouldn't stop us if we were working independently in order to work together. There are others who could take my place. They can't kill an idea whose time has come.

4. Even if all I could receive would be a few million votes in the next election, it would scare the hell out of the oligarchs and send shock waves through the consciousness, given that I am not famous and yet could receive that many votes without their money. It would inform everyone that the system in place is not a prison; that by thinking outside the box we all can make a real difference; and it might offer courage to some of the more outstanding men and women in our society to speak out, run for public office, and/or otherwise contribute what they have to offer in new ways for everyone's benefit.

Read my announcement, follow the links, see if you are willing to take some time to think and reason through this thoughtfully and carefully.

My Open Letter to Protesters and Other Citizens Who Don't Like How the Economy Works

10/15/2011

The reason the economy is a mess is that you have refused to maintain your ideals with respect to everything else.

Your job as citizen is the same as that of every elected politician: to defend, protect and preserve the Constitution of the United States against all its enemies foreign and domestic.

The unwillingness of Americans (including you) to do that has allowed ignorant and/or dishonorable people to be elected to office and remain there. Those dishonorable people were able to sell you out because you refused to fire them when you found out that those in power were frauds, and hire more honorable folks to take their place. Except you don't pay attention and so you didn't find that out and you didn't replace them.

It's true that the mainstream media has also betrayed you, but you have other means of becoming informed.

"You cannot be a traitor to life, and then expect to live in a free and just society."

As long as you continue to vote for people who have a record of not defending the Constitution when necessary, you will never get your country back. And unfortunately, all across this land, at every level of government, you have elected officials who now have a record of not defending the Constitution when necessary. If you keep voting for them you will never live in a free and just society. That's just how it is. It's not complicated.

You will never improve this society if you refuse to accept your responsibilities of citizenship. That means you have to be willing to learn something new because right now it doesn't look like you understand what I'm talking about. You have to clear your mind and start paying attention to the voices of reason available to you. You know something is wrong so that's a good start.

There is nothing really wrong with our political system as it is described in our Constitution. That doesn't mean that the Constitution can't be improved. But that's not the main problem. The Constitution does not require that we have a two party system or that our economy has to be a dysfunctional form of capitalism. What is the problem, is that the people who live under that system refuse and/or don't know how to live up to the ideals the system was intended to expand, nurture, and encourage... and what that system requires if you expect it to operate properly.

You can complain about the system all you want, but if YOU won't change, you're wasting your time and mine too. Read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, open your minds, identify your priorities, and get to work. For example, here's *What I Want* (pg. 294).

Now I understand that you might not like me or the way I express myself, but that doesn't make what I am telling you untrue. And if nobody comes along that is good enough to live up to your expectations, perhaps you can... and should.

Mark A. Goldman

Responsible Tax Policy for Responsible People

10/11/2011

Enlightened tax policy is a necessary tool for any democracy that hopes to stay a democracy.

In a democracy, it is government's job to maintain a level playing field so that all participants in the economy have a fair and equal chance to succeed and to benefit from the progress, growth, and prosperity produced by its economic engine. Tax policy is one tool that can help a democratic government make adjustments so that society's economic playing field is kept level.

For example, corporations always will, if they're operating as they should, attempt to maximize profits within the context of that society's goals and legal system. If corporate managers can increase a company's long term value by cutting costs, it seems only reasonable that they should do just that. They might do that through automation, innovation, and/or by transferring the production of their goods and services to places where labor costs are cheaper. That's a no-brainer. Why should a business pay higher costs than necessary to manufacture their products?

It should be in everyone's best interest to reduce the cost of producing goods and services. It means that goods and services can be priced lower, thereby improving the standard of living of most customers. Consumers ought to be happy about that... with the proviso, of course, that it's all done within the law and that the law is fair.

Of course if labor is cheap because workers are treated like slaves, it means the laws are not fair and/or they are not being honorably enforced. Again, that too is where government comes in — its job is to make sure all participants are treated with dignity and all participants are able to enjoy their basic universal human rights.

What isn't fair is when labor is required to take on a disproportionate amount of the economic risk associated with unemployment due to improving technology, business innovation, and changing economic conditions. But this unfairness is what we now have. We know this is what we have because we know that a disproportionate amount of economic gains are unfairly accruing to those who own and manage capital as opposed to those who provide the labor needed to make that capital productive.

The risk that labor faces... is the risk of becoming unemployed, not because they aren't performing well, but because they are performing well, and have been for some time. If they weren't

performing well, owners of capital wouldn't have the infrastructure or capital available that allows them to innovate. Similarly, when economies slow down or contract, non-management personnel are the first to lose their jobs and incomes, through no fault of their own.

Owners and managers often reap rewards far in excess of the contribution they make to the overall economy. Who says so? I do... and so would most people who look with an open mind. As a culture, we have been taught to discount the contribution that labor makes—a contribution, without which, it would be impossible for owners and managers to accumulate the amount of wealth that readily accrues to them. Tax policy can be a most efficient and important tool for leveling what is by design an extremely skewed and grossly un-level playing field. If you review American history you will find that slave labor was the extreme case where managers and owners refused to acknowledge, (as did other members of society), that their wealth came into being only because their slaves did so much of the work, for which they were not compensated.

Today, the same (closed minded) mindset that once prevented owners to admit how much their slaves contributed to their lives... persists with managers and owners who similarly refuse to acknowledge the contribution that workers make, without appropriate compensation. And many in

our society are still conditioned to remain unconscious about the contribution that so many anonymous workers make or made to all the so-called 'self-made' millionaires who became rich and famous and now think they did it all by themselves. The reason it is so easy to dismiss the contribution that blue collar workers make, for example, is that many owners think of them as being easily replaceable. But that doesn't change the fact that without them, our ruling elite would not rule, be elite, or be wealthy.

There are no 'self-made' men or 'self-made' women... only a lot of short sighted people who think they are.

The reason that government no longer uses tax policy to help maintain a level playing field is that big money interests have used their excess profits to bribe politicians to ignore the responsibility they have to maintain that level playing field.

Those excess profits have been so large that politicians at all levels of government have allowed themselves to be bought and paid for (for many will do just about any dishonorable thing asked of them just to get their hands on that money, including making a pledge to never raise taxes whether doing so would be a good idea or not).

But this is also true now of those who administer our colleges and universities. In order to obtain

endowments and research grants, colleges and universities have largely adopted policies that work to corrupt our children by misinforming them about the purpose and value of a good education; making sure that students are indoctrinated to accept and work for the corrupting economic culture that waits for them when they graduate. Our kids are not being trained to think for themselves or to work for the improvement of society as a whole, but rather to work only for themselves or for corporate interests in hopes that one day they too will take their place as one of the thoughtless elite who never question if what they do does or does not add to the sustainability and well-being of the planet and its inhabitants.

Tax policy needs to be designed to transfer an appropriate amount of money from those who didn't really earn it to those who did, if those individuals can be identified; and if they can't be identified then to society in general. These monies could be used to raise the standard of living of those who will otherwise never be fully compensated for the contributions they make... and also simply to make the planet a better place to live for everyone... like for example, by offering society a high quality universal health-care system that covers everyone, benefits to pay for higher education for all qualified students, educational opportunities for the retraining of displaced workers, adequate and fair

unemployment insurance, reduced working hours, decent pensions, safe working conditions, long term care benefits, better transportation systems, an enlightened energy policy, and aggressive consumer protections among many other things.

The fact is, democracy cannot survive in a system where 1% of the population receives or controls 40% or more of the country's wealth. That's what we have now and it's not working.

Fortunately, in spite of our failing educational system, some of our kids actually do learn how to think for themselves. Some of them are beginning to figure out that the system that's evolved is more likely to lead to social dysfunction and unhappiness for most of humanity, rather than to a world that nourishes and uplifts the human spirit and sustains life for future generations. We need to make a lot of changes and an intelligent use of tax policy is a tool can help us do it.

Our Forgotten Dream: Our Common Dream: Our American Dream

10/9/2011

Some Americans dream of living in a gated community in a house with a great winding staircase and crystal chandeliers, driving a Maserati, and having servants at the ready to cook, clean, garden and otherwise cater to every whim the dreamer has...

But obviously everyone can't have that dream. Some people don't want to be servants.

Ok, well that's true, but not everyone wants that particular dream anyway. And besides, some people are willing to work hard to attain their dreams while others are lazy and content with doing less and having less.

Yes, but on the other hand a lot of people who live that dream did not really contribute anything to society that one can rightfully say entitles them to live such a dream.

Look, some people love cars and enjoy thinking about them and building them, learning how they work and tuning them up in a way that allows them to perform at incredible levels of perfection. Their joy, their dream, is in building Maseratis.

Yes, but what about those who have to mine the metals and harvest the rubber, those whose lives are destroyed because they live on the ground above oil deposits, those who work like slaves and are treated as if they are less than human. What kind of dream are they living? Should the American dream require that some people live hand to mouth in abject poverty so that a few dreamers can drive a Maserati?

How should society dream itself to be? What kind of society should we strive for anyway? Which dream, whose dream, is the American dream anyway? Is there a vision of a dream that every American can work towards - a dream that we all would be willing work for that would allow us to live together in peace? What is our objective and what kind of government do we want? How should our government - we - organize ourselves and administer ourselves so as to facilitate the attainment of our common dream, once we define it?

Surely the framers of our Constitution, who we now look back on and admire, had defined certain common elements that they believed would produce the kind of government that could endure and hopefully be better than the government they very much wanted to leave behind. But now, here we are... our people are protesting in the streets all across America. Apparently, we no longer all visualize a common

dream that we all feel is worth striving for. The question is, is there one that all of us – (or a great majority of us) – would be willing to honorably strive for now? Are some of us hell bent on subjugating the rest of us, which seems to me to be a recipe for continued discontent and maybe even war, or are we as a people going to look for common ground that will allow us all to live in peace?

As for a common dream, let me suggest a place to start. There's one dream that we already agreed upon, that many of us don't even know exists, and that the rest of us seem to have forgotten. It's called...

[The Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

How to Fix the Economy

10/7/2011

The economy won't be fixed until we have people in office who respect the rule of law and the basic principles of democracy. They also have to be well enough informed and educated to make rational decisions and have enough character not to be corrupted by money or power.

And we won't have people in office like that until we are willing to vote for such people even if they are not Democrats or Republicans. Only now you can't attain high office if you have that level of character and if you are also a member of one of the major parties because the party leadership and most of its members have been corrupted by big money interests and won't allow you to win if you are such a person.

So until that is fixed nothing our currently installed representatives do will really address any of the fundamental problems or injustices we face and put up with. (Nevertheless, page 294 offers short list of what we want.)

One way to overcome the box we're in is to think and act outside that box and I've described how to do that on page 179 and other places in this book.

You'll notice that few people in high office are interested in any of the things I talk about.

Fortunately, you can do something personal and real to make these changes happen. Have you ever exerted real effort to accomplish something? Well, that's what you have to do now if you want to live a decent and happy life in peace and in freedom.

There are no guarantees, but there are challenging opportunities, and this is one of them if you're willing to go for it.

What We Want

(a short list)

10/6/2011

1. We want an end to gerrymandered political divisions that produce predetermined voting results.
2. We want an election system that offers a level playing field to all political candidates regardless of their party affiliation.
3. We want automatic voter registration procedures.
4. We want an end to voting machines that can be fraudulently manipulated.
5. We want revised rules in the House and Senate that do not give some representatives so more power to influence legislation than other representatives.
6. We want procedures that will minimize pork barrel legislation.
7. We want the impeachment of any public officials who are responsible for committing war crimes (or any other crimes) and an investigation and prosecution of any other individuals who have committed crimes as well.
8. We want Senate ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
9. We want an end to the use of depleted uranium weaponry.

10. We want the prosecution of individuals who have perpetrated fraud against the people of the United States including bankers and financial professionals.
11. We want an end to the funding of our schools on the basis of real estate values. Every child has the right to receive a quality education independent of his or her family's economic or social standing.
 1. We want a single payer health-care system such as Medicare for all that covers every citizen and includes benefits for drugs and dental care.
 2. We want to open the air waves during election season so that legitimate candidates do not have to purchase air time in order to be heard.
 3. We want an immediate end to the rendition of prisoners to other countries; we want an end to torture in all its forms.
 4. We want restoration of habeas corpus.
 5. We want labeling of genetically modified foods.
 6. We want an end to the patenting of life forms or their modification.
 7. We want the restoration of the Glass-Steagall Act.
 8. We want progressive tax rates similar to what they were when the gaps in income

and wealth between the rich and the poor in America was lowest.

9. We want the method of calculating the Consumer Price Index, which is used for calculating benefits to retirees, to be restored to what it was before 1970.
10. We want an end to corporate personhood.
11. We want to Eliminate the Fed or have it be owned by the Treasury. Only the government should be able to earn interest on money that it creates out of nothing. The Fed is not a governmental institution.

On Obama's Proposed 'American Jobs Act'

9/9/2011

Rather than comment myself on Obama's speech of September 8, 2011 in which he refers to the "American Jobs Act" I have posted articles written by others [HERE](#) dated 9/9/2011 which fairly represent my own point of view...but I will add this, regarding the speech:

Great delivery... an even inspiring delivery... and yet as to substance... too little, too late, wrong-headed, unresponsive to what our problems really are, a selling out of the American people.

Why: 1) \$450 Billion is not enough; 2) people are underwater and have been out of work too long, something useful should have been done a long time ago; 3) military budget needs to be slashed, we need mortgage, energy and transportation policies that makes sense, cutting FICA underfunds benefit plans even more, taking us in the wrong direction entirely; he opened the door to cutting Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare rather than taking steps to strengthen them, and ignores his continued assault on the Constitution which must be reversed if we are ever going to have economic prosperity again. Great delivery for convincing undereducated and cheated people to accept more lies and deceit.

The Final Chapter

8/20/2011

Our troops in the Middle East are killing and dying for no other cause than to steal resources that don't belong to us. To accomplish that end, we are controlling people and governments to make sure they are never able to evolve into working democracies. If they did become democracies, their leaders would never be allowed to stay in office to receive the enormous bribes we offer them to allow our corporations to control their resources instead of controlling it themselves for the benefit of their own people.

What allows us to think of ourselves as responsible people is that we pretend not to know what our government does to intimidate and dominate the rest of the world. Of course some of us don't have to pretend we don't know what our government does; we simply close our eyes, ears, and minds to any information that would sully our pristine fantasy of who we think we are.

Unfortunately, the nameless people, who control and decide how to use American power to dominate others this way have no loyalty to any nation state, but are instead sufficiently self indoctrinated in greed that they are similarly dead set on impoverishing us as well, using the same

strategies they use to usurp the freedom and resources of others.

Their lock on American culture has matured to the point that their final achievement is only a small stone's throw away from being realized. Our politicians, our political processes, our schools, media, courts and corporate inspired culture are now so corrupted that the final chapter is ready to be played out.

Watch, learn, listen and prepare yourself for the final chapter when we all will finally understand what the true cost is... of being afraid to acknowledge the truth and accept responsibility for turning it around; which is to say, appeasing our fears by avoiding reality.

Thinking about Happiness and Unpleasantness

8/5/2011 Revised: 8/9/2011

Thinking about happiness and unpleasantness:

1. If you are committed to maintaining a clean house, you have to, from time to time, go around looking for dirt. No one likes to clean, but if you don't look for dirt you can't clean up the mess, and if you don't clean up the mess, you won't live in a clean house.
2. If you ignore the liars, cheats, and thieves who take advantage of the weak and defenseless, they will become very successful at what they do. And maybe if ignored they won't stop, but will instead grow stronger, as long as they are able to continue to be successful at taking from others what doesn't belong to them.
3. Slavery was part of the human experience for a long time. It still is in some places. Where slavery was ended, it was because some people decided not to allow it to go on anymore. Stopping it was a very unpleasant task. Many people lost their possessions, their happiness, their health and their lives opposing it. But Those people made it possible for their grandchildren and other people's

grandchildren to live in relative freedom. If those people weren't willing to make those sacrifices, how free would we and our loved ones be today? In some sense, their sacrifice was also their happiness. I admit it was risky. Sometimes you have to take a risk to find yourself, or to find happiness.

4. If you want to live in a world where freedom and happiness is possible for everyone, it is important to engage in some amount of unpleasantness in order to insure that those who would take away other people's happiness don't get the opportunity to do that. If you don't protect everyone else's right to live in freedom and in peace, your freedom and your grandchildren's happiness is at risk too.
5. From time to time each of us needs to take a break from the hard and unpleasant work of looking for dirt and when that happens we hope others take up the slack; and when they take a break, we have to protect their rights and freedoms. If we all break at the same time, the amount of dirt that might accumulate could overwhelm our later efforts to clean it up. Too many parasites can kill a host.
6. We live in a world of limited resources but unlimited potential. If too many people squander those resources then that puts limitations on our overall potential.

Large corporations and wealthy individuals have been bribing those who have fiduciary responsibility to watch out for us to betray their responsibilities. Now those corporations and individuals are taking and/or destroying what doesn't belong to them, such as when they offload their own costs onto society or find ways to control resources at unfairly low costs to themselves.

The oceans are on the verge of collapse, natural resources are needlessly being squandered on current generations at the expense of future generations; the atmosphere is being warmed to the point where various life forms might become unsustainable on this planet, and where great numbers of people will starve or be forced to live out their lives in poverty and degradation.

7. I don't write what I write to take away your joy. I write what I write so that you might be better informed about what's going on... where you otherwise might not get that opportunity... to rise to the occasion and take responsibility — if you are capable and functionally prepared to do so — in order that joy is not stolen from you or those you love.

8. I don't write for everybody. If what I write depresses you or takes away your joy, I didn't write that for you... I wrote it for someone else. There are many people in my life who I don't believe are in a position to make use of what I write. I worry that what I write might confuse some folks or put them into a attitude of despair or hopelessness. That's not my intent.

I'm trusting God to work with me on this; to help protect those who might read what I write, and have those word inspire rather than depress them, or at least allow them to be at peace with what I'm saying. There's no way for me to know what process any one individual will have to go through to understand what I'm saying and then act appropriately given their education, resources, and ability to deal with the unpleasantness in the world that needs attention.

9. How can I be sure that I am not doing more harm than good? Well, I'm just doing the best I can, hopefully being appropriate to my own education and understanding... and to yours.
10. I realize that some of what I write is unpleasant for some to hear. The question is, is it true and if so, what is the best way for a person to relate to what I'm saying.

How should one begin to think about what their place, their attitude, and their philosophy of life should be in the world... for the world to end up being the kind of place we all hope it might one day be?

11. I sometimes feel like giving up, that I and others have already sacrificed enough, and perhaps for nothing; that our ringing the warning bell has so far fallen on deaf ears or ears that are too sensitive for this kind of input... (warning that maybe there's too much dirt piling up for the relatively small number of people who are trying to clean it up).
12. I have no doubt that I have lessons to learn which I am in the process of learning. But at the same time, perhaps there are some lessons that I have learned... lessons that I am in the process of trying to help others understand.
13. There are those who say that when I feel disconnected, depressed or otherwise out of sorts, it's because I am not living in alignment with the real me, the spiritual me, my true self. Maybe that's true. But on the other hand, perhaps we are all connected—we, the whole human family—and if I feel disconnected, depressed, or otherwise out of sorts, maybe some of that discomfort is due to the suffering of others. Maybe their suffering cries out to me and I

sense their pain even if I can't hear their cries with my ears. We all live on the same spaceship. Maybe experiencing happiness is at least partially a function of me doing what I can to make sure that everyone on our ship is treated fairly and with dignity.

14. I don't know for sure if it is appropriate for me to feel that I am responsible for all those ills in the world I write about. I suppose if I become depressed and overwhelmed by what I see, that perhaps I will have reached the level of my incompetence. In any event, I can see that I live on the edge. I fail. I quit. I hurt but then I get up and try again. I know what it feels like to be tired.
15. I am seeking happiness by following my truth and at the same time I fall sometimes into states of unhappiness trying. If I continue on my current path, maybe I will be overwhelmed by a task I can't handle without much more help. And yet if I give up, maybe I would feel even worse, thinking that I have sold out my grandchildren and my ideals.
16. I am resigned to find my happiness in this unpleasant work that is not much fun to do. Sometimes I think that is as close to happiness as I will ever get. Maybe someday I will finally quit for good and find some temporary peace. Or

maybe things will turn around and my joy will increase.

17. Your friendship is important to me, so I will do my best never to judge you harshly for living your truth in a way that is different from mine. Perhaps your job in life is different from mine, even though our best efforts might on the surface look like we are pulling in opposite directions. Maybe our efforts are equally appropriate and necessary to achieving the happiness we both want for our children, our grandchildren and the rest of humanity.
18. God works in mysterious ways. I strongly suspect that he loves us equally well as we each struggle or don't struggle to find our place in the world.
19. I Love You,

Mark

Trouble!

7/14/2011

*By three methods we may learn wisdom;
First, by reflection, which is noblest;
second, by imitation, which is easiest;
and third, by experience, which is bitterest.*

— Confucious

Trouble! We got trouble, my friends, right here in River City!

Trouble, trouble... trouble.

Politicians these days seem to end every address they make with the prayer... "... and God Bless America!" God hears.

Trouble. We got trouble.

Well anyway, that's how George W. Bush always ended his speeches: "God bless America."

Let me share with you something about God in my understanding:

If God were a person, He¹ would be the most honorable, kind, and compassionate person you've ever met. He would also have patience beyond what you would have found in anyone you

ever knew. He would love you without question or doubt. He would be understanding to the degree that it would move you deeply every time you were with him. You would feel and correctly so, that he knew your heart. He would be your best friend. And he would be smarter than you can imagine. Amazingly so. And He would always be willing to answer your deepest questions, and teach you what you needed to know... and at the same time be appropriate to you in every circumstance. And it would make you cry just to hear him speak.

Trouble. Trouble, my friends.

You know one day a Republican Congressman was complaining to George W. Bush about one of the more “onerous” portions of the Patriot Act...

“I don’t give a goddamn,” Bush retorted. “I’m the President and the Commander-in-Chief. Do it my way.”

“Mr. President,” one aide in the meeting said. “There is a valid case that the provisions in this law undermine the Constitution.”

“Stop throwing the Constitution in my face,” Bush screamed back. “It’s just a goddamned piece of paper!” ²

Oooooo. It's just a goddamned piece of paper? Is that so...?

Is that so?

Trouble. We got trouble my friends...

Where do you think that 'goddamn' piece of paper came from? How do you think it came to be... this 'goddamned' piece of paper? You know what I think? I think SOMEONE went to a lot of TROUBLE to get us that piece of paper, that's what I think. A lot of trouble... You know what else I think. SOMEONE went to a lot of TROUBLE to get us the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations, on December 10, 1948. How much trouble do you think it was to get every representative from almost every nation on the planet to sign that document? Oooo. I bet you never thought about that... but I bet someone went to a lot of trouble to get that done. A LOT OF TROUBLE.

I think God did bless America and does bless you. But you know what? Like I said, God is appropriate. No matter what you've been told, I don't believe He gets angry, but I do think He is appropriate in how He responds to what we do, to what He sees and hears. What we do tells him how we think, what's in our heart... what we need to learn that we haven't quite learned to grasp yet... the gaps in our understanding that would be

in our best interest to know ... and what lessons are up next for us to learn... about Him... about ourselves... what we still need to understand about compassion and responsibility; what we still need to understand about honor and respect for those who go to a lot of trouble trying to help us be free, happy, and successful.

Trouble my friend..... right here in River City.
Right here.

God is real and not a myth. Maybe you didn't know that. Maybe you haven't thought about that, all that much. Something you might want to think about.

1. I experience God as "He," but I don't take offense if others refer to God as "She."
2. Bush quote reported by Doug Thompson, Capitol Hill Blue, 12-9-5
Link to The Constitution http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Constitution
Link to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<http://www.gpln.com/udhr.html>

War, Treason, Redemption

7/11/2011

We the People are engaged in a war. We are being attacked by a relatively small number of people, many of whom have been able to acquire great wealth and power... or hope to do so. Their mercenaries are various governments, corporations, and armies – including our own US government/military/ industrial complex.

They are working to control as much of the Earth's people and resources as they can. In the process, they commit unconscionable crimes without regard for who in the world gets hurt or what in the world gets destroyed. It is war in every sense of the word.

The war, however, is not between nations (although it sometimes looks like it is), but rather it's a war of aggression, initiated by a minority of powerful people, motivated by greed, to achieve power, wealth and universal domination over everyone else.

The aggressors in this war probably don't think of themselves as being at war, or even as being motivated by greed... and yet they plot to take control of governments, or to manipulate them; they appropriate resources beyond any personal need they might ever have; they externalize their

costs to society; they flout the rule of law, and ignore the right of other people (who they intend to subjugate), to live with dignity; and they do all this without any sense of guilt, remorse, or responsibility for other human beings, the planet at large, or its life support systems.

The weapons in their arsenal are the usual hardware of death but also established and recently invented tools and institutions of economic destruction and manipulation (e.g., The Fed, The World Bank, Bank of International Settlements, International Monetary Fund, NATO, Hedge Funds, etc.).

The defeated are injured, killed, stripped of their rights, their possessions, leading to a forced retirement of poverty or hard labor at subsistence wages. Little by little the ranks of the defeated are growing as the victors continue to usurp the strength, wealth, and power of those they target.

A main strategy of the aggressors is to corrupt government officials with bribes or threats and mislead citizens with calculated lies and disinformation in order to unravel the fabric of society, its institutions, and its cultural framework, causing social disintegration and chaos.

Governments are crippled as elected officials commit treason, some unwittingly, as they transfer their loyalty from their citizen

constituents to would-be conquerors... in pursuit of money and power, obstructing justice, disrespecting their Constitutions and destroying the rule of law.

This war is a world war. The front line is wherever in the world there are valuable resources to appropriate or labor to be marginalized or controlled.

World conquest now is already in sight with the steady, incremental overthrow of the US government and its people, the control of media, and control over the world's supreme military power... all to satisfy the ambitions of an elite few.

If this sounds like a conspiracy theory, it very much is, and as with any theory, it can be tested. In my view, the evidence is overwhelming. You can find this evidence at my website (www.gpln.com/table_of_contents.htm), which includes a body of research that takes various forms, offered by experts and others, which has taken me years to accumulate. It includes political commentary that I and others wrote including front line reporters who have been personal witnesses to history as it unfolds. On my website you will find links to most of the sources I reference; and at the websites where those references can be found, you will find even more evidence.

Of course if you never look, you will never find the accumulated evidence I'm talking about. It took years to accumulate this information, so it will take patience and resolve to review any substantial part of it.

Soon there might be no need for stealth in the overthrow of the US Government, for the conquest will be complete and all pretense of political freedom for citizens swept away. People with conscious and purposeful intent have brought us to the brink of destruction; so it's possible for other people with conscious and purposeful intent to stem the tide and return us to progress and sanity, given that there's more of us than there is of them.

As I see it each of us has three choices: you can align yourself with the aggressors, you can align yourself with those trying to defend themselves against the aggressors, or you can sit on the sidelines, remain an uninvolved observer, and take your chances on how it will all turn out... in which case you will likely end up either a victim of the war being waged against you, or a beneficiary of other people's courage and determination to put more sanity into human relations.

A few clues that point to, or suggest, the danger I describe... are:

1. The Constitution has been corrupted; its central themes, such as habeas corpus

have been canceled, the right to privacy has been dismantled, the right to a fair trial is compromised, equal protection under the law is erased, and nearly every part of the Constitution has been violated by our own government with very little resistance from ordinary citizens.

2. Law enforcement has been militarized, its ranks infiltrated by corrupted functionaries so that rather than protect citizen's rights and the rule of law, many law enforcement officers now enforce whatever orders their superiors issue, whether those orders are constitutional or not.
3. Tax laws are skewed to favor the aggressors, creating perhaps the widest gap between the rich and the poor in US history.
4. Regulatory impediments to the use of predatory strategies by financial institutions and corporate entities that strip ordinary citizens of their rights, health, well-being and financial security have largely been removed.
5. Many states are at or near bankruptcy and as such are being forced to abandon those very state sponsored benefits that the majority of citizens value most.
6. Medicaid benefits have been reduced along with other community sponsored programs as more citizens find themselves in need of them. Bankruptcy, homelessness, and

destitution stalk citizens and their loved ones who have inadequate health-care and other social benefits. The United States is the only major economy that doesn't offer health-care to all citizens free of charge or at nominal cost.

7. A large percentage of the population has been illegally forced out of their homes while the public treasury has been plundered by the fraudulent acts of a wealthy few with the help of our government.
8. Public assets and infrastructure are being sold off to private interests so that citizens will now have to pay exorbitant fees for public services that used to be offered to all citizens free of charge or at nominal cost.
9. Educational opportunities for our youth have been downgraded so that America's children will be increasingly less prepared to cope with modern life than those educated in years past. The cost of higher education has gone through the roof, forcing many who attend college to enter debt peonage upon graduation which could last decades if not their entire lifetimes.
10. Whistle-blowers and other citizens who attempt to warn the public of institutional fraud and abuse are being persecuted as if they were the criminals, while those who are the real corrupting

- influence on legitimate government are allowed to continue their work and go free.
11. The concept of free speech has been reduced to a mockery as large corporate distributors of public information censor and filter what the public can see and hear. Protesters and dissidents are relegated to places where they are not likely to be seen or heard. Police brutality is increasingly ignored while basic rights of citizens are increasingly violated.
 12. Real participation in political affairs is limited to those who have great wealth and power such as corporations which have been given the legal status of people. This allows them to launch large public relations campaigns which misinform the public about important issues and drown out the voices and preferences of others, who lack the funds to carry out campaigns that distribute honest information that citizens need to intelligently govern themselves.
 13. The United States has the largest prison population in the world and yet those who commit the most heinous crimes are often not prosecuted at all or are given sentences much lower than those who committed very minor crimes in comparison.
 14. Third parties are effectively excluded from mainstream political life. Citizens

must choose between two political parties, both of which are corrupted and unable or unwilling to reform themselves.

15. The United States spends more of its wealth on war and weapons than almost all other nations combined, far beyond any real need or usefulness, thereby displacing the funding for programs that could benefit and improve the lives of ordinary citizens.
16. The rich are getting fabulously richer while the poor are getting grossly poorer while the middle class is being wiped out. Even though it is widely known that the lack of government oversight was a major cause of the fraud that nearly brought our economy to its knees, nothing of substance is being done to eliminate the risk of similar debacles in the future. The disparities in income and wealth are so great that democratic government is all but impossible to maintain... which appears to validate the argument that those who prosecute this war have chosen, namely, that big government doesn't work. The truth is, under these circumstances no government can work.

The Answers to our problems are readily available whenever citizens are ready and willing to embrace them. Here's a place to start: www.gpln.com/theanswer.htm

Couldn't be simpler. Maybe that's why most people can't see it... or don't want to see it. In any event, I believe all solutions require people to act appropriately to what they come to know is true... if they want to avoid enormous loss, pain, and sorrow.

But, of course, that's the whole point of seeking wisdom and intellectual integrity... to discover how to act appropriately.

Declaration: July 4, 2011

7/4/2011

1. **We** the people...believe that the crimes committed by prior administrations is unfinished business. Those who committed these crimes need to be brought to justice and justice needs to be done. We repudiate the current administration for allowing these criminals to avoid accountability and we pledge to right this wrong.
2. **We** the people...believe that the current administration has also committed grievous crimes, including murder, war crimes, crimes against humanity, various crimes against the peoples of other nations and crimes against citizens of the United States, including direct attacks on the US Constitution and the rule of law, a general failure to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and what it stands for. Those who have committed these crimes also need to be brought to justice and the Constitution restored to its rightful place in the world.
3. **We** the people... believe that unconscionable economic crimes have also been perpetrated against the American people and other peoples around the world. These crimes were aided and abetted by US

government officials who failed in their duty to honor the trust given to them.

Our elected officials, including members of both houses of Congress and the President, have systematically betrayed the people by selling their allegiance to private interests at the expense of the People. They are fiduciaries of the highest order and they have betrayed our trust in the most egregious manner possible. They have lied to us, cheated us, and hidden behind walls of secrecy in order to perpetrate frauds upon us; They have ignored basic principles of fairness and decency. They have squandered the people's wealth in exchange for favors. They have aided and abetted leaders of corporations and other financial operatives to perpetrate frauds against the People and they have obstructed justice by refusing to pursue those who broke the law in doing so. These frauds shall not stand. Those who are responsible shall be made accountable.

4. **W**e the people...believe our government has pursued economic policies designed to benefit the wealthy few at the expense of the many and we repudiate these policies and those who set them in motion. The tax policies of the Bush administration are odious, unfair, and fraudulent in every way,

as were the bank bailouts. No business is too big to fail and no person is so important as to be above the law. Innocent people have lost their jobs and well-being, while individuals and financial institutions have not been held accountable for their crimes, nor have those who were cheated been properly compensated.

5. **We** the people...believe our government has put us in grave danger by not honestly addressing our most pressing problems, such as failing to address global warming and failing to create an energy policy that phases out nuclear and carbon based energy sources in favor of renewable sources of energy.
6. **We** the people...believe our government has undermined basic human rights both here and abroad. These failures are egregious crimes against humanity for they have betrayed the hope and well-being of future generations. They have blocked every chance for universal peace, choosing a course of perpetual war instead.
7. **We** the people...believe our elected officials have demeaned all those who came before... those honorable people who fought and died for justice, freedom, and human rights. We are tired of supporting liars and cheats and pledge to remove them from

office and prosecute those who have committed crimes.

8. **W**e the people...pledge to fulfill the promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to make sure that all people, and every child, understand what rights and freedoms all People deserve and ought to strive for, as defined therein.
9. **W**e the people...pledge to seek out and put into office only honorable citizens who can be trusted to fulfill their oath of office and that includes honoring this declaration so that the Constitution and justice might be honored and restored; and We the People restored to our rightful place as sovereigns of a government... of, by, and for the People.

Third Interview With Jesus

7/3/2011

This is Mark's third imaginary interview with Jesus.

Mark: You look troubled.

Jesus: I am. I have something I want to say to you.

Mark: Are you disappointed in me?

Jesus: No. But I need to explain something to you.

Mark: Ok?

Jesus: Mark, as I told you before, many people have the wrong idea about me... many misconceptions.

Mark: Yeah. I know.

Jesus: Look, do you know, that when I was here, they called me "Rabbi." It means teacher. Maybe you've heard the old saying, "Those who can't... teach. Those who can... do?"

Mark: Yes. I've heard that before.

Jesus: Well, I did come here to save you, as they say. But not the way they think. But what I mean

to say really is, that if I had the power to save you, I still wouldn't. Mark, I am a messenger, not the message. I only came to teach and to show the way. I am not... "the way."

Mark: Why wouldn't you save everyone if you could?

Jesus: Because I believe in freedom. My Father believes in freedom. You have the freedom and the power to choose. I came to tell you that you can choose freedom. But it is up to you to choose it, to be it. I taught you how to think about it. And you know when I say the word "you" I'm not talking specifically about you. I'm talking about anyone who is interested in what I have to say.

Listen. You know, it's like this. When you are poor and hungry and have been insulted, cheated, and "dissed," at some point you say to yourself, I have nothing to lose. I'm ready to fight to regain my dignity. But then you look in the mirror and realize you are also tired and hungry and you have no money and very little resources.

But the people and the consciousness you would like to fight are strong and powerful. And it seems that everyone who stands up gets beat down. And you think it is hopeless and everyone around you thinks it is hopeless too. And you regret that you didn't fight when you were younger or stronger. And if you fight with weapons and bullets you know you will lose. They

have more weapons and bullets than you do. And you will never get what you want by killing people. It's a bad business.

You know, you have to use your brain, and your heart, and your courage, and your honor, and your humanity... not guns and bombs. You have these things. You are endowed with them. They are part of you. You just have to trust me on this one. You have these 'weapons,' and that's all you need to win. They don't understand that... yet. Bullies are cowards. They hide behind their money or position or whatever advantage they think they have. But I'm not saying they're stupid.

You know the people who would take what you have are not stupid. They will not threaten everyone all at once. And they will not try to take everything from you all at once. What they will do is attack the weak first and even then just a little bit at a time, inch by inch, whatever they think they can get away with without losing ground. And the reason they do that is they know the weak are too weak to put up a good defense. And they figure, that those who are a little better off will not be willing to take the risk of defending the beleaguered... that they won't defend them because people are afraid to lose what they have, even though they know the weak are being mistreated and it isn't right. This is how they set the game up.

So, you know, the bullies will make up stories that sound good and claim to justify what they are doing hoping that those who are afraid to risk what they have will buy into those stories and use them as a convenient escape from the harsh reality. And so many fall prey to that trap and do nothing, or help others only in ways that don't take a risk.

Real help would be to challenge the status quo, to acknowledge the truth of what they see. But instead of that they appease themselves. They do something though... some of them. They "help" by forming charities and the like. I mean, truly these organizations sometimes do help people who need it, but it doesn't challenge or change the system. (As you can see, I've learned to speak your lingo after all these years.) I didn't quite say it that way back when. Anyway, they make themselves busy helping others, but they are not willing to challenge the overall dynamic — the ubiquitous system that keeps it all in place. So the poor stay poor and those who are better off do charitable work. It's better than nothing, but it doesn't get to the heart of the matter.

Nobody wants to risk what they have... to take on "The Man." But little by little, failure to take a risk in the present makes it even more difficult to take a risk down the road... because the system becomes more entrenched as it persists and demoralizes more people.

But, anyway, this is how it works. And so people appease themselves with their charitable work but the system continues to degrade the commons and more of those who were once at risk, fall off the edge, thereby adding to the rolls of the poor. The rich and powerful become even more rich and powerful... inch by inch. And inch by inch members of your so-called middle class slip into the ranks of a poorer class.

And those who are conscious of what is going on write their commentaries, like you do. And some of you call your audience “sheeple” because you don’t see the general public rising up or trying to help. But the truth is they are not sheep any more than you are. I know what’s going on with you. You give people an excuse not to help because you insult them in a way. You think they ought to do the right thing even though the way you talk ticks them off or sounds too radical for ready acceptance. It just gives you an excuse to still make them wrong. You purposely give them an excuse, weak as it is, to do nothing so you can continue to make them wrong and/or try to manipulate them with guilt.

Anyway, you know, your middle class is shrinking. Your poor are growing. Your rich are getting richer. Your leaders are causing havoc in the world as they try to shore up their power and influence and take control of the world’s

dwindling resources. There's a lot of cruelty and injustice going on right now. This you know.

So everyone is afraid of losing what they still have, what they struggle every day to hold onto. Even you. They see other people losing and they see no real universal movement to stop the slaughter and they wonder, what's the point of trying. Why not just hunker down. In fact, it's becoming harder and harder to try as your ruling class continues to take their inch by inch at an accelerated pace.

Mark: Well, I know all this... I think. But... Well...

Jesus: Well...?

Mark: I told them what I thought I knew and needed to say. I am not a leader. I don't want to be a leader. I don't want to fight. I'm not afraid to die.

Jesus: Are you afraid to live?

Mark: I don't know how. My life is a waste. Sometimes I think it's more helpful to pretend none of this is going on. I don't like to tell people they should stop what they are doing... or to stop believing what they seem to believe so strongly. Sometimes I think the only chance we have is if these people just continue to believe what they believe... that they are still free, that the Constitution still operates, that their own

government loves them, that their enemy are foreign terrorists and not their own countrymen. At least believing that, they still have something to hang onto... even if it's fantasy. I don't know what to say to you. What do you suggest I do? What do you want me to say.

Jesus: What do you want to do?

Mark: I don't know.

Jesus: Hey Mark. People go to church every week and pray to me. They want to be saved. They say I'm their savior. What do you want me to say. They think that believing in me is going to save them when I told them that the only thing that will save them is to believe in what I taught and in themselves... not in me, per se. Of course a lot of them don't really know what I taught. They've been misinformed, misdirected. Some of them think I'm going to beam them up to heaven, and life will then be one big joyful experience with me handling all the tough problems or decisions that come along for all eternity. Soon too. A lot of these people are just like the bullies I've been talking about. You know, you don't have to be rich to be a bully. If you made a lot of poor people rich, they would behave just like mythical rich people behave. You know, not all rich people are bullies. People are not defined by the amount of their wealth. You don't have to be wealthy to spend your time on childish things. Anyway, a lot

of these people who pray to me... a lot of them don't have a clue. People are where they are. I still love them.

Mark: I'm sorry. I still don't know what I'm supposed to do. I'll tell them what you said. Is that what you wanted to talk to me about? I'm sorry. I don't mean to sound like I don't appreciate what you said. I'll print what you said.

Jesus: You do that. And tell them when they are able to see the pattern here that I described, and understand where this is heading, and want to do something about it, I'll be there. That's my job... Rabbi. But they have to choose it. Be it. Live it. I'm not coming back. You know why? I never left. When people want to be free more than they want anything else in the world, they will be. They will find a way. If you can't tell the truth, if you won't tell the truth, if you're afraid to tell the truth, you're not free. And if others have lost their freedom, yours is at risk.

Mark, you've gone this far. Hang in there. I love you.

Mark: ok. I know. But what if it's too late?

Jesus: It's never too late. And you know what? It's also always too late... for some... as I remember. The truth is, it's not even too late if you give up. You can always un-give up. Right? How many times have you done that? Remember

your dedication in The Answer? You're not done yet. And you're not alone either.

Mark: Ok... Yeah... Ok...

Jesus: Later, gator. Mark... people are not small, oblivious, or helpless. They only pretend to be.

On the Brink of Collapse

6/11/2011

Freedom in America is a thing of the past. The Constitution is suspended and maybe ended. One can almost conclude that there must be something in the drinking water that is keeping ordinary citizens from rational thinking or reaching intellectual maturity.

We spend our lives seeking entertainment in all its possible forms as we elect and honor crooks and fools to watch the store, while we party. This is not to say that we don't pretend to be responsible, we apparently just don't know any longer how to actually be responsible.

Here are some of the things we are doing, the sum total of which are pointing literally to the demise of the human race:

- 1) permanently poisoning the earth with radioactive materials as in the use of depleted uranium weapons and other irresponsible uses of nuclear energy;
- 2) tampering with the genetic makeup of animals and plants without understanding the potential irreversible consequences;

- 3) depleting the earth of carbon based resources, while using those resources in a manner that will change weather patterns to the detriment of all humanity and other life forms;
- 4) disregarding hundreds of years of knowledge, experience, and advances in the practice of jurisprudence;
- 5) failing to educate our children as to the desirability and efficacy of intellectual honesty, compassion, peace, fairness, and decency in human behavior and interaction;
- 6) knowingly destroying life sustaining ecosystems including the oceans, waterways, rain forests, woodlands, marshes, and more;
- 7) worshipping money and honoring greed to the point of destroying social systems worldwide;
- 8) worshipping war as we make peace and security impossible;
- 9) allowing politicians, political systems, and many corporate enterprises to become corrupted and counter-productive to their original intended purpose;
- 10) allowing certain drugs, chemicals, and other practices to enter the mainstream of commerce when it is fully known that doing so is harmful to people and other life forms;

11) near total corruption or dysfunction in our media and educational institutions which are failing to disseminate the information and resources citizens need to reverse these trends;

12) spending time, money, and energy on frivolities in our personal and public lives as the world approaches the brink of collapse.

America is America Because of You

5/29/2011

America is not dead because others have lost their belief in the Constitution; the Constitution is alive because it lives in you. Regardless of how or why our leaders sometimes lose their way, some Americans remain true to their ideals. As long as there is one or two of us who believe in the rule of law, justice lives. Some citizens have forgotten their ideals and their aspirations but many have not. Some never really understood how honor and integrity hold life together and make the dream of freedom and happiness possible, but many do. The truth survives because some of us still have the courage to name it and hold on to it. America is America because of your love of freedom, your respect for the rule of law, your hope for peace, and your courage to remain steadfast even while others are bent by fear, greed and ambition. America is America because of you.

The Genius of American Capitalism

5/26/2011

Our lawmakers helped the financial institutions crash the economy and swindle trillions of dollars from US citizens. Now they're intent on cutting our best social programs. Apparently only financial institutions and certain corporations are worthy of being saved in the wake of the debacle, while the victims are now targeted as an unreasonable financial burden on society. This is the supposed genius of American capitalism.

Now it's not that we don't know what's happening or that we don't care. We do care. The problem is, we don't know what to do about it.

Well, the best description of what to do about it is given by the Chilean economist Manfred Max-Neef when he talks about...

Facing the Rhinoceros

If you are confronted by a furious rhinoceros that is ready to charge, the worst thing you can do is pretend you are also a rhinoceros. It would be a lot better if you would act like a mosquito. The one thing that can defeat a rhinoceros is a mosquito cloud. A mosquito cloud has two great attributes.

1. *The mosquitos all stick together, and*

2. *The mosquito cloud has no leader that would allow the rhino to behead and kill the cloud. In the end, the cloud will drive the rhino crazy until it collapses into a ditch and likely, without killing a single mosquito.*

Of course, for this strategy to work, one mosquito won't be enough, you need a lot of mosquitos, each one independent, motivated, and well informed. My advice: become independent, motivated, and well informed... and spread the word. For starters, you might want to share this book.

Time to Tell the Truth: Obama Ought to be Impeached

5/19/2011

I would agree that we have no elected officials who have the courage to tell the truth, but that shouldn't mean that we citizens should give up on the truth too, just because it is no longer popular to believe in it in this country. If you want to live in a country that lives by the Constitution and the rule of law, then you have to believe in the truth and support the rule of law. Early on in his administration Obama broke the law when he failed to prosecute his predecessor. It's called being an Accessory After The Fact. It's a crime. That was his first crime.

TITLE 18 > PART I > CHAPTER 1 > § 3

§ 3. Accessory after the fact

Whoever, knowing that an offense against the United States has been committed, receives, relieves, comforts or assists the offender in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial or punishment, is an accessory after the fact.

Except as otherwise expressly provided by any Act of Congress, an accessory after the fact shall be imprisoned not more than one-half the maximum term of imprisonment or

(notwithstanding section 3571) fined not more than one-half the maximum fine prescribed for the punishment of the principal, or both; or if the principal is punishable by life imprisonment or death, the accessory shall be imprisoned not more than 15 years.

http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/718/usc_sec_18_00000003---000-.html

If you want to read my basic assessment of his predecessor's crimes you can read this:

<http://www.gpln.com/constitutionincrisis.htm>

The fact is that Obama has continued to commit many of the crimes that Bush and his administration committed, including murder, torture, renditions, indefinite detentions, launching illegal war and other crimes including various war crimes and other affronts against the Constitution.

He doesn't deserve our respect, he doesn't deserve to be in office, he shouldn't be taken seriously as a public servant. He is unqualified and disqualified. It is too late for Obama.

Even if he were to change his spots and behave like a real President of the United States from this point forward, it wouldn't change the fact that he is a criminal and ought to be held accountable for

his crimes. If you can't see your way to agree with me then perhaps that's why we no longer have a president or congress that believe in the rule of law. There is no lawmaker of which I am aware who publicly agrees with what I just said. To me that means there is no one in public office that deserves to be in public office. If you want to live in a country that believes in the rule of law, where no one is above the law, you will need to come to terms with the truth.

The President of the United States does not have permission to commit murder or any other crime. Period. No one else does either. If the president has no authority to commit murder, he has no right or authority to give anyone else permission to commit murder or to break any other law. We have a criminal government.

To the extent that you give them a pass on their criminal behavior, you are an accessory, and the reason, and the cause for the decline of our country. This is how I see it. You have no right to complain about how your elected officials behave if you haven't the consciousness to know the difference between right and wrong, between legal and illegal, between keeping your word or oath of office or not, and you gave your word the last time you said the pledge of allegiance. This is how it is.

I'm not saying that Obama shouldn't have his day in court and a chance to prove he is innocent of what the charges against him might be. I'm saying that he should.

Nothing you say or think is going to change the truth. It is what it is.

War or Peace, Life or Death: 10 Steps to Freedom

5/13/2011

The simple fact is that if we allow corporations and the ultra rich to run the world, we will not survive as a species, or at least not as civilized human beings. It really is that simple.

Anyone who looks with some objectivity at how things are progressing can see that we are going to destroy ourselves either by war, by environmental degradation, and/or by other activities that operate within the framework of unregulated or uncontrolled market forces.

Corporations were invented as tools for accomplishing certain economic goals, not as a mechanism for planning for, leading, or insuring the achievement of humanity's highest aspirations. It is important to understand how markets work if you're running a business, but markets must work within clear limits if they are to help us sustain life with peace and dignity.

Sustainable life with dignity would include an honest striving for universal human rights, encouraging steady progress towards greater wisdom, peace, justice, and compassion in society. Corporations, when confined to certain tasks can help move us in that direction; but

unconstrained, they tend to move us in the opposite direction where greed, domination, and exploitation diminish and frustrate such goals.

We, the American people, are going to have to make some tough choices if we hope to survive as a prosperous, progressive, and sustainable free society, or maybe even as a species.

Here is a short list of choices, which I believe our society will necessarily make when citizens are ready to celebrate life and peace instead of war and death. Until we collectively strive to achieve these goals we will be heading in the wrong direction and if we don't find ourselves doing all of these at once, the great probability is that we won't accomplish any of them at all. They're all interrelated and interconnected. If human consciousness is honestly striving for any one of them, it will be striving for all of them. And they're all doable; and this is not an exhaustive list. How? If we can find the money to bail out crooks and cheats and carry out illegal wars to the tune of trillions of dollars, there's enough money to help humanity sustain life on planet Earth with dignity. All it takes is the political will:

1. Society will choose to create an educational system where schools are not funded on the basis of real estate values which gives kids from wealthy families a better education than those from poor families, but one in

which government finds a way to provide an equal opportunity education for all children, where every child has a likely chance to fully develop their intellect, talents and abilities.

2. And the education we offer them will include solid skills in critical thinking plus an understanding of the importance and value of intellectual integrity, universal human rights, and the rule of law.
3. Society will choose to create a universal single payer health-care system where no one is left out and where benefits and professional standards are excellent regardless of any citizen's ethnic background or economic status.
4. Society will choose to celebrate peace and not war and that will be reflected in the amount of money, resources, and critical thinking we apply to creating peace in the world, and how much we take away from perfecting the instruments and methods of making war.
5. Society will choose to make sure that corporations are not considered to be persons under the law. Society will recognize that people are real while corporations are legal fictions; that people make decisions whereas corporations have no brains; that people love and care about others, whereas corporations do not love or

care about anything... they have no thoughts, no feelings, no heart, no conscience. People are sovereign life forms, corporations are invented tools. Identifiable human beings are responsible for everything that corporations do.

6. Society will choose to do away with the Federal Reserve System which is owned and run by private banks that create money out of nothing on which they then earn interest. Only governments should be allowed to create money out of nothing and earn interest on those funds, for those interest payments can and should be used to benefit society as a whole.
7. Society will make sure that no person is above the law and that all persons will be equal before the law. Society will look back and decide how justice will be done with respect to crimes committed that have not yet been addressed. Injured parties will have their day in court whether they are American citizens or citizens of other countries. There must be a full accounting for the crimes our elected representatives have committed in our name.
8. Tax codes will be revised to insure that laws are equitable and fair. Loopholes will be closed and everyone will pay their fair share. Society will be pleased to find that when they institute Item 6 above, that

taxes will be drastically reduced for everyone, even as the financial condition of all citizens is improved.

9. Election reform will insure that government will not be a closed two party system controlled by an elite few, but will encourage new entrants and ideas into the system. People will be better informed than they are today because all legitimate political candidates will have fair and equitable access to the people's airwaves. It will no longer be "a winner take all" system but representatives to government will more equitably reflect the views and aspirations of many constituencies. Funding for elections will be arranged so that there is no incentive for candidates to spend any time in office thinking about or trying to raise money for campaigns.
10. Work that rightfully should be done by government agencies, such as military and law enforcement personnel shall be returned to appropriate government agencies and no longer contracted out to private industry where the incentives for making profits are greater than the incentives for insuring justice, compassion, good will and a level playing field for all who interact with them.

Why is the Fed Managing the Economy?

5/14/2011

Why is the Fed managing the economy? The Fed is essentially a private organization made up of private banks whose job it is to manage monetary policy. Monetary policy means managing the supply of money in the economy. There's only so much the Fed can accomplish by changing the supply of money in the economy. In addition, the Federal Reserve is really a misnamed organization, given that it is not really an arm of the government, but rather a privately controlled organization. It seems totally inappropriate that the Fed should be put in charge of solving our country's economic woes, particularly when you consider that it was the Fed's irresponsible gross mismanagement of the banks that crippled the economy in the first place.

Apparently the Fed is running the show because the banks have become so powerful that the government is forced to abdicate its responsibility for managing the economy in favor of the Fed, while the Fed's primary interest is the health and wealth of the banks and their owners and not the American people. The Fed has betrayed their fiduciary responsibilities. Do we even have a government in place that's managing the

people's business for the benefit of the People? It doesn't look like it to me. Not any place I look.

Our financial problems cannot be solved with monetary policy. Monetary policy is necessary, but not sufficient. What is needed is appropriate fiscal policy and with respect to fiscal policy it looks to me like no one is minding the store. The policies being discussed by members of Congress all seem to be pointing in the wrong direction. What we need is stimulus, properly allocated and focused; what they're arguing about is how much to cut the budget at the expense of those who can afford it the least. These people do not understand economics, or more accurately, they don't care about people, and the people who supposedly do understand economics have apparently lost their voice. If we were responsible about repairing our failing infrastructure, doing something real about global warming, and taking appropriate action on a host of other real problems, our economy would be booming. Our economy is failing because we are all undereducated, misinformed, and grossly irresponsible. The main reason our government doesn't work for ordinary citizens anymore is that we choose poorly.

The president has no clue. He understands economics about as well as he understands the Constitution, which is not at all. By understand, I mean really understands the purpose and wisdom

of what the founders had in mind to the point of dedicating his life to preserving and protecting it. He doesn't understand it.

The American economy is stagnating and there is no long term vision to the policies being pursued by the president or congress. The voices of reason are barely heard and the People in general are totally in the dark, given that a proper understanding of economics was totally missing from their high school and college curricula. Many who did study economics over the last several decades were miss-educated. We apparently don't have an electorate that knows enough about what's important to intelligently choose competent, honorable leaders.

That's not an accident. Some folks don't want you to understand. If you did understand, you wouldn't tolerate this or them.

Our seniors have been cheated by a government that promised them a social security check adjusted for inflation. The government decided to redefine the meaning of the word inflation by excluding food and energy from the calculation and then basing inflation adjustments on what's left. Right now food and energy prices account for half of the current level of inflation we're experiencing. That's how much we are being cheated. Senior are falling behind because our government cheats. When the economy gets in

trouble, the first thing that Congress does is cut benefits for the most vulnerable citizens, leaving the wealthiest citizens better off than they were before and the poorest much worse off than they were, exactly opposite to what any honorable authority would do.

We have millions of homes now empty and many hundreds of thousands of families homeless. Does this make sense to you? The banks and financial institutions crashed the economy and now intend to fraudulently own the homes the homeless once lived in. Does this make sense to you? Do you think this was all an accident? Do you think the Fed simply made an unforeseeable error that just happened to end up with this result?

Now I'm not saying that the Fed set out to confiscate the homes owned by unsuspecting citizens. But what I am saying is that it was the Fed's infidelity, incompetence, and irresponsibility that allowed the banks to do whatever they wanted to do, including outright fraud on a gigantic scale that allowed this to happen. And what did our government do in response? It stole trillions of dollars from us and our children's future to bail out the fraudsters, allowing these criminals to get off scot free while giving even more authority to the Fed to manage the economy. Where is the outrage? There isn't any outrage because citizens were never taught in

school how the economy works or how government works. So now most are easily duped by the garbage they hear on the evening news every day which doles out the propaganda the government and their large corporate owners give them. They are happy with how it's all working out... which is to say, that poor people are getting poorer while rich folks are getting richer. Why? Well... guess which camp the owners and managers of the large corporations fall into.

These are times where the financial safety net of citizens ought to be strengthened and the wealthiest among us ought to be taking a haircut. Many families are going hungry as congress is arguing about how much hungrier they should be, than they already are.

Health-care is an economic issue. A single payer plan is the only sensible way to save money, improve care, and cover everyone at the same time. We know that because we can see that it works for every other successful country in the world but ours. Even our own Medicare system works better than most other government programs. So the only sensible solution we absolutely know works is the one solution that's off the table. Does that make sense to you?

The Fed ought to be fired from the job of managing the money supply. That job ought to

be done by a government agency (the Fed is not a government agency). If it were handled properly, the interest you pay on your mortgage or car loan would go back into to the nation's treasury instead of into the private hands of bank owners. After all, the money the bank loans you is money it creates out of nothing (it's not their money they lend, nor anyone else's) and yet they get to charge you interest on it and then confiscate your property if you fail to pay. It's not their money they lend out, why should they get to keep all that interest on it. Duh.

Education is an economic issue. If you don't get a good education how can you make sensible decisions when go into the voting booth? You can't. Yet in this country the quality of your child's education largely depends on how much your home is worth. Does that make sense to you? In America, every child ought to have the same opportunity to develop their talents and abilities as anyone else. Public education ought to be uniformly good. It's public education. Every citizen deserves an equal chance to succeed. A child's education ought not depend on their parent's income or ethnicity. Wake up America.

Military spending is an economic issue. Why do we spend more money than almost all other countries combined? We don't have any enemies except the ones we create when we steal their

resources, bomb their homes, or poison their men, women, and children with depleted uranium that causes cancer and birth defects. Our military doesn't protect us; they create enemies so that our military industrial complex can keep their factories humming in response to perpetual war.

It's not the fault of our 18 year old soldiers who haven't the maturity to know what to do or how to defend themselves. Government lies to our children about why people hate us. Then they steal our children away to kill and die and it's all because of money and greed. Most honorable military leaders don't understand how this works. They just do what they're told to do. Do we have enemies? Yes. But we wouldn't have nearly as many if we were honorable about how we treated people. Follow the money and it will take you back to the banksters, financiers, and corporate moguls. Get real. Grow up.

When you graduated high school or college did someone once tell you to trust yourself and now go out and make the world a better place? Well, the truth is, when you graduated you probably weren't as smart as they told you you were. They weren't lying to you. They were just being nice. It was a happy day. They weren't thinking. Your real education starts when your formal education ends. Had they been wiser, they would have told you that you weren't smart enough yet to be as arrogant as you probably were or are. They

should have told you, you would be wise to be humble about what you think you know because a lot of it was going to turn out to be a lie. And I will tell you, that by now you had better be wise enough to suspect how truly undereducated you really are. You need to question your own belief systems and where you got them before they ruin your life, and the sooner you start, the better off you will be.

The TSA is a Terrorist Organization

5/5/2011

What is a terrorist organization if it's not an organization that uses terror to intimidate people into altering their behavior and political beliefs until they are brought into alignment with the terrorist organization?

I accuse the TSA of being this because I know that the TSA does not protect citizens from terrorists but rather induces fear and causes people to give up their sense of security, making them willing to surrender and abdicate their basic rights, freedoms, sense of well-being, and happiness. I can prove this by just pointing out a few obvious facts:

First of all, the TSA would have you believe that so called terrorists are really stupid people. Obviously any terrorist who has a brain can easily observe that there is no limit to the different ways that people can be terrorized. Anyone who listens to the news in recent years knows that in other countries terrorists have blown up buildings, airplanes, buses, trains, street markets, airports, and more. They have put explosives in trucks, cars, shoes, underwear, and on body straps. No terrorist has to rack his or her brain to get a small explosive onto an airplane when they can very easily get a large amount of explosives into a

suitcase, backpack, bus, train, car, or truck and blow people up anyplace they choose if they wanted to. The reason they don't do this is because there are no terrorists out there, or if they are out there, there are not very many of them. My guess is that more people die of tooth decay in the United States than die of terrorism.

It's not because the TSA makes us safer.

In fact if you think about it, you will see that the United States government is now the largest and most successful terrorist organization in the world. The US is responsible for the death, injury, and terror of more innocent people than any terrorist organization you can name. Our government has the best and most tools of terror than anyone else on the planet and we use them indiscriminately any time we want, anyplace we want. Millions of innocent people in Iraq and Afghanistan know this intimately. There are many other countries as well. We destroy the lives, families, and infrastructure of entire countries using drones, bombs, depleted uranium munitions, and other military hardware and personnel causing more pain to innocent people than any terrorist organization in history save perhaps the Nazi regime, and maybe one or two others, although when you include the way we exterminated Native American peoples, I'm not really sure of the statistics. Certainly since WWII I feel pretty safe in making this claim and if I am

wrong, it's not by a lot. Of course all this terrorism makes people angry and making other people angry doesn't make us safer.

The United States government does not defend the rule of law, either national or international and you can easily see this by reviewing articles I've written and also other published links on my own web site and the links you will find at the other sites I reference. This means that if you donate money to the Democratic or Republican parties you are donating money to a terrorist organization. These people support the terrorism I'm talking about. The people we elect to public office do not defend the Constitution, the rule of law, or otherwise keep their oath of office. I know that because there is no one in Congress or at the White House who would say what I am saying right now, nor would they otherwise tell the truth about the illegitimate acts our government engages in if, in fact, they don't think I'm being entirely accurate. As a rule, they have no real moral courage to speak of although some of them do try on occasion.

We spend trillions of dollars terrorizing other peoples when that money could otherwise have easily been used to eliminate poverty and fear in the United States and most other places around the world.

Americans probably experience a greater degree of real terror from medical bills, the inability to offer their children a good education, a job loss, poverty, homelessness, the inability to feed their family, and the TSA when traveling, than they ever will from the people our government calls terrorists.

The truth is, the terrorists that our government says you ought to be afraid of can comfortably sit back, relax, eat popcorn, and observe our country unravel as we terrorize ourselves.

Why go to the trouble of trying to figure out how to terrorize Americans and risk their own lives, when foreign born terrorists will never be as effective as we are at destroying our own corrupt civilization. All they need to do is watch and learn. We will show them how to bring the American people to their knees a lot more efficiently than they ever could. We have the know-how, the experience, the tools, and consciousness to do it and no one can stand in our way. We are Americans. We can do anything we set our minds to.

Osama bin Laden: Gift From God

5/4/2011

Osama bin Laden was a gift from God to all of us for which many of us have yet to express our thanks. This is not to say that the people who were killed on 9/11 deserved to die or that God wished them dead, but rather that our response to the collapse of the twin towers was a wake-up call to all Americans to look into the mirror and see what we have become as a people, which we might now begin to realize as we review our unfolding reaction to that attack:

1. We see how fragile our commitment to the rule of law and to the spirit of truth and justice has become. Our leaders responded not with wisdom and restraint but rather with vengeance and an almost total disregard for what we say our nation stands for, or what we hope to teach our children the meaning of freedom is.
2. Our first reaction was to attack a country that had no connection to the 9/11 attack. As an occupying force our responsibility was to protect the lives, wealth and well-being of Iraqi citizens and to preserve their heritage and the many good things they enjoyed in life. Instead we did exactly the opposite of that, showing an almost total disregard for their lives, their heritage, their

future, or their posterity. In fact we committed great atrocities, including awful war crimes against hundreds of thousands, in fact millions, of innocent men, women and children.

3. We also unveiled before the world the dehumanizing nature of the greed and brutality that describes the culture in which our economy, our government, and our corporations operate.
4. We saw that our elected officials at every level were impotent in thought and deed in terms of honoring their oath of office, totally failing to provide the proper checks and balances on those who used the crisis for their own selfish or ignorant ends. Most elected officials in fact had no trouble ignoring their oath of office as they allowed the administration to degrade the Constitution and the rights and freedoms of not only Iraqi citizens but all world citizens, including our own.

So when I say that bin Laden was God's gift to America, I mean that God already was aware of the degraded moral fiber and the lack of consciousness of those who had attained leadership positions in our society. Even more important, God knew that our population at large had never learned or perhaps had forgotten that we are all responsible for the state of our nation and its place in the world. It is every citizen's

responsibility to keep freedom, truth, and basic human decency alive so that our children's birthright might be insured — the right to live in a just society, under a fair and equitable rule of law, amongst people who are committed to democracy, freedom, truth and justice for all people.

Osama bin Laden, with help from God, swept aside the veil behind which America's decline had gone unnoticed. We should cherish and be thankful for the opportunity God is giving us before it is too late.

I say, "Thank You God for Opening My Eyes that I might now seek forgiveness for what I did or did not do, so that I might strive now to reclaim my honor, my dignity, and my country's promise. I now understand why we were attacked in the first place and why it was so important to learn what you have always been trying to teach us out of love and compassion for us all."

Osama bin Laden and the US Response to 911

5/3/2011

The US response to 911 was to use that event as a pretext for launching an illegal war against Iraq, a country which had no connection with 911, and in which an estimated million or more innocent civilians lost their lives, and two or three times that many lost their homes. Iraq was thrown into disarray as its entire social structure and infrastructure was collapsed, its oil industry stolen, and more.

Illegal weapons were used by the US in that war of aggression which infused Iraq with depleted uranium and which will continue to cause cancers and birth defects, and incredible pain and suffering, for generations. It was the most vulnerable citizens of Iraq who were dealt the severest blows. These were horrendous war crimes committed by the United States, crimes I would say were far worse than anything Osama bin Laden ever did. To say that justice has been served in the killing of bin Laden is foolishness beyond comprehension. The criminal acts perpetrated by United States, before and after 911, has nothing to do with justice.

Both Bush and Obama, as well as a whole host of other co-conspirators, who desecrated the

Constitution and disregarded national and international law, ought to have been removed from office for these crimes and prosecuted to the maximum extent of the law.

There is no incontrovertible evidence that bin Laden, without the help of the United States, took down the twin towers. And in fact, the most wildly held conspiracy theory is the one that claims that the three buildings that collapsed on 9/11 were caused by a collision with airplanes.

Certainly Building 7 did not fall on its own footprint because Buildings 1 and 2 were hit by airplanes.

There is no question that the terrorist attack on 9/11 was a criminal act and that crime demands justice. At the same time, it is important to note that the criminal acts perpetrated by the United States which inspired the attack on 9/11 were far worse, and there is no justice for those victims either, just as there is no real justice for those who died in the 9/11 attack... and there will be no justice until the whole truth is revealed as to what this was all about, what actually happened, and who was responsible in its overall context. There can be no justice without a full disclosure of the truth first. And everyone on this planet has a right to know what that truth is.

About the Truth

5/2/2011

You don't have to know anything to tell the truth. That's because I am defining the truth as follows: The truth is what you know in the deepest part of your being to be true.

So if your reasoning and experience tells you something is true and you tell the truth as you see it, then you're telling the truth. At the same time, if you're dedicated to telling the truth, you inevitably will, on occasion, be confronted with information that will challenge some of what you believed to be true in the past. If you are still committed to telling the truth, you will tell the truth as you experience it now, which will be different from what you once thought it was, or said it was. That can be embarrassing.

Nevertheless, if you are committed to telling the truth, you will eventually become very smart. At the same time, you will eventually come to realize, if you are committed to telling the truth, that for you the truth changes. And so, if you are honest with yourself, you will become somewhat humble in the way you express your truth because you will know that it's always possible that there may be a deeper understanding still that you have yet to realize about what you think you know is true.

I believe honesty (or intellectual integrity) is the road to deeper understanding. If your ego gets in the way of telling the truth to the point that you remain steadfast to what you once said, even though over time your experience has broadened your understanding to the point that what you once said is not what you really believe anymore (or even if you refuse to consider what you suspect might challenge your truth), then you will become stuck, and your truth will be compromised, and that will be a block to deeper and greater understanding.

I once wrote and I think it's still true, that "when you tell the truth, God gives you more truth to tell." If you stop telling the truth you can find yourself adhering to illusion for a long time. A corollary to that might be that if you stop telling the truth about any one thing, your ability to expand your understanding about any one thing might very well be compromised.

God is real and not a myth. I don't presume to have God's wisdom, and I readily admit that to me God sometimes seems to work in mysterious ways. Nevertheless, I do believe God appreciates the efforts that people make trying to maintain their integrity, and I think overall, integrity leads to greater understanding with God's help.

What You Need To Know To Save Your Ass - Part 3

5/1/2011

In Parts 1 and 2, I reviewed how the Federal Reserve System and its member banks work in managing the economy's money supply and how banks create money out of nothing which they lend out at interest. For example, banks create money out of nothing when they enter into mortgage agreements with property owners. Property owners make monthly payments to the banks which include both principal and interest. The banks earn a profit from the interest after paying expenses. If those property owners default on those mortgages the banks end up owning the homes or other collateral which was offered to secure the loan. Since the money it lends is not the bank's money, it takes very limited risk when it enters into those transactions, but almost always receives substantial rewards.

I also pointed out that the Federal Reserve is not a federal institution. It is a private institution that is "owned" by its member banks which are in turn owned by wealthy individuals many of whom are not American citizens. The owners of the largest banks have demonstrated that their loyalty is not to the people of any nation, but rather to the goal of maximizing the wealth and accumulated political power of its owners. This power and

wealth can drive the political agenda of this nation and others as well.

In an article by Jake Towne, he points out that: "As of March 2004, of the nation's approximately 7,700 commercial banks approximately 2,900 were members of the Federal Reserve System - approximately 2,000 national banks and 900 state banks...." And "...that the top 4 banks: Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, Citigroup, and Wachovia [now Wells Fargo], would control roughly 50% of the stock of the Federal Reserve Bank, and the top 10 banks, including Wells Fargo, HSBC, and the Bank of New York, would control over 68% of the stock..."

In a staff report published by the Committee on Banking, Currency and Housing, House of Representatives, 94th Congress, 2nd Session, August 1976 entitled "Federal Reserve Directors: Study of Corporate and Banking Influence" we see that the people who own, control, and manage the banks are among the wealthiest and most powerful people in the world, including the Rothschild, Rockefeller, and Morgan families; and with interlocking directorates the list also includes many of the most powerful corporations in the world. This chart was published in 1976. I would guess that corporations that make up the military industrial complex probably play a greater role today than they did in 1976.

If you understand who owns and controls the banks and how these banks control the money supply, you can connect the dots and begin to understand what forces are at work manipulating the political processes in the United States and in other nations... and also why our country seems to be engaged in perpetual war.

It's my contention that almost all of the military aggression the United States has engaged in in recent memory are with nations that own or control resources wealthy bankers and their interlocking corporate directorates covet, or with countries whose leaders attempt to free themselves from the control of the money cartel that requires that the dollar remain the world's one and only reserve currency. In all cases, the banks and their corporate owners profit from war no matter who wins or loses those wars.

Great wealth can be employed to manipulate the currencies of foreign governments and those governments can find themselves in need of outside capital. Governments are often forced to borrow from the banking cartel up to the point they are overburdened with debt. When that happens, those governments become puppet regimes. When the power of banks fail in their ability to manipulate and extort other governments into bowing to the banking cartel's wishes, the military power of the United States is brought to bear to bring these governments into

line. The banking cartel requires that no country be allowed to replace the dollar as the one and only reserve currency, which means that all puppet regimes must stay deeply indebted to the World Bank, the Bank of International Settlements, and/or the International Monetary Fund (all also controlled by these same, or similar, people mentioned before) so that control can be maintained.

The lip service that the United States uses to justify the wars it engages in are just a smokescreen to keep the people of this country, and other countries, in the dark as to what the true forces at work are that keeps them impoverished and/or dependent. The fact that millions of lives and families have been destroyed, uprooted and impoverished in countries all over the world is of no consequence to the people who own and control the world's supply of money.

In a recent article by Ellen Hodgson Brown, she points out, for example, that:

“Another provocative bit of data circulating on the Net is a 2007 “Democracy Now!” interview of U.S. General Wesley Clark (Ret.). In it he says that about 10 days after September 11, 2001, he was told by a general that the decision had been made to go to war with Iraq. Clark was surprised and asked why. “I don’t know!” was the response.

“I guess they don’t know what else to do!” Later, the same general said they planned to take out seven countries in five years: Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Iran.

What do these seven countries have in common? In the context of banking, one that sticks out is that none of them is listed among the 56 member banks of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS). That evidently puts them outside the long regulatory arm of the central bankers’ central bank in Switzerland.

The most renegade of the lot could be Libya and Iraq, the two that have actually been attacked...”

In another article Ellen Brown points out that: “Today the Treasury is paying a very low .25% on securities of 9 months or less, and interest on the whole debt is about 3% (a total of \$414 billion on a debt of \$14 trillion in 2010).

Greece is paying 4.5% on its debt, and Venezuela is paying 18% — six times the 3% we’re paying on ours. Interest at 18% would add \$2 trillion to our tax bill. That would mean paying three times what we’re paying now in personal income taxes (projected to be a total of \$956 billion in 2011), just to cover the interest.” I might mention that Venezuela, a country considered by Washington as an "axis of evil", has actively campaigned among members of OPEC to find ways of trading oil in currencies other than the dollar.

If you are a worker who notices your rights are diminishing; if you have lost your home in this most recent bank sponsored credit debacle; if you have no health-care insurance or inadequate health-care coverage; if you have a family member that's been killed or injured in one of our wars; if you don't understand what I'm talking about; if you haven't enough money to retire with dignity; if you or your family member can't afford proper nursing care; if the water you drink or your food you eat is too expensive or unsafe; if you are ignored by your elected representatives; if you can't afford to attend college or pay off your education loan; if you can't afford to feed your family a healthy diet, — you have been, in all likelihood, like all Americans have been, — cheated by your government that refuses to put an end to the corporate banking system that controls our government and propagates the fraud and corruption that day by day steals the freedom and the wealth from everyone but a select elite few.

Ultimately I believe every citizen has some responsibility for his or her own life experience. If you don't like the way your government has played its role, it is both your right and your duty to change it. But I will also say this: that there will be no useful change if you do not participate with the greatest amount of honesty, integrity and courage consistent with your ability to understand the meaning of those words.

I suggest you read other commentaries I've written as food for thought, while you keep an open mind and try to maintain the courage to think about some things you might have in the past been taught to disrespect. I'm not suggesting that you do anything. I am suggesting that it would be wise for you continue to learn, think about, and consider what you learn with as much courage and honor as you can, before you act.

While the Fed claims that no one actually owns the Fed, the stockholders of the Fed are the 12 regional privately owned banks that make up the Federal Reserve System and those 12 banks are owned by big privately owned banks.

What You Need To Know To Save Your Ass - Part 2

4/24/2011

In Part I, I talked about how the Fed creates money and why it doesn't make sense for banks, bank employees and/or their private owners to benefit personally from the interest received on funds that banks are able to create out of nothing, which they then lend to bank customers (which in some cases is the government). The bankers were given authority to create those funds out of nothing in order to control the supply of money for the sole benefit of The People. Bankers, when they make loans, (to the extent they are creating and lending newly created money) are acting as agents of The People. The People are the true and sovereign owner of those funds and so it is The People, (i.e., the government), that should be the recipient of those interest payments.

Of course banks ought to be adequately compensated for the legitimate services they do provide. That would include interest and fees for lending out capital that banks own by virtue of accumulated earnings or investor contributions, fees for processing loan applications, and fees for evaluating and controlling the amount of money the economy needs to prosper in an optimum and sustainable manner. But banks shouldn't be

compensated for services they don't provide, which is to say, they shouldn't gain or be compensated with the interest they receive on funds that were lent by creating that money out of nothing, nor should they be allowed to profit from inside information that might become available to them in the course of managing the money supply; nor should the power that has been entrusted to them ever be used to benefit the bank or bank employees or owners or to influence the legitimate operation of other government functions.

The Fed was entrusted to perform a sacred duty for which they have a fiduciary¹ responsibility to perform: to manage the money supply for the benefit of the economy, which is to say, The People, or society as a whole. That duty precludes them from profiting over and above a legitimate remuneration for carrying out its essential duties. If they betray the trust implied by that fiduciary duty, they ought to be removed and/or prosecuted for fraud or breach of trust as the case may be.

Apparently, a good case can be made that some banks, bankers, and bank owners have been breaching that trust for a long, long time.

That means those illegitimate beneficiaries ought to be liable for the fraud and damage they have caused in the process of accumulating their

illegitimate power and wealth. They surely ought not to be rewarded for all the poverty, death, and destruction that their infidelity has caused. In fact, they should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law for any fraud and/or other criminal acts they have perpetrated.

Of course the arrangement by which the Fed operates, which is to say the legislation that authorizes the Federal Reserve System, might in and of itself be flawed, and it appears that it is. In fact, how the system was supposed to work was not spelled out clearly from its inception. Nevertheless, the Chairman of the Fed and its governors took an oath in which they pledged allegiance to the Constitution before they took on their duties and I maintain that that oath, properly interpreted, says exactly what I have just said but in different words.

No one should be in the business of banking, either at the Fed or at any of its member banks, who doesn't understand what it means to be a fiduciary or is unworthy of the honor of being trusted with fiduciary responsibilities.

Our elected government officials are also fiduciaries. Unfortunately, we cannot trust the government we now have to redesign the Federal Reserve System or to prosecute any crimes that banks and bankers have committed over the years. The government we now have has refused

to prosecute the crimes and misdemeanors of prior administration officials, such as war crimes and other illegal or unconstitutional acts, and, in fact, has engaged in similar acts themselves. How can they be trusted to prosecute the illegal acts of others when they have in the past, and continue in the present, to engage in similar crimes themselves? In fact, with respect to the Fed, our government has already rewarded banks and bankers with billions or trillions of dollars when we all know they instead should have been prosecuted for fraud and other crimes.

When a fiduciary fails to uphold the honor of their office, that person ought to be removed from office. And who has the duty to remove such a person from office? Answer: The person or persons who put them in office; the person or persons who have legitimate power to hire or fire that person. And that would be us.

Fiduciary

from <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fiduciary>

When a fiduciary duty is imposed, equity requires a stricter standard of behavior than the comparable tortuous duty of care⁽¹⁾ at common law. It is said the fiduciary has a duty not to be in a situation where personal interests and fiduciary duty conflict, a duty not to be in a situation where his fiduciary duty conflicts with another fiduciary

duty, and a duty not to profit from his fiduciary position without express knowledge and consent. A fiduciary cannot have a conflict of interest.⁽²⁾ It has been said that fiduciaries must conduct themselves "at a level higher than that trodden by the crowd"^[3] and that "[t]he distinguishing or overriding duty of a fiduciary is the obligation of undivided loyalty."^[4]

What You Need To Know To Save Your Ass - Part 1

4/27/2011

The political and economic strategies this country is pursuing are not sustainable and the folks who hold the reins of power know it. They are pursuing strategies designed to facilitate the ability of big money interests to drain as much wealth as possible from those who have the least political clout to those who have the most and they will take those strategies as far as they possibly can.

In the eyes of power brokers, the weaker, less educated, and more distracted a general population becomes the more pliable, complacent, and compliant they become. But these parasites know that there is a limit to how far they can suck the blood out of a body before it drops over dead. When they've taken things as far as they can, the rules of the game will change and the body will be saved... and then the blood sucking will continue along different lines. But our economy is not going to collapse. The question is, is it possible to get the blood suckers off our backs.

I don't know if there's enough fight left in you and others to want to put an end to this death spiral but if there is, it's important to know this: Yes,

there are solutions available that could turn this state of affairs around very quickly if we all only understood what needs to happen. The ruling elite doesn't want us to know what those solutions are and they're doing everything possible to make sure we never understand what we can do to help ourselves. But in a few words, I'm going to tell you right now what the problem is and what you can do about it:

The Federal Reserve System that was put in place early in the century was actually a political coup engineered by the most powerful and wealthiest industrialists and financiers in the country. Their design insures that as time goes on, power is continually usurped from the People and transferred to them.

The Federal Reserve is not a federal institution. It is not part of the government. It is not controlled by the government. The words Federal Reserve was the name they picked for this private organization to fool us into thinking it is part of the government, to lull us to sleep. It is as simple as that. It was a political coup. There was an internal fight among the powers that be at the time as to how the money supply was going to be managed. The logical and rational direction to go would have been to have the government control the money supply. On the other side were the big money interests who knew, that if they were able to control the money

supply, they could eventually control the entire political landscape. The big money interests tricked the more naïve lawmakers into turning that power over to them. Once these seeds of destruction were planted, the die was cast and we're now living with the results.

The Federal Reserve System, which is to say, their member banks, have the power to create money out of nothing. And I mean that literally. The myth that most people believe intuitively, is that when a bank lends you money, it's their money or someone else's money they are lending. It isn't. It's money that never existed before. You sign a loan agreement and they post a dollar amount into your bank account with the click of a few computer keys. There are accounting entries that balance out the illusion.

When you spend the money that was put in your account, the recipient of that money makes a deposit to their bank account. That bank now has the authority to create money out of nothing too. Almost all of the money in circulation today was created this way. For all intents and purposes all of the money in circulation is debt. And someone is paying interest on all that debt. And the recipients of those interest payments are the banks who lent the money out. If you are an owner of The Bank it's a pretty good deal because the borrower is paying you free money, i.e., paying you for doing almost nothing and risking

almost nothing. (I'm over simplifying. But when you look at all the complexity and boil it down to how things really work, what I'm telling you is essentially how it all plays out.) How can big money interests pay their top people millions of dollars a year; how can big money interests bring down the economies of this nation and other nations? ...they can do it because they get paid enormous sums of money for doing almost nothing of value.

And they use that money to accumulate even more. The purpose of the Fed from their point of view is to maximize their own power and wealth. And by the way, since money is debt, you can't eliminate the national debt without eliminating the money supply. So all the talk you hear about the national debt and paying it down is, in and of itself, a lot of hot air, smoke, and mirrors. So what would the alternative look like?

There are several possibilities, but one alternative would be for the government to own the Fed and the affiliated banks (The Bank). The government would not have to borrow money because the money the Fed creates would already be owned by the government, so there would be no debt. And money lent to corporations and individuals would be loaned by a bank that looks pretty much like the bank you now do business with except that your interest payments would go to the government (i.e., The People) and not into private

hands. Now what good would that do? Well, for one thing those interest payments could be used to improve the country's infrastructure, upgrade schools, fully fund social security, Medicaid and Medicare and generally improve the lives of ordinary citizens.

So how could the government own The Bank? By writing a check to The Bank to pay off and cancel all the outstanding debt.

Well wouldn't this create a great amount of inflation? No.

Wouldn't this turn us into a socialist society? No, not any more than the post office makes us a socialist nation. There would still be financial institutions just like there's still UPS and FedEx even though there's a post office.

Well, isn't a lot of our debt owed to foreign governments? Yes. We would pay them off too in US dollars to cancel the debt and they would be happy to get it. Well wouldn't they just use those dollars to buy debt from other countries? Maybe some of it, but so what.

If you want to know how all this currently works (in greater and more accurate detail than I've just offered), and how it could work if we want to regain our democracy, read this book: *The Web of Debt* by Ellen Hodgson Brown, JD. The book is extremely well written and well documented and

not difficult to read even though the book is over 500 pages long. The reason it's over 500 pages long is that it goes into great detail to answer the questions and the doubts that are probably already popping into your head. Reading this book could save your ass, if not your life.

The alternative is to wait until the banking cartel turns us and our children all into debt peons who will never know financial or political freedom again. This is probably our last chance. Let's not screw it up. Now obviously if we try to get the people who currently hold office to turn things around, we will be shooting ourselves in the foot. They are already bought and paid for. And as long as untrustworthy people hold positions of power they can gum up the works. So the task ahead is not an easy or simple one.

But at least we now know there are known viable solutions to some of our most intractable problems, and that ought to give us enough hope to stand on our own two feet and try to recapture our heritage. Read the book and offer it to others if you think it has the potential to be as important as I think it could be.

"It's the Economy, Stupid"

4/15/2011

If what you are after is political reform, a legitimate commitment to the rule of law, and a domestic and foreign policy pursued with moral and intellectual integrity... you are not going to make much headway as long as our money supply is determined by privately owned banks and other institutions that create money out of nothing and lend it out at interest.

A government of the People, by the People, and for the People cannot remain free and sovereign if its money supply is not also... of the People, by the People and for the People. The failure to understand this has metastasized into a cancer that has all but destroyed democracy in the United States and now threatens to destroy any vestige of it in every corner of the globe.

The system under which we now live is fundamentally flawed. It is incompatible with democratic principles, basic human rights, or logic. This system persists only because those who profit from it have been successful in keeping their operations hidden from public view, unaccountable to any legitimate authority, and able to corrupt most, (if not all), institutions that form the backbone of most democratic societies,

and this includes our own political, educational, and media based institutions.

Our government today is a puppet regime to big money interests. American democracy is an illusion. But it doesn't have to be so.

Most politicians do not understand how our economy works, or if they do, have been corrupted by it; our educational system does not teach citizens how it really works, and our broadcast media totally serves its own needs. In our construct of how we think the world works, myth and illusion have replaced reality. Until these fundamental truths are revealed and properly understood, nothing we do will make much difference. And even if we did understand it, it remains to be seen if enough citizens are prepared to respond responsibly and with sufficient wisdom, perseverance, and intellectual integrity to end the morass we're caught up in. The above notwithstanding, solutions to our biggest problems are readily available. All we need is an awake citizenry willing to be responsible for understanding and implementing them.

To say it another way, our freedom and our security is lost if we can't overcome two immense hurdles: 1) understanding what forces are at work that would enslave us, and 2) recovering our ability as individuals to be responsible human

beings. The first test to see if what I am saying is true will be whether or not you would be willing to do the research you need to do to understand how your freedom, wealth, dignity, and well-being is being usurped by people who are totally unaccountable to you or anyone else... and what can be done about it.. If you want to give it a try, start here: Read: *The Web of Debt* by Ellen Hodgson Brown, J.D. Youtube video: [The Money Masters](#)

And read this too: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (pg. 847)

I believe that in less than one generation, an American citizenry that fully understands and appreciates the wisdom contained in those two documents could transform the world, from one that can't offer sustainable peace and prosperity to all peoples, to one that can.and time is of the essence.

On Freedom

4/12/2011

The United States government and its military leaders do not possess the intellectual, moral and spiritual wisdom to legitimately possess the weapons now in their control. This Sword of Damocles now hangs over us all.

Political freedom on planet earth is now demonstrably dead except as it exists in relative terms. What the US government has taught us is that whenever the rule of law is inconvenient for the ruling elite, it can readily be dismantled or ignored at will. What has been demonstrated is that the rule of law is not a rule that we — you and I — currently have the power to enforce.

Freedom from fear is not something one can buy or capture; nor is it an office to which one can be appointed or elected; no one can give it to you; and if you think you can fight your way to freedom now, you can't. Who are you going to fight? Who is going to fight along side you? And how much fight do you have in you anyway? What's important right now is to realize what freedom isn't: it is not... being unaware that the freedom you think you have is an illusion, even though with recent and past history unveiled we see that's what it has always been. Of course it's unveiled only to those who have the courage to

look. Now, at last, we all have access to enough evidence to see reality as it is. Wake up. Wake up. Open your eyes. The human spirit longs to be free. Let's see if I can help you remember who you are.

I, Juror

3/30/2011

Yesterday, 3/29/2011, I was a juror and today I feel like I'm the one who put the last nail in the coffin of justice. I did my job, but I couldn't deliver justice. I participated in a system that no longer works and by doing so allowed the illusion to persist that we are a nation of laws and that justice in America is blind. In so doing I helped validate a system that allows injustice to persist. I can't change today what I did yesterday. And yet I can't honestly say that had I done something else, it would have made any difference at all. My heart is breaking.

I was called to be a juror. It was a case involving an individual who was charged with driving under the influence. In the jury room I and others struggled with the facts in the case; i.e., Did the prosecution prove its case? After long deliberation all of us finally agreed that the defendant was guilty of the crime for which he was accused. I don't believe we made a mistake in that regard.

Before I was seated as a juror, I agreed that I could and would follow the instructions of the judge. In the end, even though I was aware of what I am about to share with you, that's what I did: I simply did what I was asked to do. We were

informed that as jurors we were officers of the court, but we were never told what that means exactly in legal terms. I assumed it simply meant that I, like the judge and the two attorneys in the room, have a duty to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States (which is to say, the defendant's rights, and every citizen's rights) against all enemies, foreign and domestic, to the best of our ability. It was our duty to be vigilant, honorable, and steadfast in making sure that justice was done.

But can any ordinary citizen today get a fair trial? I'm not at all sure that it's possible. Our police officers are charged with policing certain members of our society while other members of society are not policed (or properly regulated) which can make it possible for some criminals to do great damage and unravel the very fabric of our society leaving the rest of us to pay the price. In fact, the crimes of those of whom I speak, work to impoverish, more than anyone else, the most defenseless citizens among us, many of whom become trapped in persistent poverty, homelessness, and despair because of our failure to enact fair laws or uphold laws that are already on the books.

To make matters worse, unthinking lawmakers often try to make up the losses caused by these unprosecuted criminals by unraveling the social safety net that was put in place to prevent the

most vulnerable among us from having to face the level of hopelessness that the crimes I'm talking about help create.

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution promises citizens equal protection under the law. But there can be no equal protection under the law if some people are considered to be above the law, and when the law only prosecutes the weak and vulnerable members of society for the crimes they commit while allowing the most dangerous criminals among us to profit from their crimes and go free. Where's the justice in that? I don't think there is any... so what are we to do?

In the final analysis, what convinced me to find the defendant guilty in my case, was my carefully considered decision to accept the arresting police officer's testimony to be, in and of itself, proof beyond a reasonable doubt... because I believed the officer to be a decent, honorable man who was doing his job to the best of his ability and I believed he was qualified to recognize that at the time of the arrest the defendant was highly intoxicated and unable to safely operate his motor vehicle.

But that police officer was cheated, and so was the defendant, and so was I and so were you by this proceeding because the laws of this land are not fairly enforced. Only certain people are prosecuted for the crimes they commit. Only

certain people are investigated, arrested, and face a day in court for their crimes, even when we all know that grave and serious crimes have been committed that diminish all of us.

The system is broken and by participating in it as if it were not, and narrowly focusing on instructions of judges and other people in authority, we keep the injustice in place, and by doing so participate in the demise of our Constitution, the rule of law, and our children's birthright — the right to live in a just, fair, and decent society.

You might argue that it was not my job to do anything other than sort out the facts of the case and find the defendant innocent or guilty of the crime for which he was charged. You might argue that that's the only way the system can work; i.e., with each person doing his or her job to the best of their ability — that my suggested grievance needs to be pursued somewhere else. For example, if I had removed myself from the jury box, what good would that do. Someone else would have taken my place and maybe that juror would have been less diligent than I was in sorting out the facts of the case. Would that have been a better choice?

The system is broken. It doesn't work. The problem is that most of us are not doing our job, particularly those at the highest levels of

government and at other powerful institutions that form the backbone of our society. Today, in America, there is no “somewhere else.” There’s only here and now wherever we are, whoever we are.

When my time came, I couldn't think of what else to do other than what I did do, and yet when I had the chance to speak up for justice in the courtroom, I didn't do it. I can't change yesterday, but can say something now, even as I doubt that anything I might say will make any difference at all.

Following a judge’s orders can only forward the cause of justice if every officer of every court, and every citizen in every city and state, does his or her duty to see that the full measure of justice is done, that the Constitution is preserved. Otherwise our country is lost.

As I see it, We The People, are in great and imminent danger of losing everything we hold dear. If we can't find a way to restore the integrity of our Constitution — and soon — the Great Experiment will be over, and we will at long last know the answer to the question in Ben Franklin's mind when, after the Constitutional Convention of 1787 had adjourned, he was asked by a woman on the street as to what kind of government had been decided upon. Ben's answer: "A republic, madam, if you can keep it."

When presidents and/or other government officials can declare and prosecute illegal wars; commit ongoing war crimes; suspend habeas corpus; 'render' suspected persons to other countries to be tortured; detain suspects indefinitely without a legitimate trial or defense; suspend attorney/client privileges; search homes, cars, persons and private communications without a warrant; torture a suspected whistle blower for keeping his oath of office and telling the truth; refuse to investigate and prosecute known and suspected criminals for their crimes; authorize special agents to commit murder and other offenses; infringe on the right of citizens to exercise their right of free speech; and deny citizens equal protection under the law among other assaults to our Constitution, one can't help but wonder if we already know how the question in Ben Franklin's mind has played out. Perhaps the question before us ought not to be can we "keep it," but rather are we going to try to get back, and if not now, when? And if now, how?

“Liberty lies in the hearts and minds of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it... ”

—Judge Learned Hand

<http://www.counterpunch.org/hudson03312011.html>

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article27806.htm>

<http://dandelionsalad.wordpress.com/2011/03/30/noam-chomsky-responsibility-and-integrity-the-dilemmas-we-face/>

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<http://www.counterpunch.org/roberts03102011.html>

<http://www.counterpunch.org/lindorff03112011.html>

http://www.gpln.com/other_commentaries.htm

It's Time To Change

3/01/2011

The United States treats people living in the Middle East with the same attitude southern whites treated blacks in the days of Jim Crow: we take their dignity away by denying them their freedom, their power, their basic human rights. We cheat them out of their inalienable right to life, liberty, and dignity which they otherwise might have if they were able to enjoy the wealth that rightfully belongs to them and not to us. We made their oil our slave. We steal their power.

Most Americans are as guilty as white supremacists ever were who ignored the pain and suffering of blacks while conspiring to treat them as underclass citizens, all the while pretending to be upper class and innocent themselves. White men and women took advantage of cheap black labor, the fair remuneration for which was usurped by a vast social conspiracy of fraud and deceit while refusing to lift a finger, a voice, or an eyebrow to acknowledge that the injustice even existed.

In the same way, Americans today refuse to see what is blatantly obvious to everyone else but them, as they painstakingly refuse to acknowledge that their government cheats and betrays not only the unfortunate people who live

in and around oil rich countries, but even they themselves, staying purposefully blind lest they be trapped by the transformative power of becoming aware.

We look back and shake our heads in disbelief, that our countrymen could have been so callous as to treat other human beings as less than human. And yet, by remaining purposefully and consciously ignorant of our own government's betrayal of human beings around the world, we have become, (when you consider the carnage), not one iota different than they were. It's our very refusal to acknowledge what our government does in our name that destroys millions of families, steals their hope, and diminishes our own.

The United States is the greatest purveyor of treasonous acts against life and liberty on the planet today. We are in denial, even as the truth is revealed, witnessed, proved, and available to anyone who wants to know about it. We have become what we say we hate simply by remaining purposefully and intentionally unconscious. The will to not see and not know is to commit treason against our own humanity.

As I see it, our honor does not necessarily require that we protest in the streets, brave the cold, or get fired for missing work. We don't need to face rubber bullets, dogs, fire hoses, police batons or

any of the new weapons our government has conjured up to disperse and dissuade us from making a ruckus in order to make a point. We don't need to spend a dime or stand on street corners and pass out leaflets. We don't even need to say a word.

Basic human decency and intellectual integrity simply requires that we first open our minds and our hearts and acknowledge the truth when we see and hear it, and not deny it when others speak it. If we could just do that much, maybe we could learn to believe in ourselves again. And once we do that, I believe we'll know exactly what to do—and celebrate our new found self-respect—doing it.

The oil in the world does not belong to us. It took nature 300 million years to create all that was ever there and it took us less than 150 years to already consume half of it. What's left does not belong to us. It belongs to generations yet unborn. It's time to change our attitude. It's time to change our behavior. It's time to be better than who we used to be.

<http://www.gpln.com/childrenofiraq.htm>

<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2011/03/05-2>

<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2011/03/07-0>

<http://www.counterpunch.org/lindorff03112011.html>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gnxiOZ0Fhc

Hanging in the Balance

2/27/2011

The unfortunate people living in countries that have large oil reserves face a daunting challenge. Unlike the peoples of most countries, their political freedom does not depend only on their own desire for liberty and the willingness to work with their own countrymen to achieve it; it also depends on the courage and conviction of people and governments the world over to curb their insatiable appetites so these people might have a chance to work things out on their own terms.

How can the people living in oil rich countries possibly defend themselves against the avarice of not only their own home grown criminals and would be monarchs, but also against people and governments the world over who base their economies on oil, and have somehow convinced themselves that the oil that resides beneath the surface of these oil rich countries belongs to them now as much as it does to the people who live there?

Is it possible that citizens and their governments will ever believe enough in the rule of law that they will dedicate themselves, on principle, to the proposition that these people—indeed, all people — ought to be allowed to live in peace... and oil rich nations ought to have every opportunity to

succeed in defending themselves against the avarice of those who have based their economies on oil and are now totally addicted to it?

Will the people and the government of the richest country on the planet support the political freedom of people they don't know or understand? Will you? Our honor and our dignity hang in the balance.

Olbermann leaves MSNBC

1/21/10

Olbermann will be sorely missed, at least by me. His sometimes fearless commentary gave me hope and made me conscious of the fact that there are still powerful voices out there that can make the guys in Washington and in the boardrooms be afraid... which they should be. I hope that he will find an appropriate place to hang his hat and continue to tell it like he sees it... quite often the same way I do.

Thank you, Keith, for your heart, courage, and friendship (we never met, but that has nothing to do with it).

Blood, death, and failure

1/19/11

It was reported today that President Obama confronted the president of China, Hu Jintao, about China's human rights record.

There is no question that China's record on human rights is nothing to be proud of, but to my way of thinking, Obama's record on human rights ought to have earned him his walking papers by now... by way of impeachment . This is not to say that his record is any worse than his predecessor's, but it surely isn't any better. Bush and his entourage ought to have been impeached early on in his administration and they ought now to be languishing in prison for the lies they told and crimes they committed.

The principles of truth and justice are universal. Principles of justice and the truth do not change with the latitude, longitude or time frame. The principles of justice, as humanity has discovered and enumerated them, in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), for example, are steadfast. It's only our national character that is not steadfast.

The truth I am talking about is not some philosophical unattainable idealistic TRUTH, but rather the simple honor of having our words,

knowledge, understanding, and behavior, all tempered by intellectual integrity and all being in alignment with one another.

But everywhere we look we see people actively deceiving themselves, each other, and us... particularly those who hold the most honored positions of trust, power, and responsibility in our society.

This state of affairs is a prescription for absolute failure. The ability to tell the simple honest truth of one's own understanding is all that's needed and all that's missing. We are a people afraid of the truth... we are afraid of the consequences of acknowledging the truth... because of the mistakes we've already made. We fear the loss of respect, our job, our money, our reputation, whatever... if the truth be known. Our fear of being boldly honest with ourselves and others is destroying our nation and our children's future.

Unfortunately, those whose job it is to monitor how they themselves carry out their duties, almost to a person, have lost the ability to feel, think, or behave honorably in relation to the responsibilities with which they've been entrusted.

Of course, the American people especially have a duty to monitor the behavior of elected officials and to hold them accountable when they fail to honor their oath of office. But most citizens, like

their elected officials, are preoccupied with other concerns and are unable to respond appropriately to their responsibility as citizens. And so, We The People are descending now in an accelerating death spiral, heading towards our demise as a sovereign people, having lost sight of our purpose and birthright. Obama indirectly made reference to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in his comments to the President of China. Anyone who has read and understands that document, and has also followed the policies that this administration has pursued since it came to power (words spoken by the President notwithstanding) should instantly recognize the extreme level of hypocrisy to which this President has stooped. He's not alone. How many citizens or elected officials have even read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? Tragically... too few.

If history does not bear me out in this... if we are unable to turn this tragedy around... it will only mean that our progeny will have lost their freedom, their heritage and their birthright. It will mean that those who came before—having given their blood in the cause of truth, honor, decency and liberty—will have bled and died... and failed.

Obama's Continued Disrespect for the Rule of Law

12/16/2010

Bradley Manning, the alleged Whistle Blower accused of releasing classified documents to Wikileaks, is reportedly being mistreated as he awaits trial.

President Obama and Congress continue to disappoint as they fail to uphold the letter and spirit of the law. Bradley Manning is being punished for a crime of which he has yet to be found guilty.

If Obama were not a lawyer and a former professor of Constitutional law, it would be sad enough, but given that he was both, the stench of his administration's disrespect for the law ought to permeate every patriot's sensibilities.

Our elected officials continue to demonstrate that the rule of law is no longer the law of the land in these United States of America. The president follows in the footsteps of his predecessor. This is not America's finest hour.

Manning is kept in solitary confinement, and has already been there seven months. He is reportedly being continuously monitored to make sure that he is never allowed to exercise his own

body in his small cell. He is being forced to take psychotropic drugs. These actions amount to physical and mental abuse. This form of torture is being inflicted to weaken his mind and body; to inhibit him from being able to think or feel well enough to prepare his own defense for the day when he finally gets his day in court. Presumed guilty, he is being punished prior to his trial. This is retribution not justice... born out of the guilt, embarrassment, anger and fear of would be emperors who we now see wearing no clothes.

No government, and particularly no American government, has the right to treat any person this way, especially if the charges against him are true, for a whistle blower who bravely keeps his oath of office — attempting to preserve and protect the US Constitution — something his Commander-in-Chief, members of congress, and the military no longer do, is more hero than criminal. The oath he took was to defend the Constitution, not to help presidents and others cover up their ongoing lies and unconscionable offenses.

Wikileaks suspect Bradley Manning's health 'declining' - BBC

Amazon drops Wikileaks / Goldman drops Amazon

12/2/10

I've spent a fair amount of money at Amazon.com this year, but I won't next year.

Lesson of Repression

11/18/2010

If you want to fly these days, there's a high probability that you will be given two choices. The choices are: subject yourself to potentially harmful x-rays as you allow a stranger to view a very close replica of your naked body or, be patted down by someone you don't know in a manner that others have described as humiliating, demeaning, and emotionally debilitating. To touch someone the way a TSA official touches people

(<http://www.ourlittlechatterboxes.com/2010/11/tsa-sexual-assault.html>)

would be a crime in any other setting, but no longer is classified as such when a TSA employee does it. How America is being protected by having a TSA agent touch your penis, vagina or breasts is not explained.

One can expect that this kind of invasion of privacy is only the beginning. One day someone will bypass these detection procedures by hiding some kind of device in their rectum or vagina and then the TSA will want to routinely explore these places too with your clothes off like they do in prisons. Surely this is a major victory for terrorism. If we are in a war against terrorism, it's a war we are losing badly. We're now doing to

ourselves what our enemies would very much like to do to us... risk free.

Whoever thought up these procedures, or gave the ok to use them, may not have considered them to be acts of political repression, but surely that is what they are. If we are to be subjected to these procedures, we no longer live in the country our Founding Fathers envisioned. When you live under a repressive regime you are no longer secure in your person; you live in constant fear of having your life, your possessions, or your dignity taken from you. When you live in fear, your mental and physical health is at risk, not to mention your happiness.

On the other hand, these acts of terror are to be expected. Citizens of the United States cannot allow their government to intimidate, terrorize and persecute other peoples without eventually learning that we will have to pay a corresponding price for committing these crimes. What is happening is simply the natural order of things. It is how life works. It is one of the great lessons of history. The artifacts of regressive regimes fill the world's museums and continue to be favored holiday destination sites of vacationers worldwide.

All human beings are destined to learn the meaning of compassion. Too bad we can't learn it simply by looking over the artifacts of other

people's pain; we insist on learning it for ourselves first hand. The lesson: what goes around, comes around. And here it is. And there's more on the way. And it won't stop coming around, until we stop sending it around.

Following The Footsteps to Rome

9/25/2010

At the height of its power, Rome had become an enlightened culture. The arts and sciences flourished, education and technology had matured to the point that it had inspired investments in such innovations as the Aqueducts and other amenities that made the people more productive and successful than any other culture of its time. Soon the ruling elite were wealthy beyond their wildest dreams and yet they continued to dream of even greater wealth and power. They eventually came to a crossroads perhaps without even realizing that is where they had arrived.

Wanting more wealth, the ruling elite had a choice: They could expand the educational opportunities of their people, thus unleashing the creative power of the masses in hopes of even greater scientific innovation and achievement that would have increased the nation wealth and well-being.... Or they could simply tax their people a bit more and fill their own coffers immediately. After all, they reasoned, the people had grown happy and successful because of their leadership and investments in infrastructure... why not take more of the bounty for ourselves? So they chose the latter option.

At first this seemed to work as planned, but eventually the people began to resent having to postpone their own enjoyment so that their leaders could enjoy even greater riches. So they began to object. These objections didn't quite sit well with the leadership who decided to reinforce their army and make a show of their power and help the people understand on which side their bread was buttered. All this led to an even more creative strategy on the part of the leadership. Look, they told themselves, we have more power and wealth than anyone in the vicinity. Why don't we just reinforce our army and conquer other peoples and bring back the wealth that we capture? And so that's what they did. Now this strategy turned out to be fantastically successful.

The people of Rome liked this idea. It meant that they would not be taxed as much and instead share in some of the spoils that would be brought back home. So Rome prospered.

But slowly and without much notice, as their empire expanded, it became more and more expensive to keep their expanded army well fed and happy. With each successive venture more weapons had to be produced and greater distances had to be traveled to reach each new territory to be conquered. And those who had been conquered were beginning to fight back.

After awhile the people who had grown happy and relatively wealthy didn't like sending their youth off to war or having to fear new enemies. So the ruling elite had to beef up their security forces even more to keep citizens in line at the same time they had to improve their weaponry and defend their borders.

Eventually, the ruling elite had to tax the people again and this time even more to keep all of these ventures going, to defend themselves, and keep the income coming in from these foreign places. In addition to increased taxes, less money was being spent on infrastructure and education, and people who used to be fairly well off were becoming less well off and less productive to the point where finally they could hardly support themselves, let alone send money back to the emperor. Eventually, the cost of defending the empire which was now being regularly attacked, required more wealth than the emperor could raise and the entire enterprise collapsed. Now this story is a short version of what happened and probably not very accurate as to details, but in general, this is how it went.

Now fast forward a couple of thousand years to present day United States of America. We are at a point where we are (like Rome once was) the recognized super power of the world. We prospered because of a superior educational system, an effective infrastructure, and

technological innovation among other things. But much of our success depended upon cheap energy in the form of oil which had to be imported from overseas.

In the beginning, the US was the world's largest producer of oil and it was so cheap and easy to extract that we grew fat and happy on its use. Where we used to pay 10 cents for a gallon of gasoline, now we pay \$3 or more.

But if the truth be known, and if our accounting systems were accurate, the actual cost of a gallon of gas is probably more like \$100/gallon. Now how can this be?

Well, it cost a lot of money to expropriate oil from other places. To do so we have to make war on other peoples to bring home that oil at favorable prices. As we saw our own natural resources dwindle, our wealthy elite began to understand that if we were going to remain wealthy, we had to make one of two choices: We could either greatly expand the educational opportunities of our people, improve their living conditions, and give them a greater share of the wealth, hoping to encourage a new round of invention and innovation to find new sources of energy and wealth... or like Rome, we could expand our armies and continue to expropriate the wealth of other nations and spend more money to defend

ourselves against the enemies this creates. Like Rome we opted for this second option.

Like Rome this second option has led to greater indirect taxation as we fail to repair and upgrade our nation's infrastructure and other amenities. Rather than expand the educational opportunities of all our children, we let large numbers of them fall through the cracks. Instead we end up squandering great sums of money to maintain standing armies around the world, largely to insure that we can continue to expropriate the wealth of other nations, the most important source of which still comes from now diminishing oil supplies.

But people don't like to send their children to war to die and to kill and so the government must find more and expensive ways to misdirect the people's attention to other matters.

Our ruling elite spends enormous amounts of money to influence our media and other institutions to hide the truth and maintain the illusion that we need all these armies and wars. We structure our educational system to convince our children that they need to be educated to get good jobs and earn lots of money; but by that we really mean to think like, act like, and accept the values of those who one day will pay their salaries, and fit into a culture that requires an

acceptance of the status quo and voluntary unconsciousness, if they want to get ahead in life.

Maintaining that status quo requires the direct or indirect usurping of wealth belonging to, and produced by, people of other nations... at the same time we convince ourselves to suspend our disbelief when we are told how well off and successful we all have become and will continue to be, only if we stay the course.

The ruling elite, in order to maintain their power and position, must also corrupt the media and the political processes in a manner that allows them to maintain their status... a status, that requires a great standing army and security forces to keep track of people and make sure that they do not act out their inevitable frustrations. They have to keep the mainstream media in line and make sure that what children learn in school is aligned with and consistent to what they want us to believe.

All of this deception is expensive to produce and sustain. It costs a lot of money to create and maintain illusions and these illusions and the mentality that is required to maintain them is what I call the popular culture or its current state of consciousness. And of course all of this expense, in reality, is what it cost to keep the supply of oil flowing.

As it turns out, if people continue to believe in these illusions the entire enterprise will collapse

anyway... because the enterprise is built entirely on illusions and illusions cannot sustain results or alter reality forever.

We have stopped producing real wealth as we try to take the wealth that other people have and make it our own. We have become what Rome once was. We are following in their footsteps to our own destruction.

Our tax laws, our financial arrangements, our legal system and our educational system have all been corrupted in the process of creating and maintaining a popular world view that has brought us to this point of decay, all to support our ruling elite's faulty judgment. But that world view of theirs is unsustainable. Still, those who have benefited from it do not want it to change.

And so, like Easter Island, that culture we read about that destroyed itself, having cut down all the trees that sustained its economy on that small island. We are also on a trajectory of consuming our own sources of wealth. You would have thought that when there was only one stand of trees left on that island, that the people would have protected it with their lives. Instead they fought with each other to see who was going to get to cut it down and consume the last remaining prize. We seem to be following in their footsteps.

We're not running out of trees. We're running out of oil

Our wealthy elite are terrorized to the bone by the thought of peak oil which is coming fast upon us and they can only think to defend themselves by throwing culture, law, art, and civilization itself out the window... in favor of relying on brute force to extract every last drop, to sustain the survival of their status. They are prepared to kill and destroy anyone who gets in their way, anyone who possesses what they covet to keep their lifestyle in tact. Anyone who lives in such terror cannot easily be dissuaded. If the rest of us also give into our fears, once we understand the challenges we face, it will be a free for all... a zero sum game with no winner other than the last man standing, with his horse and plow in hand.

The accumulated wisdom that we need to survive and prosper already exists. You will find it on library bookshelves, in the imagination of our visionaries, and even available on the internet. Why don't we avail ourselves of this wealth of wisdom? Instead, we are left to wonder... will it ever matter that some folks took the time to think things through, to discover how all mankind could become successful--free of war and poverty, sustainable for as long as anyone can imagine?

The answer to this question still eludes me.

More Evidence of Treason: One More Piece of Evidence as to Why Bush and Obama Ought to Spend the Rest of their Lives in Prison

9/17/10

FOR PUBLICATION	
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT	
BINYAM MOHAMED; ABOU ELKASSIM BRITEL; AHMED AGIZA; MOHAMED FARAG AHMAD BASHMILAH; BISHAR AL-RAWL, <i>Plaintiffs-Appellants,</i>	} No. 08-15693 D.C. No. 5:07-CV-02798-JW OPINION
v.	
JEPPESSEN DATAPLAN, INC., <i>Defendant-Appellee,</i>	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, <i>Intervenor-Appellee.</i>	
Appeal from the United States District Court for the Northern District of California James Ware, District Judge, Presiding	
Argued and Submitted En Banc December 15, 2009—San Francisco, California	
Filed September 8, 2010	
Before: Alex Kozinski, Chief Judge, Mary M. Schroeder, William C. Canby, Michael Daly Hawkins, Sidney R. Thomas, Raymond C. Fisher, Richard A. Paez, Richard C. Tallman, Johnnie B. Rawlinson, Consuelo M. Callahan and Carlos T. Bea, Circuit Judges.	
Opinion by Judge Fisher; Concurrence by Judge Bea; Dissent by Judge Hawkins	

The adjudication of this case — a case against a subsidiary of Boeing — was dismissed by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on grounds that to let the case go forward would jeopardize the country by forcing the release of state secrets. The secret, apparently, was that this airline was assisting the United States in shipping innocent men off to other countries to be brutally tortured, some for more than five years, and then made to sign false confessions in order to secure their release. The court found that although the charges were probably true, they had to dismiss the case as requested by the Executive. The evidence that I found most compelling was the court's opinion itself, which demonstrated to me that our Chief Executive is a traitor to his country, much like his immediate predecessor was, and others before them were. It is their infidelity and the infidelity of their advisors and so many others that make a mockery of our judiciary, our flag, you, me, the teachers we had in school, our Constitution, and the good intentions of our Founders.

I read this case and weep for my country and for my children and for children everywhere, for their future does not look as bright as mine or yours once did. Their freedoms are hanging by thread. Their birthright has been stolen from them... and from me... and from you. Click [here](#) to read the judges' opinions in this case... read both the

majority and the dissent. Give thanks that there still is a minority dissenting view that you can read. One wonders how long it will take before such a view will itself be considered a state secret... a secret you might one day suspect exists, if you are somewhat conscious, but never get to read in a public forum.

If you think it is a bit over the top to suggest that our present and past Commanders-in-Chief ought to pay for their crimes, you need to remember that their victims join millions of others who faced, and continue to face, a similar fate... similar in that some were tortured, some murdered, others inadvertently killed, orphaned, crippled, blinded, de-limbed, burned, displaced, starved, nuclear poisoned, threatened, lied to, bankrupted, driven to insanity, or otherwise demeaned... all in the name of carrying out a fraudulent, barbarous, unconscionable, mishandled, criminally negligent, totally corrupt and illegal war against people our Commanders-in-Chief were honor bound, and duty bound, to nurture and protect. They chose instead to betray them, and also us.

<http://www.gpln.com/howiseeit.htm>

Maybe God is Not the Fool You Think He Is

5/19/2010

Some say the Bible is a holy text, the true word of God. For Christians, there's a certain almost magical quality that attaches to the Bible. The same is true for the followers of other religions and their "holy" texts.

I would argue that the true magical quality attributable to religious texts, is not that any given text reveals God's truth, but rather that it magically reveals the reader's truth—the attitudes, state of mind, and morality of those who claim to know how God thinks.

Their sense of morality, they believe, is the true and correct attitude to have as demonstrated by selected stories or words in their holy scripture to which they can refer. Interestingly enough, one can find language in the Bible to justify just about any point of view one might look for.

In practice, each person chooses his or her favorite theme or text and calls those selected portions of scripture, "the Truth." And so readers can easily find portions of scripture that "prove" God is vengeful, loving, jealous, forgiving, angry,

war like, compassionate, or whatever. And unsurprisingly, they prefer that characterization of God that best matches their own attitude and state of mind.

Some people actually believe that God would condemn a person to eternal pain and suffering for not understanding, accepting, believing, or having faith in, a particular belief system before some arbitrary deadline. What would be the point? Has God no compassion or understanding? Only someone who still has a lot to learn would believe that He would do such a thing. People conveniently create God in their image and then claim that it was God who created them in His.

Any self-proclaimed teacher of scripture reveals to those who are thoughtful and listen critically, what that person's state of consciousness is. Some people's views make God out to be an idiot, thereby revealing the truth about themselves... and nothing at all about God. Even people who have developed extraordinary persuasive skill at convincing others of the "truth" of their convictions can become trapped in their own illusions and self-delusions—perhaps even more so because they have those skills.

Jesus was not a Christian. He didn't believe or teach that he was God. He didn't ask to be worshipped. He didn't start a new religion. All he did was set the record straight: that God is not

the hypocritical self-serving, jealous, cruel, vengeful fool that some political, religious, and corporate leaders are... and also claim He is.

Most Christians do not follow Jesus; they follow the teachings of those who came later offering their interpretation of what his message was and what their response to his life should be. Most of the central and minor characters who came later never did agree with one another on important issues, dividing themselves into separate camps, each camp believing what they want to believe and then holding those beliefs to be “the Truth.”

The only way to fully understand what Jesus knew and/or tried to teach would be to become what he was. But beware: if you blindly accept what others say he was, you might never unlearn the misinformation you think you already “know.” If you have been instructed to have “faith” in what others tell you is the truth, that could keep you stuck in illusion for a long time, because what they tell you might have as its purpose more to do with having you look up to them as an authority, rather than to help you learn how to think and discover for yourself what you want or need to know about God, and yourself.

How does one unlearn a point of view one has made a commitment to have faith in? It's not wise to make a commitment to believe forever, something other people tell you is true. The truth

is something each person has to discover for themselves. And when you look for the truth with intellectual integrity you'll notice that over time it changes... it changes as you expand and deepen your understanding of yourself and others.

Everyone who claims to “know” what happened and what was said 2,000 or 5,000 years ago is far removed in time and space from those real or imaginary events. What we call history are the views of historians and others that have been accepted as “truth” by large numbers of people—people often politically motivated—people who have a vested interest in having you accept one version of the truth over another—and also people who never really gave it much thought.

Can you imagine Jesus believing or saying that, “The bible, which will be written long after I’m gone, will be the true word of God.” Jesus could not transfer his knowledge to others by telling them what he knew. To believe is not the same thing as to know. He could only point to a path which if taken by others might result in the same experience or knowledge he had acquired... knowledge he wanted them to have for themselves. Jesus knew that none of his followers could tell others “the Truth” from their own experience. But obviously he hoped one day that they might.

I've been told by people who call themselves Christians that their financial success is due to the fact that God approves of them and their behavior and that's why they have been so blessed with success... while poor people are poor because that's what, in God's eyes, they deserve too.

Like I said... people tend to believe what they want to believe. Oddly enough, those beliefs tend to be conveniently self-serving. How does any person know that his or her success or failure is not simply a test of their own character rather than a reward or punishment for how they think or have behaved? ...or something else? Maybe God works in mysterious ways.

Of course believing in fantasy is not unique to Christians. I only mention Christianity because currently in our culture Christian spokespersons of all kinds happen to dominate that portion of the air waves dedicated to religious themes. We've all heard stories of how Islamic radicals were told that if they will willingly blow themselves up in the name of their religion that God will reward them in heaven by offering them the services of x numbers of virgins (or some such nonsense). If those stories are true, one wonders why those who would do such violence to themselves and others never ask themselves where God is going to get all these virgins or why God would unjustly discredit these zealots and these virgins by

making them available to one another without benefit of marriage. The self-serving belief by men that God approves of the unequal and unjust treatment of women is widely held. But maybe God is not the jerk some men think He is.

Some Jews have been able to convince themselves that God would approve of their persecution of Palestinians through any number of vile acts that more enlightened human beings would consider reprehensible, such as destroying the home and livelihood of an entire family for an alleged illegal act of one family member. How does one justify the building of Jewish settlements on Palestinian soil? God is not a liar or a cheat any more than God is a fool, an idiot, or a sadist.

But somehow otherwise highly educated people are able to convince themselves that God would approve of behavior that any impartial observer can see is reprehensible, dishonest, and morally bankrupt. If God had ever promised Jews that they would live in peace in Israel, one wonders if He would have changed his mind by now after observing how so many of his so-called chosen people have dishonored and discredited themselves.

Any astute observer can see that it is quite common for religious followers to be taught, (for the self-serving purposes of their teachers), that God is as nasty, irresponsible, unthinking, and

unjust as their teachers are. There apparently is no end to the monstrous acts that some people will perpetrate, or approve of, which they try to justify by finding words in scripture that "demonstrate" God would approve. The commandment, "Thou shall not kill" is a pretty straight forward declaration and yet somehow students of scripture are able to find any number of exceptions to the rule. So much for the true word of God.

Believing in foolishness and worshipping false gods is a kind of prison which one can unconsciously enter and remain trapped in for a long time—a prisoner of one's own belief system—supported by others who are similarly self-imprisoned. To escape that trap one must muster the courage to use their God given abilities to think for themselves while adhering to a high level of intellectual honesty and integrity. Not always an easy thing to do in our culture.

Now I understand that there are times when a person might come to feel so lost and downtrodden that it only seems right and proper to support them—at least for awhile—in seeking refuge and solace in the lies, illusions and false hopes that they were taught to believe in. But on the whole, it's still the honest search for the truth and not well meaning lies or illusions that remains the key to one's own freedom and salvation as well as the freedom and salvation of others.

Teaching people that Jesus is going to return and rule like a king might not be the most effective way to help this planet become a more hospitable place to live. To believe Jesus would be interested in such a job is quite presumptuous and highly unlikely. How would that work exactly in practice? Does God not believe in democracy? One day people might discover that when they are moved to pray to God for help, it is really God praying to them to use their brain... to think of something useful to do that really might help... and go out and make the effort.

Learning how to be a thoughtful, compassionate, responsible human being is what it means to grow up. Some people never do. Some people take longer than others to mature spiritually, emotionally, or intellectually simply because they become trapped in religion's illusions and stupidities. If you are inspired by and find value participating in your religion, fine. Religion can sometimes actually serve a useful purpose. Just try not to have it corrupt your morals, intellect, integrity, or sense of self. God is real and not a myth. You don't need to join a church, mosque, or synagogue to find God.

God is already closer to you than your own breath.

Have a little faith.

Reflecting on Soros

11/7/09, edited 10/23/2011

I'm writing in response to the George Soros lectures recently given at the CEU and made available at the Financial Times web site.

I have a degree in economics and an MBA in Finance, both from highly regarded schools. It's been 40 years since I got my Wharton MBA and it's taken me almost that long to figure out that my degree was designed more to help me make money for people, (many of whom extract more from society than they contribute to it), than it was to help me understand the dysfunctional institutions they own or manage.

I think Soros made some excellent observations during his lectures and his ambitious attempt to formulate a new economic theory is noteworthy. I think he's right that something needs to change, as most of the economists we hear in the main stream media operate inside a box that, if economics is to fulfill its purpose, they will need to escape.

The problem with almost all economic theory, in my view, is that it typically makes assumptions about reality which are too limited, too inaccurate, or too incomplete to be useful in preventing the kinds of crises we now face. Few

economists that I know of actually address substantively a part of reality that can readily be observed, although apparently not by most economists or politicians. This reality, while hidden in plain sight, somehow manages to escape attention, by those whose job it is to notice and to appropriately respond.

A simple mind experiment can make the point: Take any economic theory, like say, capitalism in America. The theory might appear to be a useful approximation of how that economy really works. But if we were to include all the rules, laws and regulations that describes the context in which the theory works in the US... and transplant that entire economic system, say, into some other society, like say, Tunisia... it's not necessarily going to work there the same way it works in America.

The underlying culture in which the system operates will determine how, or if, the system will work as postulated. The variables that make the difference aren't usually thought of as part of the study of economics and yet it's those variables that determine how the economy will work. In my view, that illustrates why the study of economics is still immature as a discipline. Soros is right to look for a theory that encompasses deeper philosophical understanding.

To put it another way, I say that the culture and the general state of consciousness of the people who participate in an economy will determine how it works. Without understanding the people, their culture, and their state of mind, the theory is precluded from offering up the information we need to predict how that economy will perform, or if it is likely to be sustainable. By the same token, any theory will break down over time in any culture where the state of consciousness is evolving, whether it evolves for better or worse.

For an economic system to work efficiently it needs to be in tune with the people, and the economic and political reality in which it exists. Of course, to complicate matters, not everyone in a particular culture will live in the same state of consciousness as everyone else in that culture.

So what is a state of consciousness? I am not going to try to offer a rigorous definition, but for my purpose here, let's say that for any individual it is a state of being that has evolved from a confluence of one's upbringing, education, learned value system, life experience, economic status, and the immediate social environment in which one lives and participates. In some societies the state of consciousness of the people are more homogeneous than in others. In the US, the country is so big and the population so diverse as to race, religion, ethnicity, and economic status, that how one might be expected

to respond to external stimuli will be different than what you would expect in a more homogeneous culture.

But the state of consciousness is more than the attitudes by which individuals live; it's also the "space" in which all participants live... the traditions, language, formalities, and values that are celebrated in its media and entertainment for example—the common experience that most of the participants have that help shape their state of consciousness and make them identify with the group or groups to which they belong. Are you a member of the working class or are you a member of the corporate elite? Are you college educated or a high school dropout? Is your skin white, black, yellow, red, or brown? Is your first language English or something else? What is your religion? What are your political leanings? Did you have an advantaged or a disadvantaged childhood? Are you healthy or ill? What do you value? What do you believe in? Who are you anyway?

What does this have to do with economics? Well at some level, everything. Let's consider the economic realities of the last couple of years...

After the stock market crash in 1929, it appeared obvious to American politicians and economists that the Glass-Steagall Act would be helpful in preventing certain abuses that brought on the

1929 crash and which otherwise might allow a repeat performance of the debacle some time in the future.

But their wisdom and experience, and the fact that the Act seemed to accomplish its purpose for quite a few decades, did not prevent a new class of participants from doing away with that law. The folks who removed the law from the books were of a different mindset, a different state of consciousness, if you will, than those who were responsible for its original enactment.

Was Glass-Steagall about economics or something else? Whatever it was, I think most economists would agree that its repeal recently helped bring the economy to its knees. The economic theory put in place by one group to handle a perceived threat in the decade of the 30s, all of a sudden became irrelevant in another, or so it was said. The repeal, I would argue, was not a function of any new interpretation or understanding of economic theory; but it was evidence of the deterioration in the state of consciousness of those who were its advocates, as well as those who allowed it to happen. One notices the same kind of deterioration in the apparent repeal of habeas corpus.

Some might argue that that's another matter entirely, but I don't think so. I'm talking about the

prevailing state of consciousness in which we all live, which, in my view, is degrading.

Any economic theory, for the most part, is a set of agreements that exists between all the parties participating in the economy who intend to employ it. The theory does not describe immutable laws. It only postulates what will happen if all the participants accept and agree to the rules of the game and then play the game according to those rules. It breaks down when some participants break the rules in an attempt to take advantage of those who continue to play by them.

Even the law of supply and demand won't work as postulated if some participants can surreptitiously bribe politicians to skew new legislation in their favor, or if one country can simply take what it wants from another country by force. The US, for example, even though international law prohibits it, has done just that on any number of occasions. It's how things work across a wide landscape of human activity and renders a lot of political and economic theory moot.

The most recent debacle in the global economy was predictable, but not necessarily because one understood economic theory. It was, in fact, easily predictable by any observer who knew and understood the rules of the game, and was also in a position to observe how many participants were

attempting to “game” the rules. The system was brought down by a general culture of corruption and fraud, including the bribing of elected officials, and an entrenched system designed and employed by powerful people to efficiently corrupt the morals of subordinates who work for them. Corruption, fraud, deceit and general dishonesty is and was the state of consciousness prevalent in that culture. That’s what brought the economy to its knees... at least it looks that way to me, given my state of consciousness.

So I say, that no theorist will be able to develop an economic theory that can predict or prevent such a breakdown unless that theory takes into account the prevalent culture and the state of consciousness of its participants (and also takes responsibility for it). It’s not a function of economics as one usually thinks of it; it’s a function of integrity....the integrity of the system design itself and the intelligence, integrity and trustworthiness of those who are its participants.

In fact, I predict or conclude, that there is no economic system that can work or will work in a sustainable manner if it doesn’t address and help repair this aspect of reality, because whenever a system appears to be working smoothly, there could emerge those who will have an incentive to “game” the system for their own benefit and when their strategy begins to work and others join in, eventually too many participants will

become too important to be prosecuted, too sly to be caught, too dangerous to be opposed, or too big to fail. And their behavior will eventually cause a systemic failure of the system as a whole.

I see no intrinsic reason why communism, socialism, or capitalism can't work, other than for the fact that for any of them to work as postulated, the people who participate in the system must arrive at that state of consciousness that will allow it to work. It's not something that can be forced at the point of a gun. Participants must be willing to gladly follow the rules of the game. If too many don't follow the rules, the game will eventually collapse and all the participants, except perhaps for a few, will lose.

So if you want an economy to work, you have to make sure that all the participants are personally aligned with and prepared to follow the rules. And I postulate that the people most likely to follow the rules will be those who perceive that the game is fair, inclusive, compassionate, and allows every participant to express the full measure of his or her abilities so that participation results in a rewarding experience. Economic and political tools and strategies must be imagined and employed by economists and politicians that can make this happen. These tools will be at least as important as classical fiscal and monetary policy is. Right now, instead of this, the US currently employs propaganda and deceit in an attempt to

fudge the system. But all that creates, is a population lost in illusion.

When you don't make sure that everyone can succeed (which is to say, that everyone is able to enjoy their basic human rights) then there will be turmoil and cheating... and when there's enough turmoil, deceit and cheating going on, the system will break down into boom and bust cycles which periodically will wreak havoc on the economy, if they don't collapse the economy altogether, which is what I think is happening right now in the United States.

You can't fool Mother nature. Nature is a system that works in perfect harmony with itself and is the very definition of integrity. We should take a hint. Markets and everything else actually do tend towards equilibrium, which in our case probably means collapse, but as far as nature is concerned, time is of no consequence. We'll get to equilibrium in the long run. Unfortunately for humans, as Keynes pointed out, "...in the long run we're all dead." And maybe that could happen to a lot of us, sooner than we think.

So economic theory is incomplete to the extent that it fails to take into account the state of consciousness operating in the economy. I predicted the eventual economic collapse which I believe we are now still experiencing after taking note of the enactment of Bush's tax policies, and

after seeing the breakdown in the rule of law, the lack of criminal prosecutions of war criminals, the undermining of habeas corpus, the enactment of the treasonous Patriot Acts, the illegal wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the breakdown of international law, and also after learning that people were buying homes for no money down, or otherwise obtaining mortgages by way of so called “liar” loans, etc. I wasn't yet aware of how ubiquitous derivatives were. There was enough corruption and hypocrisy in plain sight for any conscious person to conclude that this system is unstable and must eventually collapse.

Every well informed thinking citizen knew and still knows that there is excessive corruption and dishonesty in government... every economics professor worth his or her salt knew that Bush's tax policies were intellectually bankrupt as soon as they were postulated; every bank loan officer knew that the applications they were filling out were dishonest, and most people who applied for a “liar” loan knew they were lying to get something they would not get if the process was handled honestly. And yet how many people in government or in leadership positions in any sphere of life spoke up about any of this dishonesty publicly?

Experience would have informed any honest economist or politician who was involved in the decision to remove Glass-Steagall, that it was

imprudent to do so, and yet all that experience and knowledge didn't make a difference. Why? It wasn't a failure of economic theory. It was a failure of our national character. It was a failure of people unwilling to take responsibility for their own integrity. It was that failure of character that determined the reality that we now have to live with. You can't fix an economy that's broken by invoking classical fiscal or monetary policy when the problem is systemic personal and institutional corruption every place you look. And so economic theory as we now practice it — which is to say in the absence of being aware of, or taking responsibility for, the culture in which it exists — will not be able to predict what the economic future holds for that economy or what to do about economic setbacks when they occur... if the reason they occur is because of the evolving culture and consciousness of its people.

Now the theory Soros proposes doesn't appear currently to include, although it might one day lead to, the development of the tools I suggest we need. We know what those tools are; we just don't think of them as tools of economic policy. If Soros' economic theory doesn't lead to enlightened social policy, I would have to conclude that his economic theory probably won't offer any more help than any of its predecessors. Soros admits his theory is incomplete and he's right. Maybe his philanthropy will go into areas that offer promise in this respect.

Economics describes a closed system of interrelated and multi-layered agreements, not immutable natural laws of physics. If you want an economy to work, you first need to make sure that all the participants understand the rules; that governments are set up to insure that the rules are followed; and that everyone who participates in good faith will grow and prosper as human beings, sufficiently so as to inspire them to want to continue to play by the rules. When everyone is playing by the rules, you will be able to predict what the outcome might be when external forces, such as unexpected resource shortages, natural disasters, and other phenomena impact the system. When everyone is playing by the rules, the intelligent and honorable application of fiscal and monetary policy will probably work.

I might suggest that as people change in consciousness over time, the economic systems in which they live, (if one expects such systems not to collapse), will have to change with them. The Chinese economy, for example, has partially morphed from its own version of communism into a working capitalist system of sorts. Eventually, it will have to raise the standard of living of a great many more of its people or perhaps face unstable political unrest. That political unrest is already being felt by the Chinese leadership. Maybe we will see a political transformation where Chinese citizens begin to acquire much more of their basic human rights. (What I mean by basic human

rights is nicely described in the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and I encourage every world citizen who wants to understand economics... and how current economic and political theory and policy is failing us and them... to read that document.)

To recap... the set of agreements by which people live together is to a large extent what we call the economy. The economy must continue to change with the people and their state of consciousness if it is to succeed, and that means it might have to change significantly from one time frame to another. It is unhelpful to associate such words as communism, socialism, capitalism or any other kind of “ism” with negative connotations. It’s not any particular system per se that is destined to fail, but the prevailing level of consciousness of participants and their leaders (and also external forces) that will determine if it can succeed.

To illustrate the point, some Christian fundamentalists talk about and look forward to the day when Jesus will sit upon a throne as a king and rule over all mankind. Such people are advocating for a benevolent dictatorship, believing they understand what life would be like under such a regime. They also presume that Jesus, if there is a Jesus, would approve of such an arrangement and want to serve in such a capacity — a highly questionable presumption at best. One must ask if these people have totally given

up on democracy, believing that democracy and/or capitalism are failed systems that will never work satisfactorily for humanity as a whole. These same people, and others too, believe that same thing about communism and socialism.

In my view, (and apparently in Soros' view as well) for capitalism to work, there needs to be a separation between commerce and the state, much the same way that church and state must be kept separate in a democracy for the political system to maintain its integrity.

In my view, to be sustainable, it might very well be necessary for any economic system to be flexible enough not to get permanently stuck in some theoretical ideal state. For example, the theoretical construct of say, capitalism, must be allowed to transform itself in such a way as to allow all participants in the system, over time, to enjoy a higher minimum standard of living and a more expansive set of human rights when the economy can universally support the higher standard of living in a sustainable manner.

Thus, in my view, it is socially preferable for the system to insure that everyone's minimum standard of living will rise when it becomes possible, rather than to allow the system to get to the point where some people become fantastically wealthy at the expense of others who are forced to live like serfs. (Now this might

offend some people who believe that pure capitalism must never be allowed to stray from how it was originally and rigidly conceived.) But I believe we need to allow capitalism to transform itself into more workable arrangements as economic realities evolve. This is going to require that citizens be more flexible and open minded in order to respond more effectively to the changes around them if we hope to avoid some very unpleasant economic results in the future.

If we want the discipline of economics to succeed... if we want to discover or create an economic theory that will work... then that theory will have to include an understanding of the state of consciousness of participants and their society.

If we want to live in a higher state of consciousness than we live in now, we will have to act accordingly. We will have to change, as individuals and as a people. We must, for example, teach our children how to be responsible citizens, which is to say, compassionate human beings who truly value intellectual integrity. But we can only teach what we truly understand ourselves.

For a society to advance, its citizens must grow as people. Educational opportunities must improve, the political system must foster fair elections. In short, people must be encouraged to grow intellectually and spiritually. As people grow, the

economy will need to change, and it will change,... to match their higher level of consciousness. If too many members of society refuse or otherwise fail to place a high value on intellectual integrity, that society will be hard pressed to succeed by any objective measure.

For what it's worth, it looks to me like capitalism is dying... at least in America. It's morphing into fascism and so far, unlike Soros, I don't see the Obama presidency offering any relief. The American economy cannot survive the amount of lies, deceit, and corruption that exists at so many levels of society, especially in government and business. Anyone who doesn't see what's going on possibly doesn't want to see it. A lot of people don't want to see it because they are still benefiting (or think they are benefiting) from the level of corruption and ignorance that persists because of them. Whatever economic framework policymakers decide to install will be a reflection of their state of consciousness. This, of course, also describes how American foreign policy works. One might ask what theoretical framework are they adhering to?

People are not all born equal. Some have advantages others do not have, including natural ability, money, education, experience, powerful mentors, etc. Under raw capitalism certain people eventually might be able to dominate others to the extent of making slaves or serfs of them. We

seem to be headed in that direction. But that state of consciousness will only lead to social turmoil, terrorism, corruption and a police state, as the wealthy elite and the disenfranchised underclass wage war against one another. What we need is an economy and a matching economic theory that dovetails nicely with democracy, and offers real tools and incentives to help people become more enlightened human beings, so that in the end people might actually be able to live together in peace.

Why We Fail and How We Can Succeed

10/15/2009

Q. Why do strategies put in place by the White House and/or Congress fail?

A. Because there's nothing more powerful than the truth. So if you build a strategy coming from a state of consciousness which is steeped in hypocrisy, fraud, deceit, and lies... that strategy will have been built on pillars of sand. Why is that so difficult to understand? Why do we think we can cheat and lie and be a traitor to life and get away with it?

Q. What strategy or strategies am I talking about?

A. Any of them... all of them.

This is a lesson that mankind just refuses to understand: In the absence of intellectual integrity and goodwill, our actions will almost always end up producing perilous, counter-productive, unanticipated, unintended consequences. We can avoid all that simply by telling the truth and maintaining the highest levels of intellectual integrity.

You would think that the process of sending a man to the moon and bringing him back safely would have taught us something: when you build something with care, intelligence, and integrity, it has a good chance of working... in fact, it's the only thing that we can consistently depend on to work as intended. Had we tried to build a spacecraft, say... with the same amount of care and integrity with which we are trying to design our health-care system, we would never have gotten to the moon and back. The space program required that thousands of people had to work together toward a common goal. They demonstrated that people working together can accomplish great things. We have the talent, the imagination, and the skill to do great things. All we need to do is make an attempt to do great things. And why not. After all, our health-care system, for example, affects millions and millions of people.

1. Our foreign policy in general, is not founded on goodwill. It is founded on selfish objectives, justified with lies and pretenses, such as... trying to control oil and other resources while pretending we're up to something else; trying to become or stay fabulously rich at the expense of honor, decency and other people; trying to dominate others and undermining their best efforts to succeed... and almost always we seem to do this in a very ruthless, hypocritical manner, and without compassion. We treat people that we

don't understand as if they are not worthy of dignity. But of course, they are. We all are. Why do we compete with utter ruthlessness when we could accomplish so much more by working together for everyone's benefit?

2. Elected officials are not loyal to their constituents or to their highest ideals. This is why the tax code, the practice of law, the stewardship of our natural resources, our social service and benefit programs, our educational system, and most other programs are so often skewed to benefit those who are already well off rather than create a level playing field for everyone, so that everyone has a chance to succeed. It is because those who are well off don't see themselves as fiduciaries and stewards of honor and goodwill for the benefit of others. But of course they are. We all are. It is appropriate to be thankful and appreciative of the gifts God has given us. We show our appreciation by honoring the best that is in us and being the best people we can be.

Let's not make life more difficult than it has to be.

<http://www.gpln.com/onwork.htm>

<http://www.gpln.com/udhr.html>

Unanswered Questions about 911

8/31/09

There are many unanswered questions concerning the events of September 11, 2001. Those events happened eight years ago and still a lot of what the world was told on that day and since, particularly in the official 9/11 Commission Report that followed, fail to answer some of the most basic critical questions that have been asked. A lot of research and information has been gathered since then by a great many interested parties connected with and not connected with the government. The two links below are a good review of, a) what controversies remain, and b) how many professionals from all walks of life believe we need a more complete investigation of what happened that day than we got; and also why they have stood up to say that our government ought to answer the questions that remain in a manner that makes sense to all concerned.

Those questions linger in my mind too, and the implications of what actually happened that day, and in response to the events of that day, are extremely important in my view to the well being of our country our shared future:

[Patriots question 911](#)

[The 9/11 Commission Report: A 571-Page Lie ?](#)

Jesus' true message

8/25/09

After his death, someone proclaimed that Jesus died for our sins. Further, we were told that his death meant that all those who believed in him would be forgiven their sins. After all, how can you not forgive others their prior ignorance, or the misunderstandings and myths they were taught to believe in by teachers and loved ones who didn't know any better themselves?

But if you really want to know why Jesus died, I will tell you it was the consciousness of the time and place in which he lived — a consciousness he rejected. It was a state of consciousness perpetuated by fear and silence in the face of corruption and injustice that kept all people of his time in spiritual poverty.

That state of consciousness still exists today, right here, right now. A consciousness that silently proclaims... live by and accept my rules and reality... or suffer the consequences.

The sin for which he died was the sin of succumbing to, or making choices that perpetuate, one's subservience to undeserved power, hypocrisy, and injustice — the sin, if you will, of denying yourself the right to be yourself.

The story of Jesus speaks for itself, eloquently in fact, as to what his life was about. As blatant and clear as his message was, it is all but lost in the ruins of what others teach in his name. His life was about changing the state of consciousness he rejected. It was about freedom — something he was willing to die for, and did die for... the freedom to hear the truth, to speak the truth, and the freedom to live the truth as one understands it to be... the freedom to be yourself and to fulfill the responsibilities that come with freedom... including having the humility to know and/or to think you know something, without forcing others to believe as you do; for all people have an equal right to hold and express their truth as long as they don't impose that truth on anyone else. You are free if you are not afraid to be who you are; and free if you are not afraid to let others be who they are... providing neither you, nor they, are engaged in forcibly trying to change or enslave anyone else.

Freedom comes with responsibilities.

Jesus saw injustice and hypocrisy and named it for what it was... despite knowing that he would be persecuted for doing so. Most of his followers, and everyone else, watched in silence as he was carted away and hung on a cross for the crime of demonstrating how to live in freedom.

He encouraged others not to be enslaved by the consciousness of their times — not to cower in fear as they lived their lives in the shadow of despotic rule. Jesus' message is... that you will never know freedom until and unless you are willing to strive for it, and maybe sometimes die for it. He also talked about what it means to live in freedom... to live honorably, faithful to your ideals, while having compassion and respect for the dignity of others, without hypocrisy — for that is where following the truth will lead you... if you follow it with integrity.

Bringing this message into the present, it is as applicable today as it was in his time. We live in a country a bit more sophisticated than the one he lived in and yet the consciousness in many ways is the same. Our country has all the trappings of empire. Our troops are stationed in many far off lands. Our wars are conducted to bring back the spoils we find in foreign places. We have betrayed, preyed upon, and persecuted the weak and defenseless in each hemisphere on earth. Those who resist are threatened with destruction. Anyone who stands in our way is called traitor, communist, insurgent, or terrorist... depending on the occasion or circumstance. Despite all this, we are told by our leaders that we are the salt of the earth. That everything we do is for the good of others. It is a lie.

If Jesus lived today he might be called any one of those derogatory epithets, even though he would not lift a finger in violence against anyone. Governments lie; the truth is a casualty of greed.

We have a Constitution that proclaims freedom for all, with many rights guaranteed, and yet we have seen that those rights can be altered or taken away by powerful men whenever they think their interests require it, guarantees notwithstanding.

Armies are deployed and the bulk of riches flow back to the powers that be as if that were the natural order of things. We send our children to school and lie to them about how things work here... teaching them that the way things work here is natural, right, and good. We are careful not to advertise how things really work here. Of course many of us don't know how things really work here because we don't want to know.

Periodically, ordinary working folk will come to acquire more wealth than those in high places think is necessary. That's when laws are changed, rules are bent, standards relaxed... and before you know it those citizens find themselves poorer than they were just a short time ago. Those responsible make sure the media convinces these victims that what happened to them remains a mystery, an anomaly — a natural but improbable perfect storm occurrence. Perhaps

the rules were too lax... mistakes were made, someone must have been asleep at the switch... whatever it was, "don't worry folks, now that we understand it, we won't let it happen again. You're safe now. Let's just put all that behind us and move on."

And yet, when all is said and done... when we do move on... what is lost is lost and not returned... at least not to them. Someone here or there might be held up as the culprit who allowed this to happen. And the People might even complain. But soon enough they'll all go back to work — more indebted, vulnerable, insecure and poorer than they were before. In a generation or two when their grandchildren acquire a bit of wealth just as they once did, the process will repeat itself. Only the circumstances will be just a little different. And yet when the dust settles the result will be the same... great amounts of wealth will have been transferred from the weak and powerless to the powerful privileged few. This is how sophisticated tyranny works. Instead of chains and slavery, the debt that hangs around your neck is the only evidence you have that you've been had... you've lost something even more valuable than wealth, but you just can't put your finger on it... maybe you were the one asleep at the switch.

We are told that in our society everyone is equal. But those who come awake and open their eyes

eventually see... Yes—everyone is equal, but some are a bit more equal than others.

Corporations struggle for success or survival in the marketplace and yet some are too big to be allowed to fail. Our courts are active, lawyers and prosecutors are in abundance, our jails are teeming and yet some criminals are too important to prosecute. We are told that some of the freedoms we once held sacred make us too vulnerable to retain... after all, "the Constitution is not a suicide pact... is it?"

If Jesus were here today I believe he would tell us... "If you want to know what freedom is, read the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). Strive for and adhere honorably to these truths and you will know what to do, what to believe in, to achieve your freedom."

Those in power will tell you that those rights are already yours... even though they who tell you this are the very hypocrites plotting to make sure those rights never will be... yours.

Jesus didn't go to church. Jesus never told you he wanted to be worshipped. Jesus never told you that if you pray to him, that one day he will come back and save you.

What he said was, "I will show you what freedom is and how to win it for yourself. Believe in me, follow my example and freedom will be yours. Do

not kill. Do not cheat, judge, or persecute others. Do unto them as you would have them do unto you. Do not sacrifice your truth. Live in freedom. Pay your taxes so that your government can function honorably as it should. But do not give away or let anyone take what is rightfully yours, for that is God's gift to you and yours to have forever. Learn to live without fear, in spite of fear. Honor your country by giving your country its due; honor God by giving God His due, which is to say, live your freedom and your truth. My life is my teaching. I will die that you might live... if you believe what I tell you and in what I stand for."

Maybe he didn't use these exact words, but this, in essence, is what he said. His life and how he lived it was his message. Those few who followed in his footsteps often ended up as he did. That's why so few follow in his footsteps.

The truth is, to change the consciousness, it probably isn't necessary to sacrifice your life as he did. One person alone cannot change the consciousness. But one person can follow the path and help lead the way. And everyone who takes the path... adds weight to that side of the scale until one day a critical mass is achieved, the scale tilts, and the consciousness shifts in a new direction. Anyone who strives to live honorably, stands up or speaks out for justice, adds their example and understanding to the consciousness

until eventually the consciousness shifts in the direction of justice.

Sometimes the risk of doing so is more or less dangerous than at other times, but every act of courage makes a difference. Many died to secure the freedoms we thought we had won once and for all. Now we know there is no “once and for all.” We have to be vigilant... we have to water the flowers every day and pull the weeds when they show up where they don’t belong. If we don’t rid ourselves of the weeds, eventually they will take over the whole garden. And every day we postpone the difficult task of getting rid of the weeds, makes it that much harder to get rid of them when we finally get to it.

Make no mistake... those who lust after money and power will not willingly give up trying to take from you what is rightfully yours.

They will hold onto their money and power with all their strength. Many would rather you starve and/or die, than modify their attitude or goals to allow you to live in freedom too. They will lie to you. They will cheat you. They will persecute those who get in their way. They will call you traitor, or terrorist; they will slander your name with their lies. They will diminish your efforts any way they can; they will tell half truths to undermine what you stand for and what you have to say. And if they cannot scuttle you with

slander, they will try to buy you off. And if they can't buy you off they will buy off the people you have chosen to represent you. All their skill and power will be focused on marginalizing your power, your hopes, your aspirations, and the aspirations you have for your children. And if all that fails they will threaten you, persecute you, incarcerate you, torture you, kill you, telling their hired mercenaries that it is right, proper, and noble to get rid of you... for you are not a patriot, not one of 'them'.

In order to win your freedom, one day you might have to put your life on the line... because they will stop at nothing if you threaten their ambitions. Look around the world... where did all the dead and mutilated bodies come from. After all these centuries, why can't we demonstrate any more wisdom than this?

Many people in America don't know they have already lost much of their freedom. They think that as long as other people can be imprisoned, tortured and held without trial it has nothing to do with them... and even if criminals in high places are allowed to get away with murder... "well, it's none of my business... they didn't murder anyone I know."

Many of us have been bought off with the spoils of Empire... a car, a digital TV, an i-Phone, or whatever. Too much to lose to fight a little

hypocrisy. "If I fight, I could lose everything. Better I should keep my mouth shut." Of course, you don't have to fight... you could just try to be satisfied living within your means, maintaining your integrity in how you work, how you relate to others, and how you express your citizenship.

The reality is, if you won't defend the rights of others, one day there will be no one left to defend your rights when they come to take the rest of yours away. You know this is true, but still... "I have my job you know, and my car, and my computer, and my TV, and my rent, and my life. Why should I risk all that for people I don't even know or care about?"

Well, Jesus never told you to go to church and pray for him to come back and save you from your fate, although it is understandable why you do it. And, I suppose that when the time comes, if you go to your place of worship not just on Sunday, but every day, instead of going to work, until you either starve to death or win your freedom... well, that might work. For their paid mercenaries might one day get the picture and begin to understand that by making war on you, who want only to be free, they will be making war on their own hopes and dreams as well. Maybe in that moment of awareness they will put their guns down or turn them around and point them at the real enemy. Still, how will you ever win back

your freedom if you are not even aware of what you've lost in the first place?

If Jesus showed up one day would he recognize his teachings in you? Would you recognize him, based on how you think he would express himself?

We say we love our children and yet we send them off to war to fight and kill and die, telling ourselves and them that they are fighting so that we might live in freedom... even when the battle they are asked to fight makes no sense at all. When we find it that easy to send our children into wars that should never be fought, that should be a clue that something is wrong.

For if we truly loved our children, we would not send them to kill and die; but instead we would put our own lives on the line. We would say "over my dead body will you take my child to kill and die so that you can steal from others what is not yours or mine to have."

Maybe many of us would have to pay a heavy price or die before we would win our children's freedom. Do we have the will, the wisdom, or the courage to do what we ask our children to do in the name of freedom?

Jesus told us how to be. He talked the talk, and walked the walk. His life was his teaching. Too bad we turned his simplicity into an endless

complicated liturgy... that we might be distracted from the truth and the responsibility of courageously seeking the truth so that we might live it.

Most who claim they follow him, don't really. They never had his commitment, his determination, the conviction of his love.

Some become the demagogues who to this day twist and rearrange his message to suit their own interests. Some people volunteer their children into becoming Christian soldiers. Go to battle, lust for war, believe in lies, pray to God to help you kill some invented enemy before that enemy kills you. It takes a lot of skill at twisting words and meanings to attribute such an agenda to Jesus.

But there are those who really do try to follow his teachings. There is hope yet.

Why don't we teach our children the wisdom of those brave souls that came before — like Jesus — who died that we might live in freedom, or lived and worked that we might have the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)... to help us understand what justice means... and to help us know what to believe and strive for.

If Jesus were here today, I don't think he would admonish you to read the Bible. I think he would tell you to read The Universal Declaration of Human Rights... He would suggest, as starters, that you come into alignment with the words and the spirit embodied in that Declaration. Love the truth, seek the truth. For one day, the truth shall set you free.

Those who call the Bible the holy book have divided themselves into various communities all claiming to worship Jesus. He never wanted to be worshipped. All he wanted was to teach and for us to learn... how to be honest, decent, courageous, loving, human beings.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a roadmap for encouraging all of humanity to become one community bound together by common values that celebrate freedom, decency, respect and love. Jesus would point you in that direction if he had the chance... it's a good reference for learning how to behave towards one another. Maybe you should read it while you still have the chance.

As for the United Nations, which sponsored the Declaration... today it is an organization that doesn't and can't work as it was intended. Neither does our government. Both institutions can be improved only through the work and dedication of honorable citizens who have a

vision, intention, and commitment for achieving universal peace and justice.

God is real, not a myth. God is closer to you than your own breath.

Anyway, this is how I see it.

On Congress

8/10/09

Members of the US Congress, as a class, now constitute the most failed institution in government.

Each member applies for a well paying job that pays an excellent salary with superb benefits. Once hired each takes an oath promising to faithfully serve the interests of his or her constituents by honoring, protecting, and defending the Constitution... which is to say, by maintaining integrity in every government function for the benefit of ordinary citizens and their country.

But once they are hired, which is to say, elected, these same members of Congress blatantly turn around and sell their loyalty to corporations, to their Party, or to other private special interest groups who offer them or threaten them with the highest amount or most convenient form of bribe or blackmail, usually related to campaign contributions or political party access to information and influence.

The money or influence they receive buys favors for these undeserving and corrupt entities at the expense of ordinary citizens and at the expense of integrity in government... and to add insult to

injury they then use the graft they receive to hoodwink their constituents into rehiring them again and again.

Not only does this activity end up misallocating resources, it takes an inordinate amount of time and keeps members of Congress from doing useful, thoughtful, courageous, or honest work.

It is a system of unparalleled dishonesty and corruption that has all but destroyed the Constitution, our economy, the future well-being, and indeed the hopes and dreams of our progeny... and perhaps even the aspirations of all mankind for generations to come. This villainy, cowardice, and/or stupidity, perpetuated by most members of Congress, is only matched by the ignorance, lethargy, and foolishness of the people who keep reelecting them.

It is a sorry commentary on our society and our educational system, that the honor of being given the opportunity to serve one's country with distinction that we offer those we elect, (hoping that they might actually turn out to be our best and brightest), is squandered so willingly by them.

Of course this blanket description of Congress is not universal. There are still a few members who aspire to fulfill their duty, but it appears to this observer, that those who do are a diminishing breed. These representatives send our children

off to war, expecting them to serve, bleed, and die with courage as they face bombs and bullets, while they themselves seem unable to muster enough courage to end or distance themselves from the corrupt culture that permeates their workplace as they are called upon to do the People's business where they face very little risk to life or limb.

One must conclude that members of Congress consider themselves, their institution and their constituents worthy of contempt. Our representatives have apparently decided that they can do without the personal satisfaction of knowing that they've done a job well; and they seem content to do without the self-respect that comes with being able to maintain one's integrity in the face of, admittedly, significant temptation. What can one say?

Apparently this is the way it will remain until we as citizens value our own freedom and our own need for self respect. I suppose if we keep voting for people who are set on betraying themselves and us, we will deserve what we get.

Notes:

Suggestions concerning what every Congressperson could do that they are not now doing...

1. Insist that members of present and former administrations be investigated, and if appropriate, prosecuted, for the high crimes and misdemeanors they commit. As long as some people are above the law, the Constitution is a damaged and uninspiring commodity. The Constitution has been desecrated and it needs to be restored.

2. Insist that the public be made aware of illegitimate systems and procedures in place in Congress. It doesn't work that some members of Congress are given more access to information, more power to influence legislation, or more power to set budgets or determine foreign policy than other members. All members have the same responsibility to constituents and the country and all citizens have a right to equal representation. What we have now undermines our democracy. It doesn't make sense that some members have higher security clearance than others. Many thousands or tens of thousands of people have top security clearance and yet some of our elected lawmakers who have oversight responsibility are denied access to information they need to do their jobs. Who has the right to say that some representatives are more qualified than others to know what their government is up to as they go about doing the People's business?

That only means that some communities are better represented than others and that some

representatives have more power than others because of some secret and hidden processes determined by individuals who are unaccountable and un-elected by the people. It doesn't make sense in a legitimate democracy for this to continue.

3. Insist that there be an appropriate accounting for monies spent by all government agencies and departments. Every government agency ought to be subject to audit using the most stringent accounting procedures possible. How the People's money is spent must not be a secret, save for a very limited amount dealing with legitimate national security purposes.

4. Insist that an independent truth commission be formed to fully bring to light the crimes and improper conduct of our troops, government officials, and private contractors particularly as they relate to the instigation and implementation of wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere.

5. Insist that a permanent independent study group or department of government be formed to report to the People as to what government processes are damaging our republic and what steps might be taken to correct them. Government itself ought to have a formal process by which it is engaged in self awareness, the process and results of which, to be broadcast and published for all to see and hear. Members of our

government are answerable to us. We need to know what they are doing, how they are doing it, and what needs to be done to put our house in order. They seem to be totally incapable of doing it themselves.

6. Work diligently to promote and ratify the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to have it incorporated into US law.

Regarding This Article from The Independent

7/30/09

Regarding this article, published by The Independent on July 30, 2009 called, *Torture Report* a 'Security Risk' ... the implications are dire.

Publishing the details of what our military personnel and/or the CIA might have done to former terror detainee Binyam Mohamed does not create a security risk for the UK or the US.

What creates a security risk is the fact that those who are ultimately responsible for his abuse are not being prosecuted for their crimes.

To put it another way, it is the fact that our government has suspended the Constitution in order to protect criminals who work for us that puts us all in danger... because it lets people everywhere know that America is not what they might have imagined us to be or what we have in the past told them we were... or even what we tell our own children we are or what we tell ourselves we are.

Now we know that some people in America are above the law — that We the People are not the sovereign entities that we thought we were — but

we are instead the subjects of some ruling class elite who have declared themselves to be sovereign over us and over our Constitution.

The President has no authority to suspend the Constitution and the rule of law, and yet that is what he's done, just like the last administration and other administrations before it. This administration has demonstrated in various ways that it considers it a bit too inconvenient and impractical to honor, preserve, protect, defend and live by the Constitution. They have determined that we have no right to know what our leaders and our soldiers do in our name; that we have no right to defend our honor and our integrity for fear that it might upset certain members of the ruling class if we were to do so.

The President has determined that some criminals are too big and too important to be prosecuted for their crimes. Other Americans, of course, remain subject to prosecution for misdemeanors much less vile than those our leaders and their agents commit on a regular basis. In fact our jails are full... and very few of those incarcerated have committed crimes anywhere near as egregious as what our leaders do on a regular basis in our name.

The uncomfortable truth is... that it is the failure to acknowledge and publish the truth that puts our soldiers at risk. The world at large already

has enough information to imagine what kinds of crimes we might have committed in the Binyam Mohamed case. By not seeking justice on behalf of those we have tortured, murdered, and otherwise abused, our government is telling the world that we as a people are unwilling to admit to, or take responsibility for our crimes or the crimes of our agents. The implication is that we are willing to ignore the criminal acts of our leaders and our soldiers, which in some sense makes all of us accessories to their crimes after the fact.

For others to see Americans as criminals is what puts us and our allies at risk. And if we as citizens do not strive to protect our honor and our Constitution, then what will we become... and how will we ever be able to argue convincingly that we are not exactly as others see us?

Simple Plan for Improving health-care in America

7/28/09

A viable option for greatly improving our health-care system might simply be an expansion of Medicare to cover more people.

I don't see the need to invent a whole new system of health-care delivery. It might not be practical to cover all citizens at once but various age groups could be folded into the plan over time until everyone is brought on board.

For example, we might start by including in year one all children under the age of 10. The following year, all children from ages 10 - 18. After that, ages 19-25 and 60 to 65 , etc. until everyone is included. The reason that it might not be practical for all people to be covered at one time is that the health-care delivery systems might not be able to handle forty million new patients all at once... there might not be enough doctors to do a credible job and there might be other shortages as well. It will take time to ramp up the system. In any event, the best approach will be one that can succeed and offer inspiration for continued success and refinement... it should be simple enough to have a chance to work and be appreciated by those who participate.

What happens to those employed in the insurance industry now serving that sector? Under my suggestion, Medicare will have to hire more people and so will hospitals and other health-care providers. Some can find work there. As for the rest, it doesn't make sense to keep people employed doing work that no longer serves a useful purpose. There's plenty of work that we need done to make our country a better place. It's time that we put our resources to work on projects that make people better off rather than rip them off.

We could, for example, shrink the military. There is enough graft, waste, and corruption being spent on programs we don't need, to pay for the best health-care system in the world, the best transportation system, and a viable energy strategy.

There's plenty of work to be done. The only obstacle to progress are the people we've elected to represent us and the systems and procedures we use to find worthy candidates and choose between them.

My simple approach would not require a total revamping of our health-care system. The infrastructure is already in place that would allow us to incrementally migrate to a better way of doing things.

If we can find the money to pump \$14 Trillion into the economy in order to bail out Wall Street, the insurance industry, and a lot of liars and cheats who work in those industries, we can find whatever funding is needed to provide the essential services we need as human beings.

Other countries have already demonstrated that all citizens can have better health-care than we have and have it for less money per person than we now spend not to insure everyone.

Other countries spend less, have better infant mortality rates and longer life expectancies. My simple suggestion, if properly implemented, could save money in the long run and eventually improve life in America for all citizens.

Why Single-Payer is the ONLY Sensible health-care Reform By Carmen Yarrusso

Shocked, Yet Awed - watch the video 17 min.
by Leslie Savan

Accessory-after-the-fact

5/30/09

ACCESSORY-AFTER-THE-FACT - Whoever, knowing that an offense has been committed, receives, relieves, comforts or assists the offender in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial or punishment, is an accessory after the fact; one who knowing a felony to have been committed by another, receives, relieves, comforts, or assists the felon in order to hinder the felon's apprehension, trial, or punishment. U.S.C. 18

If you view the following video you will see that President Obama is now an accessory after the fact, which itself is a felony.

<http://informationclearinghouse.info/article22731.htm>

The way I feel about it is, that when you believe that a person has committed a felony and is being protected from prosecution because of his or her station in life, or his or her power to obstruct justice, it would be inappropriate to relate to that person as if he or she deserves the kind of respect that otherwise one would bestow on a person having achieved that station in life.

So for me, to relate to Obama or any other public official who is a party to a felony or is obstructing justice where crimes have been committed, given that these crimes are continuing and in progress, is entirely unacceptable. That is why I have

decided to no longer write letters to members of Congress and why I will not write letters to President Obama about issues of public policy.

First things first. First one must deal with the crimes that have been committed and are being committed, along with the obstruction of justice relating to those crimes. All business should and must stop until this is handled because it is not proper to conduct business with criminals, who, because they are criminals, no longer hold power legitimately.

Letter to President Obama #2

5/19/09

May 19, 2009

Dear Mr. President,

In case you missed this I thought I would send it along for your review and consideration. It relates to the first email that I sent you on May 15, 2009:

<http://www.commondreams.org/view/2009/05/19-7>

Sincerely,

Mark A. Goldman

www.gpln.com

Letter to President Obama #1

5/15/09

May 15, 2009

Dear President Obama,

If I thought you would ever read a personal letter that I might address to you at the White House, I would be sending this one there, but my experience now tells me that it would never reach your desk. So I am writing to you publicly hoping that it increases the probability that you will read it. I hope you understand.

I'm writing to tell you that even though you have been in office only a short time you have already lost my confidence and support. Here's why: I believe the most important decisions you have already made indicate to me that you are not prepared to honor your oath of office. This is particularly disappointing given the fact that you were a law professor and legal scholar and that you ran on a platform you described as "hope you can believe in."

No one is above the law, but you clearly have put some people above the law... including yourself. Your unwillingness to defend the Constitution gives solace to those who would desecrate it.

Every President is an “Education President” and you are failing our children by shrinking from your duty. Mr. President, you cannot defend the Constitution if you are unwilling to look back in time to see what happened. That's pretty much what Supreme Court Justices do every day.

Your policies and military strategies are resulting in crimes similar to those pursued by previous administrations. Innocent people are still being injured, killed, or brutalized because of policies you've unnecessarily approved. You have decided now to hide information that We, the American People, need in order to evaluate honestly what crimes, atrocities, and misdemeanors were carried out in our name so that we might take responsibility for them, make the necessary corrections, and seek justice on behalf of those who were unjustly injured. You are obstructing that process. I'm not just talking about the pictures. I'm talking about all of it.

Our nation needs to be rebuilt and that must begin by offering a vision of hope that we really can believe in. You are not offering that hope. Belief and trust in the Constitution and those who pledge to protect and defend it is the foundation on which our society is built. That foundation now is undermined, critically damaged, not suitable for service, crumbling. If you don't shore it up it will not hold the weight it was originally designed to support. Anything you wish to accomplish must

be built on that foundation, but right now it can no longer even hold the accomplishments of the past let alone any new ones you might try to add to it. If you don't first dedicated yourself to shoring it up, it will only continue to crumble like a castle built on sand, and nothing you try to do will work or make a lasting difference until these deficiencies are corrected.

You have to change course if you hope to accomplish anything meaningful during your tenure as President.

I am not against you. I am always willing to change my mind, believe in, and support a credible and worthy effort. I hope you will offer me that opportunity.

Sincerely, from one citizen to another,

Mark A. Goldman

www.gpln.com

The Writing on the Wall?

4/23/09

Dick Cheney is not denying that he was a key instigator, designer, and supporter of the Bush administration's torture policies which were used against detainees at American prisons and elsewhere. His main objection to the recent release of Bush administration memos authorizing torture is that the current administration did not also release memos detailing how successful the torture techniques were in gaining information that was considered valuable.

There is no question that totally innocent people were detained, persecuted, and tortured without any legal process whatsoever. In fact, the record shows that most of the people captured and mistreated were totally innocent of any wrongdoing. And yet these innocent people were fed through a system designed to uncover which few, if any, out of the many had information the CIA or other agencies might find valuable.

Cheney's logic is that it is perfectly appropriate to detain and torture anyone you want because if you can detain enough people who fit a certain profile, you will eventually find someone who can give you useful information. According to him and others like him, this makes torture an appropriate intelligence gathering tool and its efficiency

justifies its use. You only have to ignore the fact that torture is legally and morally reprehensible no matter who is subjected to it, not to mention the irrelevant fact that more often than not it does not produce any useful information.

I would think that this kind of thinking would send shivers down the spine of any American, indeed any human being, who gets wind of it. It means that no human being is safe and secure in his or her person; that any person might become a victim of torture, because whether or not you are tortured has nothing to do with your guilt or innocence (as if guilt would justify torture in any event); that whether or not you get tortured is only a question of who has power over you, and whether those who do believe that you might know something you're not telling that might be useful to them. It negates the most fundamental tenets of jurisprudence or human decency that has evolved in Western Civilization over the last 1,200 years or so. In this consciousness, anyone in power can do what they want with you if they think you might know something that they want to know but might be withholding.

This is the kind of law that Bush and Cheney and those who supported them understand. This is the law of the unitary executive, which can only be described as the law of the despot.

So far, Barack Obama's understanding of the rule of law is also out of sync with national and international norms. During his administration, he apparently intends that the words "I was only following orders" should be a proper defense against being prosecuted for crimes you commit.

And as long as you commit those crimes on behalf of your government he will consider you to be a hero worthy of praise... that innocent victims of crimes committed by you and your government are not entitled to any form of justice... that there is no point in laying blame even for the deaths of more than a million innocent men, women, and children (mostly women and children), and others who were maimed, brutalized, orphaned, or impoverished because of your lies, deceit, or betrayal of basic human rights provisions guaranteed under the US Constitution and international treaties which the United States not only signed onto, but which the United States sponsored and promoted.

If this is the kind of person we elect to protect the Constitution and this is their understanding of the rule of law, and we allow them to get away with this, then what does that make us?

Can't you see the writing on the wall?

Open Letter To Members of the House Financial Services

Subcommittee investigating the Bernard Madoff Fraud Allegations and Financial Markets Regulation

2/8/09

I spent several hours listening to the hearing conducted on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 by the House Financial Services Subcommittee charged with investigating the Bernard Madoff Fraud Allegations and Financial Markets Regulation.

The first testimony was given by Harry Markopolis, Independent Financial Fraud Investigator and Analyst, who testified that beginning in 2001 and on a number of other occasions in the years following, he presented the SEC with detailed information, in effect handing them the Madoff fraud case on a silver platter. His testimony was specific and so credible that no one on the committee, Democrat or Republican, had anything but praise for his work. That praise was justified. It was quite clear to all, that Madoff could have, and should have, been stopped in his tracks in early 2001. Here's the link to Markopolis' testimony:

<http://www.c-span.org/Watch/watch.aspx?MediaId=HP-R-15116>

Following his testimony, a panel consisting of various divisions of the SEC, including at least one SEC attorney and other regulatory agency representatives, was assembled to offer testimony in their own defense as to what happened to allow the Madoff fraud to continue for so long.

The panel was derided and ridiculed with little mercy by the oversight committee when panel members failed to offer any useful information or credible defense, claiming that legal investigations now ongoing precluded them from speaking freely.

Subcommittee members made it clear how disgusted and incredulous they were that it was possible for the SEC to be so incompetent, even to the point of malfeasance, for allowing Madoff to continue his fraud for all those years when the evidence was handed to them on a silver platter several times over a number of years.

Madoff finally ended the scam himself when he came forward to admit his crimes. Prior to that, he apparently was just too big a fish to investigate or challenge by the people who had oversight responsibilities.

To the members of the Committee, I offer you the following links which I hope will help you understand how it is possible for people who are charged with oversight responsibility, (even in the

face of their solemn oath and duty), to look the other way when they are confronted with the fraud, lies, and deceit of people who are considered so powerful that they are above the law or beyond the wheels of justice, even when the case against the criminals are handed to them on a silver platter.

These links, with all due respect, ought to be invaluable to you.

<http://www.gpln.com/constitutionincrisis.htm>

<http://www.gpln.com/followingorders.htm>

<http://www.gpln.com/howiseeit.htm>

<http://www.gpln.com/sustainableeconomics.htm>

Auto Vision

12/14/08

Bailing out the US automakers is not advisable in my view. We don't need more combustion engine cars and the US automakers are not serious about making the kind of cars we do need.

If taxpayers are to subsidize the auto industry it ought to support those companies that are enthusiastic and committed to making affordable electric vehicles.

The big three, if they want to produce cars fueled by renewable energy, can say so during bankruptcy proceedings and reorganize themselves along those lines.

Instead of using oil to burn as fuel, a better use might be to make carbon based materials out of which we can make durable lightweight cars.

Trying to protect jobs that produce products we don't need, and should not want—just to keep workers' paychecks coming—lacks wisdom. Instead, we should review and restructure, if necessary, the safety net that protects all workers who find themselves out of work or working for failing companies. This is also why we need a single payer health-care system similar to what has proved to be so successful in other countries.

We should protect those workers but not their jobs. Any money the government doles out should go to unemployed workers to help them get retrained and back on their feet, not to corporations that will continue to misallocate enormous amounts of physical and human resources. This is not to say that workers should ever be rewarded for incompetence any more than senior executives should be.

Every citizen is entitled to basic human rights and protections, and that's exactly what we are talking about here. Government's job is to protect and serve The People and not a select class of elites who, because of their undeserved wealth, have acquired enough undeserved power to cause legislation and/or resources to be misallocated in their favor.

Every citizen is entitled to equal protection under the law, so government ought not to be picking and choosing which companies and their workers are too big to fail. Companies should be allowed to fail; but people should be protected wherever justice demands it.

We need electric cars and the electricity to run those cars should come from wind and solar energy and perhaps other renewables, but not from fossil fuels which are not renewable, not safe, and not economical when you consider the true cost of using them. We know for certain that

fossil fuels are damaging to our environment. Let's try to use some common sense. Our environment is our life support system... our most valuable asset and resource. Let's stop destroying it for near term economic expediency.

I have no objection to government offering incentives to industry in order to promote what society needs. In that sense we need to amend our tax laws on one hand, and offer imaginative incentives on the other... to promote products, ideas, and opportunities that are progressive... which is to say, that make progress towards a secure, sustainable, and humane future for all life on spaceship Earth.

Some things only a government can do efficiently... like protect basic human rights. When government fails to protect those rights, it no longer serves its purpose and needs to be replaced.

Sustainable Economics

11/29/08

The US economy as it is, is not sustainable and the economic policies being pursued by the current administration are not helpful.

The new economic team that is scheduled to come to power in the next administration looks like it might be marginally better, but marginally better will not be good enough to save the economy. More economists, more public officials and more citizens would need to commit to what is really needed, and be willing to sacrifice their own egos to really help, if we are to pull out of this tailspin any time soon. The political and cultural environment in which we live is not encouraging. I just hope that this is not as hopeless as looks.

The American people do not need access to more credit. That is not the heart of the matter even though it is the heart of the efforts made so far to stabilize the economy. What they have done so far will not stabilize the economy, but are only a hodge-podge of knee jerk reactions to fear and pandemonium in the credit markets. They have reacted to cries for help but nothing they have done or said publicly indicates that they understand the problem. If they do understand the problem, nothing they have done or said

indicates that they have any intention of doing anything substantive to solve it.

It is not entirely accurate to say that the American people do not need more access to credit, but like I said, that's not the main issue. The American people have already borrowed too much money. They don't need to borrow more.

The American people were encouraged to spend every last cent they had and then to borrow more, so that they could spend even more... and that is what they did. They spent more than they could afford to spend, and thereby ruined their chance to have a successful and sustainable standard of living.

But some people did benefit by all this spending: All this spending made a small percentage of the population wealthy and successful... all the credit that was made available to a lot of people ended up making a few people financially secure. And even though it enabled some of those who borrowed to accumulate a significant amount of goods and services... the standard of living that those goods and services represented, as we can now see, was not sustainable. Re-inflating the price of assets (be it real estate or stocks) so that more borrowing can take place will not make what is unsustainable, sustainable.

A great majority of Americans are now tapped out and dejected. They know they can't afford to

borrow more just so they can buy more, because they no longer believe they will be able to pay off any new debt they now add to their portfolios. And this is what the current policymakers do not understand or acknowledge. For an economy to be sustainable, citizens must have confidence that they will become financially successful. Financially successful is something most of the current population does not now believe in their heart of hearts, they are, or ever will be.

I am defining a financially successful person here as someone who has an accurate and confident belief that now and into the extended future they will have more financial resources than they will need to maintain their desired standard of living... which is to say... after spending what they need to live comfortably, they will have enough money or wealth left over to pass something significant on to their loved ones when they die, even if they live a very long time. You will not find this definition in economics text books.

If we want our economy to recover, we will have to take whatever steps are necessary to allow people to experience being financially successful as I've defined it. People who are financially successful spend money for what they want. They gladly will even borrow money for something they want today because they are confident that they will have sufficient income in the future to pay off the debt.

The trouble is, policy makers and their advisors have not been willing to do what is necessary to give the larger population this experience. They instead attempt to perfect their ability to trick people into believing that they are or will be financially successful, knowing all the while that it's an illusion, a public relations trick. Now the jig is up. Now everyone knows it was a trick and how many times can you trick people and still have them come back for more.

Well, you can keep trying to improve the quality of your deceptions or you can actually try to do something meaningful to make life progressively better for people on a sustainable basis.

Among the tricks used extensively is paying people to do jobs that create nothing of value (the hidden agenda being a desire to simply pump money into the economy and/or to earn points with unscrupulous politicians who believe it's their job to 'bring home the bacon'). A lot of military spending falls into this category. The problem is, this is a waste of real wealth and real human capital. It is unsustainable, which after all this time, we are finally figuring out. We have been squandering a lot of our wealth this way inside and outside the military industrial complex for many, many years.

So the bottom line is this, if we really want to save the economy, what we need to do is pursue

economic policies that have a real chance of giving people the experience that they need: a real chance of becoming financially successful. If we try to do that, our policies will look a lot different than the policies we have pursued so far. I can tell you this: monetary policy alone is not going to get us there.

The question is this: is it at all possible to bring all Americans (particularly our policymakers) into alignment with what is needed? Will they ever be willing to pursue strategies that will make most people better off?

Here are some ideas that would probably help, some of which have been alluded to by others. Once you get the idea, it should not be too difficult to think of other strategies (tax reforms, defending the rule of law, ending corporate personhood, etc.) that would be aligned with my stated objective:

1. Single Payer health-care System that really works. If all Americans had a health-care system they could depend on... one that might be similar to what has been accomplished in other countries, it would go a long way to giving them some financial security. Not only would it do that, but our society would become healthier, we would enjoy longer life expectancies, infant mortality rates would decline, and people would be happier. But this would have to be a well thought out

program unlike anything politicians have been willing to pursue or talk about seriously.

2. Election reform. The reason that politicians are unwilling to do intelligent things with competence and integrity can be attributed to the influence of money and greed for power—rather than a simple desire to do what’s best for democracy and our society. So one must conclude that to do any of the things I might suggest would require political reform as well as economic reform.

3. A real energy policy designed to make America energy independent. The trick here is to develop an energy policy that is both efficient and sustainable. Carbon based energy sources are not sustainable. Such a program would create a lot of jobs and save a lot of money and lives; to wit: We could stop making war on other people in order to control their oil or other resources, and we could then stop wasting so much money on useless weapons and other foolish behaviors.

4. A much better educational system that works for all children. Right now funding education is largely based on local real estate values. Every child is entitled to an excellent education no matter what the economic status of his or her household is. If every child had approximately the same opportunity to learn that a child whose parents are financially secure has, in a generation or two more people would have the tools they

need to accept the responsibilities of citizenship, and at the same time have the skills and confidence they need to think critically and succeed financially.

5. An efficient Food and Drug Administration. An effective food and drug administration would help protect consumers and educate all citizens about nutrition and other health maintenance issues, independent of the corrupting influence of corporations which are often more motivated by money and profits than they are by the possibility of improving human health. Again this ties in with political reform.

6. A world class transportation system. A world class transportation system would in the long run, save money and offer legitimate employment opportunities. It would tie into our sustainable energy goals, help reduce global warming and solve other related maladies.

All of the above examples, if pursued with integrity, could offer more people a chance to share a real American Dream that includes true political freedom and financial success. They would create jobs, and add to real wealth, happiness and good will. But of course, “pursued with integrity” is the key.

Is it possible to transform our society so that more people are willing to give up their selfish agendas for the good of the whole? This of course

is the key question and the most difficult one to answer or create. Predictably, people will accuse me of being a socialist. But calling me a name that has negative connotations is not an argument. The objective here is to do what needs to be done so that every citizen has a real chance to become financially successful. If you tell the truth about it, it is clear they don't have this opportunity now. Not understanding or appreciating this is killing our economy and destroying the social fabric of our culture.

My point in all of this is that economic policy must address real economic issues. If we keep doing what we are doing now, I think we are all going down... rich and poor alike. If we can't make ourselves behave with compassion, intelligence, and integrity we will continue to go through the pretense and the motions but in the end accomplish nothing more than going in circles. I don't think most economists are oblivious to how economics really works... they are just constrained by a culture gone awry dominated by those who wield money and power for selfish purposes, consciously or unconsciously.

An awful lot of us cave in to the pressure put on us by such people in our culture usually without even realizing or thinking about it. Everyone wants to succeed and most of us have a tendency or desire to work for very successful companies or people, so that we can learn from them or at least

earn a lot of money being of service to them. We end up doing their bidding, adopting their state of consciousness, and arguing for things that will please them... thereby getting ahead and winning favor... sometimes getting rich ourselves in the process. But alas, at the same time destroying our culture, our economy, and civilization itself... and our own chance for happiness.

We're going to have to look for a better way to become successful. If we pursue the real 'science of economics,' I believe our policies will look more like what I've described than the policies being pursued. Some economists will tell you what I'm suggesting takes too long and we don't have that much time. What I'm saying is, the sooner we start doing what needs to be done, the sooner the healing process can begin.

We all have a part to play in healing our economy and transforming our culture to meet the challenge.

Confusion, Illusion, and Common Sense

11/26/08

Some people confuse economic theory with economic reality and all too often those people are economists, politicians, and others who have a direct impact on government policy.. and then inevitably many of us as well. A little common sense could go a long way to clear up the confusion.

Economic theories are theoretical constructs that make assumptions about how people think and behave with respect to money and commerce. According to theory, capitalism produces real wealth and not just for some, but for all. Economists and politicians often forget to ask if these theoretical constructs offer an accurate description of how people really behave in the society we live in.

For example, in theory, capitalism assumes that businesses and consumers always act in their own best economic interest; that all participants in an economy have equal access to necessary and relevant information for rational decision making; and that selfish economic behavior will maximize not only the well being of individual participants in an economy, but also society as a

whole without anyone consciously intending that it do so.

Let me suggest to you, that in our culture, none of these assumptions are true.

We are constantly misinformed—being fed disinformation by corporate media, our own government, religious institutions and others. We do not really consume what we would want or need if left to our own devices. Instead we are constantly bombarded with—and mesmerized by—advertising, propaganda, and promotion that's designed to make us want what is not in our best interest to have, but what is in the interest of those who stand to profit greatly by the products, services, or ideas they want to sell.

That is why nearly all the cars, buses, and rail operating in America today run on fossil fuel rather than electric power; why public transportation in America is not world class; why we are addicted to war; why every citizen does not have free or affordable health-care, why so much of the food we eat is not good for us, and why so many people live one illness or two paychecks away from bankruptcy, homelessness, hunger, and despair.

Similarly, we are easily manipulated during elections to focus on irrelevancies rather than on substantive issues. We are so confused by our illusions, most of which are propagated by the

intellectually dishonest arguments of politicians and corporations, that we end up supporting the very people who demonstrably lack the vision, courage, desire, or integrity to pursue what is best for us as individuals, as a nation, or for the world as our extended community.

We refuse to hold our leaders accountable for making sure that, as a society, we make continual progress in the advancement of the human condition in all its aspects. Why shouldn't we be able to expect this from our leaders when every day we have the opportunity to advance our knowledge, wisdom, and skill at managing our affairs?

We allow corporations to spend vast sums of money to block or skew government regulation in order that they might externalize costs and privatize profits even when the long term consequence of doing so destroys our environment, our health, and our happiness... and we allow them to do this even when we know the destruction they promote might be irreversible. Economic theory does not postulate that this is how rational people will behave.

While decision makers have a fiduciary responsibility to act in the best interest of constituents, all too often they pursue their own self interest instead. Adding to what I said earlier,

political theory does not postulate that this is how elected officials will behave.

Economic and political theory do not assume that people will be dishonest or that government processes will be opaque, deceptive, and fraudulent, nor does it predict what effect the lack of integrity in government and commerce will have on our collective psyche or on the planet.

The point is, economic or political theory are not relevant when it applies to a culture that promotes dishonesty, irresponsibility, and disinformation.

What I am suggesting here is that it is really our culture that is sick, not the economy. Our economic tribulations are symptomatic of a society that is drifting in unconsciousness; losing its ability and desire for self-examination, reflection, and self-improvement.

Policy makers, people who populate corporate media, and ordinary citizens seem oblivious to the fact that our problems are kept in place by systemic dishonesty. We all think our personal, economic, and social problems are unpredictable, fortuitous, or naturally occurring cyclical events. We are quite sure, of course, that we are not in any way to blame.

All too often we hear media interviewers ask policy wonks what kinds of strategies or policies

we should put in place to correct our struggling economy or foreign policy blunders when, in fact, changing strategies or policies will not get at the heart of the matter. It is truly foolish to expect that self-serving officials will ever solve the problems that they themselves create and purposely keep in place for their own purposes. And in our culture, once self-serving officials get elected to office they tend to remain there for as long as they want to stay. There are exceptions, of course, but for the most part, this is now the rule. And it's not an accident.

The central issue is this: to solve critical systemic societal problems requires a certain level of intellectual integrity from every citizen, and yet intellectual integrity is demeaned and discouraged in a culture that has no respect for it. It is cynical to think that you can make things work by advancing the art of advertising, promotion, deception, and pretense... without any regard for substance. Things work when you approach life with personal integrity and bring that integrity to everything you do. It's called being responsible.

Governments and institutions cannot do this. Only individual human beings, each making a personal commitment to him or herself, can do this.

We go through the motions anyway. But in the end we still keep in place the same political

“leaders” and their systemically flawed political arrangements where our problems incubate and flourish. Even though it’s clear that we need to replace these people and the systems they created... with something that is inherently more honest, transparent, and responsible... we apparently have no intention of doing so. We don’t even talk about it. The topic is taboo.

The pervasive corruption that now pervades government stands in the way of any substantive change we might postulate. And the answer is not to do away with government. What we need is a government that works. And yet an illiterate, undereducated, and misinformed electorate is not likely to choose the leaders, or pursue strategies, that will help us fulfill our potential... at least not (apparently) until so much pain is experienced by so many of us that we will finally have no choice but to look for a new paradigm on which to base and achieve our aspirations.

I am in no way suggesting that what we need is a managed economy. I am suggesting that what we need is to better prepare ourselves intellectually to accept the challenges and responsibilities of citizenship.

Notice that (during the last eight years particularly) the Bill of Rights and other tenets of our Constitution have all but been destroyed (or at least systematically betrayed) by the very

people who swore an oath to preserve and protect them. And this includes Article 6 Section 2 of the Constitution which incorporates international law into our own, and certifies it to be as supreme as what we call our own domestic rule of law.

That's what the Constitution says the treaties we've signed and commitments we made are. How many of our citizens even know this? How many care?

Read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions, and other documents we've signed; compare them with our foreign policy or even our domestic policies, and see if you can reconcile our country's behavior with those basic principles of justice that the United States once championed, helped bring into being, and promised to honor. Without universal respect for the rule of law, or an intention to honor our word as a sacred trust, we have no country worthy of its name... nor any confidence that our country stands for anything at all... let alone justice.

Yet these topics are hardly up for discussion. Instead, we are now too worried about the loss of our economic security to think about the loss of our own political rights and freedoms let alone anyone else's. We don't realize that our failure to hold elected officials accountable is why we have now lost both our economic and political security.

In shirking our responsibilities, we abdicated our collective intelligence and sovereign power, handing them over to people who are clearly untrustworthy. Even after they betrayed us, we voted most of them back into office as soon as we got the chance.

Theoretically, America is still a constitutional democracy, but are we really? We are a people who are not even conscious of what we've lost... how ironic is it that we don't even recognize that WE THE PEOPLE are the government we lost. How will we get our country and our honor back?

We cannot solve real problems with theoretical solutions to deeply held illusions. Until we as individuals come to realize and take responsibility for knowing the difference between a theoretical economy and the economy we have, or the difference between a real democracy and an illusion we adhere to— we, and those we love, will continue to be stalked like prey by those who like things just the way they are.

If we continue to accept the state of consciousness as it is, most of us, and the rest of humanity, will face a predictable future of uncertainty, fear, hunger, and want.

Taking Responsibility

10/01/08

What many people do not understand is that every time we buy an asset, whether it be a hot dog , a stock, a bond, a car, a home, or a bank CD, we are taking a risk. Among the risks we take is that we might be buying an inferior product or entering into a deceptive transaction. Someone might be trying to deceive or cheat us. Or we might just misunderstand or be ignorant about the implications. When any one person is cheated or deceived, everyone in society is harmed. Every lie, every dishonesty impacts the consciousness in which we live... and so does every act of courage in pursuit of truth and intellectual integrity. We need to relearn the lessons of history and teach them to our children.

We are facing a great economic crisis and we are all responsible. We choose our leaders. We decide how to spend our time. We choose the order of our preferences and our goals. We decide what's important and how much attention to devote to what's important. We choose what to study and how much time to spend trying to understand what we think is important. We decide who we will trust and whether or not we should trust ourselves. In ignorance or arrogance we sometimes make choices we regret.

Sometimes we blame others for our own failings or negligence. This is how it is.

Anger clouds our judgment; arrogance does too. Life is complicated. Greed is an empty promise. Taking advantage of others is cowardice. We can't hope to understand everything or become an expert in very many things. Many of us suffer circumstances we cannot control. We are all learning; so it is foolish to lament or beat ourselves up about loss due to inexperience or misunderstanding. The best we can do is take responsibility for our decisions and circumstances and strive to do better ... to seek perfection in our attitude even though we know we will never be perfect... to seek understanding and justice... to do our part... hold up our end of the bargain... tell the truth... face and take responsibility for our errors... and keep going... to forgive ourselves and others. and yet not cave in or sell out. Love and compassion make life tolerable and worth all the ups and downs.

Nature is beautiful; children are wonderful; love is magical. Art inspires and teaches us. Kindness is ennobling... it dignifies, humbles, and makes us grateful to be alive. Poetry and music join us together as family... and offers us understanding beyond limitations of language.

Every end is a new beginning, an opportunity. We shall rejoice in the future, and honor the lessons

we learn from the past. We will become wise, courageous, and decent. And being decent will bring us together and we will find happiness in the wonderment of ourselves, of one another, and of life itself.

Poverty is not the absence of things, but rather it is the absence of courage and the unwillingness to take responsibility for what's so. So we are not destined to be poor for we are brave and resourceful. We have everything we need. And the thing we need most is one another.

Mismanagement

10/01/08

Our government and our economy are being mismanaged. The immediate issue we must deal with is that Congress is getting ready to pass legislation which, in my view, may very well be counterproductive.

Now I am not privy to the day to day statistics on inflows and outflows of money market funds, but what they are attempting to do raises one important question that I would like answered. If they raise the FDIC bank deposit insurance limits, that seems to me an invitation for large investors to conduct a run on brokerage money market funds, i.e., big investors scrambling to move the cash in their money market funds to insured bank deposits.

Sounds to me like another way to bail out the fat cats at the expense of average citizens who are being misled into thinking that their money is safe at their favorite brokerage house.

Will some journalist please pose this question to the folks in charge.

Regarding the mismanagement of our foreign policy and financial system:

1. *A Futile Bailout as Darkness Falls on America* By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS
2. *We Have the Money If Only We Didn't Waste It on the Defense Budget* By CHALMERS JOHNSON
3. *America's Own Kleptocracy* By MICHAEL HUDSON
4. *Who Will Show Some Backbone Against the Bailout?* By RALPH NADER
5. *Capitalism and Democracy - Part 1* By MARK A. GOLDMAN
<http://www.gpln.com/TheAnswer-911.pdf>

The Economics of Reality

9/5/08

If you had been born 150 years ago, your birth would have been a job creating event. I don't mean just for your mother, although she surely would have had her work cut out for her.

What I mean is that to clothe and feed you, it was going to take the skill and hard work of at least one and maybe more new factory workers. To make a pair of shoes a hundred and fifty years ago was quite labor intensive. It probably took two man days of work to make one pair of shoes. Today almost all of the work of making shoes is done by machines with probably less than one hour of human labor required to make a far superior pair. The incremental time and effort it takes workers to clothe and feed one more human being is very small today even though there are a lot more people to clothe and feed than there used to be. What does this mean? It means that with every advance in technology and productivity, there is, relative to the size of the overall population, less need for people doing jobs in manufacturing. Computers and advanced technology can handle difficult tasks much, much faster than humans can.

If other people can and are willing to do a job cheaper than you can do it, they will be given the

opportunity to do it. Under the current structure of modern economic systems, those jobs will pay less and less as productivity improves and population grows. As technology improves, most of today's factory workers, no matter where they live, will eventually lose their jobs too. What does all this mean? It means lamenting the off-shoring of jobs is useless. It also means that if we don't change how we think about economics, as the population grows, poverty will grow too... and along with it, the discontent, instability and war that more poverty will bring.

Owners of businesses hire employees to do work that needs to be done. To be successful, a smart owner will take advantage of technological improvements as they become available. As owners install new technology, each worker's productivity increases, reducing the number of employees needed to produce the same level of output. That also means a larger percentage of the profits generated by the business filters up to the owner as labor costs decline more than does the cost of new equipment.

After awhile, most of the workers who allow owners to move through this process and eventually become rich and successful, will no longer work there. They will never share, be acknowledged for, or be fully compensated for the contribution they made to the owner's success. As jobs shrink, the number of people

who can do the jobs that remain, increases, and that means there is less and less pressure for wages to increase.

You can do your own mind experiment. Look into the distant future and imagine the owner of a business one day logging onto his computer in the morning, and after reading yesterday's stock market results, he clicks a button which in turn begins the manufacture of widgets in a factory in some distant country where almost no humans work because all tasks are done by robots, machines, and computers. The owner and his skeleton crew of remotely located programmers, designers, and material handlers are the only humans involved in the business. This imaginary business should inspire us to think about what society is going to look like a few years from now as we move closer to the end point of the trajectory we're on.

What kind of society do we want to live in and how will things work as we move closer to this evolving reality. The old models begin to break down as populations grow, technology advances, and resources become increasingly scarce. Part of the confusion we face today is that some of the dislocations we anticipate are already in play while most of us are still mentally tied to a set of unexamined assumptions that perhaps worked fine just a few years ago but not any longer.

Forbes recently reported that the richest four hundred Americans are all billionaires. A billion dollars is a thousand million dollars. Does anyone need to be that wealthy?

Does any one person really EARN that much money? Many of these billionaires are simply inheritors of other people's wealth, having contributed nothing at all to society in the process of acquiring it. Does it make sense for human beings living on planet earth to arrange their political economy in a way that divvies up resources this way... where a few people are able to accumulate vast riches while billions of others live in abject poverty, lacking the power, resources, or knowledge of how to improve their condition? This system was designed by and is maintained by human beings who are not programmed by nature to behave this way.

When you have a billion dollars, I'm sure the system doesn't seem like such a problem. What is the incentive for the wealthiest citizens on planet Earth to want to change things?

Probably not much.

My own mind experiments have convinced me that if we don't come to view a certain minimum lifestyle as a basic human right — one that allows all people to live lives of dignity even though they may not have a good paying job— then what we think of as democracy cannot be sustained. Nor

can peace or civility. The junk mail we receive every day already gives us a sense of how desperate some people are to make a living... even in the United States. To move to something that is sustainable will require that we come to value all people as brothers and sisters, without regard to how much money they make or how successful they are at giving some of us everything we think we need or want.

One thing we do know is that we don't have to do a mind experiment to know how tax breaks offered to the wealthiest among us will turn out. We remember that this concept was sold to us with the idea that it helps new businesses get started which in turn increases employment. We now know that this so-called trickle down approach, which sounds good in political speeches, simply does not work. It can improve GDP. It can even grow the economy. But these statistics do not describe the result: a nation of great economic disparity between the owners of capital and underemployed workers who get used and discarded as if they were nothing more than obsolete equipment.

Regarding Vice Presidents

9/3/08

The latest flap over John McCain's selection of a running mate raises an issue that should be of concern to all citizens but is almost never brought up in polite company. The issue is this: the framers never in their wildest dreams ever considered that a Vice President should unilaterally be selected by a Presidential candidate and automatically come into office on his or her coattails. In fact, the Constitution says that on election day, the President and Vice President should be voted for on separate ballots.

"The Electors shall... ..name in their ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as Vice-President, and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice-President and of the number of votes for each, which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate..." ...Amendment 12

In other words, the President and Vice-President were conceived to handle two separate administrative functions. The Vice President was never supposed to be an assistant president, nor

were they supposed to come into office as a duo, partnership, or team.

The job of the VP includes the responsibility of taking over the President's duties when the President is unable to act. And if the Vice President can't act, then it's the Speaker of the House who assumes that responsibility.

This design and intent is, in itself, further evidence that the Framers considered Congress and not the President to be the main governing body. The President is supposed to be the executive administrator of the laws that Congress puts in place. The Vice President was specifically given the job of President of the Senate. That was in the days when the Senate was actually a functioning body where individual representatives came together to debate issues and arrive at legislation for the good of the people. In that context, the Vice President held a key position because the Senate was where the action was and as President of the Senate he was in the middle of that action. Of course, that's when Senators actually talked to one another and ironed things out amongst themselves, each taking personal responsibility for their own research, opinions and actions.

Nowadays, there is almost no debate and the Senate floor is mostly empty even when the Senate is in session because most of the Senators

are out raising money for their next election, leaving it to their staff or the staff at party headquarters to tell them what to think and how to vote when they eventually show up at work. Apparently most Senators are too busy for something so mundane as reading and understanding the legislation they sign or the implications of what lobbyists have decided to put into that proposed legislation before it comes up for vote.

Having a President choose a running mate is about as undemocratic as you can get, given that there is a relatively high probability that any sitting Vice President will eventually become President. In essence, instead of the People choosing the next President, you have one person exerting overwhelming power and influence over the process, which in effect is playing Russian roulette with democracy, because Presidential candidates have a penchant for choosing running mates who otherwise would never be considered qualified if they had to run for such a high office on their own merit.

Originally, it was the runner up in the race for President who automatically became Vice President, which tells you how far away we are now from what the framers originally had in mind.

Of course the framers didn't anticipate how casually citizens and elected officials would honor

their responsibilities and how much power representatives would abdicate in favor of lobbyists, corporations, and political parties. Perhaps the current arrangement wouldn't be so dangerous if office holders weren't so casual about their awesome responsibilities.

It should be clear by now to any observer, that we have not, through experience, perfected the system by which we govern ourselves according to what is best for society as a whole and our posterity. Money should play no role in influencing elected officials on what to think or how to legislate. But you can't get elected without such large sums of money and that means very few of the people who are able to get elected are willing to change things for the better, even though plenty of lip service is paid in the worship of that elusive mirage. When you think about it, it's kind of interesting and strange how that works.

A smaller government wouldn't be better and government will never be smaller than it is. Why? Because WE are the government. Every decision affecting our lives will get made no matter how many people are on the government payroll. What we should be asking ourselves, is who is going to make the critical decisions facing our nation and how much character and wisdom will the people who make those decisions have... and whose interest will they be serving when they make them.

This brings us full circle back to the Republican convention where we can begin to see what happens when Constitutional principles are constantly being eroded. In fact, I can now report that the Constitution that was written to protect citizens from autocratic government, apparently no longer functions as intended.

The current administration, which received from a Democratically controlled congress, unfettered authority to tap the phones and search the email of US citizens, has now used those powers to intimidate citizens out of exercising their first amendment rights.

Teams of police were sent to raid homes, confiscate computers, and manhandle citizens when it was suspected that the folks staying there were thinking about legally and non-violently protesting at the convention. What would they be protesting about: the erosion of our Constitutional rights and the rule of law. In truth, freedom will wither and die wherever there is no privacy or protection from government corruption and excess.

At the convention itself, reporters, such as Amy Goodman from Democracy Now!, were arrested with press pass in hand simply for showing up... not to protest, but to report on what was happening.

This loss of freedom, and perhaps the loss of our Constitution itself, might actually be attributable to the ability of presidential candidates being able to unilaterally choose their vice-presidential running mates rather than have vice-presidential candidates compete for that office on same terms required of any other candidate for elective office.

Keepers of the Flame

7/24/08

The Constitution of the United States is America's founding document. The principles embodied in it, conceived by our Founders, are the heart and soul of our republic. The Constitution is our eternal flame which each of us has pledged to keep alive. Should the flame die, so do we as a people... for what binds us together is our commitment to our principles and our love for one another. That love is expressed by our willingness even to die if necessary so that our neighbors, friends and family might continue to live in freedom under a just rule of law.

Every few years, we choose among ourselves (which is to say, 300,000,000 of us), only 537 representatives who we deem worthy to be primary keepers of the flame: a President, a Vice-President, 435 Members of the House of Representatives, and 100 Senators. We don't fill every position every election cycle, but eventually all must stand before the larger community in order that the People might decide who will have the honor and burden of fulfilling a sacred duty.

During an election year, citizens who feel that they are able and willing to honorably execute the responsibilities of public office... announce their candidacy. It is common for candidates to make

promises and outline their views on a broad range of topics so that the electorate might get a sense of who they are, how they think, and how competent they might be to meet the challenges they are likely to face if elected to office.

Finally the electorate chooses which of the available candidates they think will best represent them. Despite promises any candidate might make, the Constitution itself asks that citizens consider one qualification to be supreme among all others: that he or she must first and foremost be capable of keeping his or her word... to faithfully preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States against degradation or attack from any source, foreign or domestic. That's why no elected official is allowed to serve without first taking an oath that they will faithfully preserve and protect the Constitution.

We are a government of, by, and for the People. We elect representatives, which is to say we delegate authority to them, to carry out a sacred trust— keeping our treasured document secure. If representatives refuse or falter in carrying out that duty, it is our obligation to take back that authority, and to once again secure the nation's treasure for ourselves and our posterity as we see fit.

I say to you now... our representatives have refused... they have faltered... they have failed ...

to honor the oath of which I speak. But we must not fail. We are the People—the last line of defense—the true keepers of the Flame. We must stand up once again to secure our nation’s treasure. It is up to us to do it, for there is no one else left to do it but us.

My name is Mark A. Goldman. My web site is www.gpln.com. I am a candidate for Congress, seeking to represent the people in the 7th District of Washington State in the U.S. House of Representatives. Vote for me, so together we might keep the flame alive.

Capitalism and Democracy - Part 2

7/16/08

This Part 2 commentary is a follow up to something I wrote on 7/10/08 by the same name. I want to clarify a couple of points...

First of all Capitalism and Democracy need not be incompatible with one another; they just happen to be that way right now in the United States.

The point here is that in a democracy, (or to be more accurate, in a republic such as the one conceived by our Founders), We the People are supposed to be self-governing—the supreme creators, designers, managers, and deciders of how our society will work, including how we will distribute among ourselves, the benefits that accrue from the wisdom and hard work of our citizens.

But when you have a government that no longer respects the sovereignty of its People and an economic system that works for the benefit of the few rather than for the many, you are no longer living in the same republic that was conceived by the Founders. Today, this is where we find ourselves. For example, consider how our government is handling the much publicized mortgage debacle. To obtain a rational understanding of what the government is doing,

compared to what they should be doing, [click here](#).

Capitalism has been used strategically by the wealthiest among us, to transfer wealth from the middle class (and others who are vulnerable), to themselves—believing that they have the right to maximize their own wealth even at the expense of the public good just because they can. In fact, many believe that’s what capitalists are supposed to do. They will even make a public relations effort to argue that their right to do that actually benefits everyone. The truth is...it doesn’t.

Part of how they accomplish their goals is to corrupt the political process so that representatives are maneuvered (perhaps willingly) to give their allegiance to them rather than to us.

Capitalists with assistance from their controlled political and media pawns have used their power to disseminate lies using all sorts of disinformation strategies for their own purposes. So much so, that We the People have lost touch with who we are, where we came from, what our responsibilities are, and where we should be going.

Government officials got the idea that they could get away with governing this way through experience. We inadvertently led them to the inescapable conclusion that we are too busy, too

disorganized, too divided, too uninformed, and too complacent to understand or care about what they are up to. They learned that our attention could easily be misdirected with slick sleight of hand public relations propaganda that obscures reality. They learned that the money to purchase that propaganda was more important to getting themselves reelected than simply working hard and doing a good job.

So now [they don't bother](#) to do an honest day's work, and we don't bother to keep track of what they actually do or don't do; they only have to make sure they can raise enough money to run sophisticated advertising campaigns at election time to keep themselves in office. That's their strategy for job security. It works. I once read that there is less turnover in Congress than there used to be in the Soviet Politburo. They don't accomplish that simply by doing a good job.

All this didn't happen at once. It evolved over time. We citizens learned to be complacent while capitalists and government officials learned that we could be easily manipulated into remaining that way.

Now this is not a secret. While we've been walking around uninformed and semi-conscious, the rest of the world has been passing us by. We've been busy listening to the voices chosen for us by our corporate owned [media](#), whose job it

is, is to keep telling us that we are the salt of the Earth, the best in the world at just about everything; that we have nothing to learn from other points of view or even from the successes already achieved by other societies. Consider....

1. We are the wealthiest nation in the world and yet other countries are able to provide all of their citizens with free health-care and manage to do it at less expense, while still achieving lower infant mortality rates and longer life expectancies than we have?
2. How come other nations offer their people a shorter workweek, longer paid vacations, and, on average, a more secure economic safety net than our citizens have?
3. How come the citizens of other democracies have much broader participation in their government, including political representation from many political parties representing a wider spectrum of ideas? ... in other words, more democracy.
4. How come other countries are able to offer a better education to all their children and in many cases, a free or near free college education to all who are qualified as well?
5. How come other countries are able to offer their citizens greater consumer protection against unscrupulous and irresponsible corporations?
6. How come we spend so much of our human and financial capital on building weapons

and making war when it only [wastes resources](#) and transfers so much of our wealth to those who gain from other people's suffering?

7. How come the citizens of other nations are informed about the crimes and injustices perpetrated by our government against other people in our name, while we, the stakeholders, remain largely oblivious?

Now I'm not suggesting that other countries do everything better than we do. We do a lot of things better than anyone else. But what harm would it be to learn from the success of others so we might enjoy the same benefits? Americans are internationally famous for being arrogant and uninformed. It's very costly. We've lost perspective and insight into what is possible.

There's been a steady transfer of wealth in this country from the less well off to the very well off. The wealthiest among us like it that way. But it's corruption and a betrayal of our national purpose.

Here's a quote from something I wrote on March 21, 2001 in response to Bush's then new tax plan after hearing him describe it to us. You can read the rest of my comment in my book, [*The Answer*](#):

"The Bush plan is the greatest rip off that has ever been postulated. It probably represents the largest single publicly sponsored transfer of wealth from the poor to the rich that was ever

purposely devised. It does this in two ways, neither of which is intuitively obvious, and I'll explain that in a minute. But make no mistake about it. Every time a wealthy individual or corporation uses money or influence to buy special favors from government, it robs the public treasury, steals from the poor, and diminishes every American and every American dream. And that's what's happening here."

I knew immediately that Bush's plan was a deception as soon as he opened his mouth to talk about it. Of course, I had the advantage of having studied economics and finance in school. The only reason I decided to write about it was that there was hardly anyone else expressing my point of view in the mainstream media. It was a moment of personal disillusionment. I thought to myself, where are all the economists, economics professors, and political scientists who should be able to see that he is outright lying about what his plan is designed to accomplish.

And when Bush and his enablers decided that torture, invasions of privacy, illegal occupations of other countries, and even the discarding of Constitutional provisions that define our own national soul...was now going to be the accepted norm, where were all the lawyers in the country who took an oath to preserve and protect the Constitution? Where were all the members of

Congress who took an oath of office to do the same? And didn't we all make that pledge too?

Where is everybody? What has happened to our sense of decency and love of freedom?

We need to do better than this if we want to survive as a free country. We should give some thought to these things before we step up to the voting booth this next election.

“Liberty lies in the hearts and minds of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it...”

—Judge Learned Hand

Capitalism and Democracy - Part 1

7/10/08

I have a degree in economics and an MBA in Finance both from respected schools. You might say that my education in finance and economics celebrated capitalism. And so did I for a long time.

Now, after more than 40 years of experience as citizen, financial professional, and participant in our economy, I have come to the conclusion that capitalism, as we know it, doesn't work as advertised and is unsustainable. It doesn't make most people rich; it makes most people poor. Most of the world exists under capitalist regimes and most of the world's citizens are poor. In addition to that, the notion that capitalism and democracy are almost synonymous, which is what we were all taught to believe almost as a religion, is patently false. One look at China ought to disabuse anyone of that myth.

Capitalism and democracy are two different things: one is an economic system that supposedly describes a system by which goods and services can equitably and efficiently be distributed among participants, and the other is a political system that supposedly describes the method by which power can be equitably distributed among citizens in a manner that

allows them to be self-governed. The two actually are at odds with one another.

There's nothing democratic about capitalism. It is only well executed propaganda that lures us into believing that one compliments the other. It's nonsense. Left unchecked, capitalism leads to the tyranny of workers. And in America today, capitalism is essentially unchecked. Dr. Michael Parenti, a well-known professor, lecturer and political scientist, says it best.

(<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article11635.htm>)

He points out that it is only a myth that the affluent middle class in America came about because of capitalism. In fact, the middle class in America became affluent only because a lot of brave people fought many long hard battles against America's capitalists. Now we're not talking here about small entrepreneurs — the small mom and pop businesses that populate the American landscape. We're talking about the large multinational corporations and their owners that control the lion's share of our financial wealth.

A hundred years ago in America, capitalism was in its prime. Capitalists did not go into business with the idea of creating wealth for the middle class. As Parenti says, they went into business to create wealth for themselves. Capitalists are interested in labor only as a unit of production.

They are very much interested in reducing the costs of production in order to improve profits. If you visited a factory in New York in the early 1900's what you would find would be children working 18 hour shifts and women working in sweat shops in stifling and obnoxious unsafe conditions.

The middle class came about through blood and sacrifice after facing brutal opposition. It was the resistance to capitalism—a great class struggle—that gave rise to the middle class in America and a great many died or were brutalized in the process. It was the unions and citizen revolts that fought for child labor laws, women's rights, workers rights, and civil rights. Injuries and death in coal mines and factories were epidemic and would still be so were it not for the brave men and women who fought for safety standards, employee benefits, and decent work hours and conditions.

Capitalists will and always have, taken every opportunity to reduce wages and externalize their costs by exploiting human and natural resources whenever possible, leaving poverty and pollution in its wake... sometimes to the point of human and environmental death. Capitalism makes capitalists rich at the expense of workers and society. American workers got zilch until our great grandparents struggled and demanded their share of the spoils. Of course once capitalists

were forced to provide decent wages and benefits, they then put a happy public relations face on it so they could cynically take credit for how beneficial their corporations have been for the American worker. Still, in every economic downturn, workers are the first to be laid off while the corporate elite keep their jobs or are offered golden parachutes to retire early.

But capitalists are relentless. Today, many of the gains made decades ago through brutal struggles have been reversed, with modern day Democrats as well as Republicans leading the way.

Now Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are in their sights. Unions are mostly gone, manufacturing plants have been sent abroad where labor is cheap, and even white collar jobs now are being outsourced to India and China. Capitalists aspire to take the American worker right back to where they were in the early 1900s. The struggle for both political and economic freedom was hard fought, and many of those freedoms are now disappearing or being degraded. We have forgotten to teach our children how we got here. That lack of historical understanding is costing us and them dearly.

When capitalism is allowed to flourish unchecked, democracy suffers. Lawmakers pay little heed to so-called constituents nowadays. Money has corrupted our elected officials and we are fast

morphing into our own form of fascism. Without an awake, educated and motivated citizenry, democracy cannot survive. The greed, hypocrisy, and dishonesty that capitalists and lawmakers currently celebrate are a lethal and growing cancer on our republic.

The result of decades of lies and deceit is now coming home to roost: Our economy is at the worst state I've seen it in 40 years. It is not a natural disaster; it is a man-made disaster.

Broke and betrayed, the average American worker will wake up one day and wonder what happened to their lifestyle and their freedom. It will have been stolen right out from under our noses. Capitalists are moving East where there are new opportunities. General Motors is going bankrupt in the US, but is thriving in China.

Frankly, I don't think this ship can be turned around now before citizens experience a great amount suffering... and turning it around is going to take more than simply replacing a Republican president with a Democrat. As this American tragedy unfolds before my eyes, I am struck by the fact that I don't know many people who even want to understand what is happening to them. Unfortunately, that won't keep it from happening.

Introducing myself as a Candidate

6/11/2008

On March 5, 2007, I [announced my candidacy](#) for President of the United States. That's why some of my commentaries refer to me as a candidate for president. That was long before [Ralph Nader](#) entered the race. Now I no longer think that my candidacy for President serves a useful purpose.

I decided instead to seek the US Congressional House seat in my district (7th District, WA State).

We need legislators who understand the issues and have the courage to pursue them.

On June 9, 2008, seven days after I enrolled myself as a candidate for Congress, Dennis Kucinich finally entered articles of impeachment against George W. Bush. Surrounded by empty seats in the House Chamber, Kucinich completed the reading of his impeachment document at midnight EST.

Perhaps the major reason for my decision to run for Congress, was that my incumbent opponent, for more than four years, refused to enter [articles of impeachment](#) when he was asked to do so... by me and others. Of course, I could be running for Congress in any district in America and say the same thing.

The price paid for his/their negligence has indeed been dear. Though late in coming, this turn of events by Kucinich represents a great opportunity for Congress and for all of us to redeem ourselves by finally taking responsibility for the crimes and injustices that have been committed by Bush and his many enablers... we among them. Why do I say "we"? Because Bush's crimes were perpetrated day in and day out almost from the moment he stepped foot into the White House and it was [our responsibility](#) to stop him when we saw that he was an out of control criminal running amuck and that our representatives were stupified like [deer in headlights](#).

If you think my attitude has a twinge of anger in it, you are not mistaken. I am not happy at what has happened to us, to the rule of law, and to the millions of people whose lives have been trampled upon by my country and my people. But I have not lost my love for you.

Perhaps if I were a lawyer, like say, Hillary Clinton, or a law professor and legal scholar like Barack Obama, or if I had been a prisoner of war like John McCain and had a lot of time on my hands to think about it, maybe I could think of a crime that George W. Bush and [his staff and military enablers](#) didn't commit, but for the life of me, off the top of my head, I find it difficult to think of one: from petty larceny to [grand larceny](#), from [lying to a nation to instigate illegal wars](#), to

rape¹, [torture](#), [murder](#), [obstruction of justice](#), [criminal negligence](#), crimes against humanity, any [number](#) of war crimes, [illegal renditions](#), [kidnapping](#), [illegal detentions](#), [bribery](#), [war profiteering](#), [subversion of the Constitution](#), [extra judicial executions](#), [invasion of privacy](#), [moral turpitude](#), [malfeasance in office](#), [corruption of subordinates](#) and [the media](#), [fraud](#)... and the list goes [on](#) and [on](#). Can you think of a crime the Bush Administration didn't commit? Not an easy task.

I and many others spent more than a few years [trying to defend our Constitution](#), which is to say, trying to defend our children and our grandchildren from [these criminals](#)... while those who took a sacred oath to do the same... refused.

Now I'm asking for the opportunity to represent you, hopefully with more wisdom and courage than those now serving. We have a lot of work to do. Do you think the same people who have been there these last eight years have the vision, integrity and character to do what needs to be done...?

My extensive writings, which state clearly [what I stand for](#) and what you might expect from me, are available at my [web site](#). Given how the [main stream media](#) usually treats independent or minor party candidates, the best way for you to

get to [know me](#) will be by reading my [books](#) and/or [commentary](#).

I'm not asking for money, but I would like your vote. If you think I'm worth supporting, you might forward this introduction to people you know and/or to folks you think might care.

This is how I intend to run my campaign: No paid commercials. If I'm invited to speak someplace, I might welcome the opportunity, but I'm not going to be engaged in fund raising of any kind. I don't think it should be necessary. Do you really need to see signs in every yard and a lot of hoopla to [vote responsibly](#)?

Most people can read, think, and act with purpose when they really want to, and in my view, this would be [a perfect time](#) in the life of our damaged republic for [citizens](#) to want to.

If you care about our country, our children's future, and our world, you will read what I have to say and then vote as your [conscience dictates](#).

Some say money rules politics in America. I say, when you enter the voting booth no one can tell you how to vote no matter how much money they have or how much [propaganda](#) fills the airwaves to misinform you.

I am asking you to have the courage to [think for yourself](#) and to vote with honor when you pull that lever or check that box.

I have no political advisors, ghostwriters, speechwriters, or pollsters. I believe that telling the [truth](#) and restoring the rule of law is the only way out of the [morass](#) in which we find ourselves. At least that's where we need to begin. Read my basic [platform](#) for a quick overview of what I think is important and where I stand on many issues.

I imagine you will not agree with everything I have to say. I might not have all the skills or attributes you think a public servant ought to have. I'm not claiming to be a perfect human being. But I've done my best to be a responsible citizen and now I'm prepared to do the same as your representative in Congress, if you decide you want to [hire me](#).

In any event, thank you for taking time to read this and for seriously considering whether or not to read more.

In a spirit of friendship and [brotherhood](#)...

[Mark A. Goldman](#)

Candidate for Congress, 7th District

Washington State

(Let me suggest that you go back now, if you haven't already done so, and click the underlined links embedded in what you've just read for important background and/or contextual information.)

¹[What was her name.](#)

If you have questions regarding my views or my candidacy please [click here](#):

Sudoku as a Model for Finding Freedom, Peace and Happiness

5/21/08

For a while my wife was hooked on Sudoku. Eventually my curiosity got the better of me and I took a look to see what she was doing. For a week or two, I tried my own hand at solving these puzzles until I found some that were so difficult that I concluded that to continue to agonize over them was just a waste of time.

Then it occurred to me that finding freedom, peace, and happiness is sort of like trying to solve a tough Sudoku puzzle.

If you don't know what a Sudoku puzzle is, let me take a moment to show you. Here's a sample puzzle that was laid out for Wikipedia by a fellow named Larry Gilbert :

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

The object is to use your cognitive abilities to fill in the blank squares in such a way that each row of 9 little squares and each column of 9 little squares contains all the numbers 1 through 9 in no particular order... in addition, you have to make sure that each of the 9 regions (the internal blocks of 3x3 squares) also contains all the numbers 1 through 9. When you've done all that, you've solved the puzzle. For each puzzle there is only one unique solution. In this case, the solution to the puzzle is as follows:

5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
6	7	2	1	9	5	3	4	8
1	9	8	3	4	2	5	6	7
8	5	9	7	6	1	4	2	3
4	2	6	8	5	3	7	9	1
7	1	3	9	2	4	8	5	6
9	6	1	5	3	7	2	8	4
2	8	7	4	1	9	6	3	5
3	4	5	2	8	6	1	7	9

Well what does this have to do with freedom, peace or happiness? First of all let me remind you that I said that finding these things is sort of like solving a Sudoku puzzle. Maybe not exactly. Nevertheless, there are interesting parallels to consider. Let me explain:

For example, if you consider that the overall puzzle represents the total universe of human existence, let each of the 9 regions (the nine blocks of 3x3 squares) represent sub sets of the whole. Each of these regions might represent a different country, state, person, religion, language, ethnic or socioeconomic group, etc. Now the members of each of these regions have certain common goals or values that they hold dear and important. Let us postulate for a moment that our job as sentient and caring human beings is to figure out how to organize ourselves (our politics, our economics, and our attitudes) in such a way that each region is able to fulfill all the critical elements they need, sufficient for that group to obtain a respectable level of happiness and success.

If we made it a point to solve world or national problems with this attitude about winning, (which is to say, winning is like satisfying all the terms of a Sudoku puzzle) perhaps eventually we'd have a world that works for everyone, with no one left out and no more need for war.

What I like about this model for solving problems is that it gives us an idea of what it really means to be responsible: the fundamental rule of this game is, that this game isn't over until everyone gets to win. You don't win until everyone wins.

Of course you might guess that winning isn't necessarily going to be easy. Maybe it's even more challenging than the toughest Sudoku puzzle.

Now in real life there might be more than one solution, but then again, maybe not. We won't know until we get there. But each player needs to be willing to stick it out until every aspect of the game is satisfied. You can't just go out and get say, "*I've got the 5, 7, 9, and 3 for myself or my region... I'm done*" if that's what you need, and then build a wall around your region and not care about all the other players just because you got all of your 9. That would be cheating. Intellectual integrity means you don't get to cheat. You have to stay with the problem—i.e., stay in the game—until the game is finished, which is to say, until everyone gets to win, not just you.

So, if you discover that the way you arranged your numbers makes it impossible for everyone else to win (even though it works perfectly for you), well you have to rethink the arrangement... not because anyone will force you to, but because those are the rules of the game, and you're a decent honest person who doesn't want to win by cheating.

I know it's hard to go to all that extra trouble of rearranging things just when you thought you'd won, but those are the rules. In fact, after all this

time, we should be able to conclude that probably... those really are the rules.... and we've all been cheating without realizing it.

Anyway, I think it's possible for all of us to win. I think we're all supposed to win. We all are entitled to our basic rights and freedoms and that includes whatever it takes for each of us to live with real dignity. To be a responsible human being means you will never be wholly free, happy, or at peace until everyone else also has a real opportunity to be free, happy, and at peace. We're all — each of us — essential elements of what might be described as a very big Sudoku puzzle. I believe, until we reach this goal, the closest any of us will get to true happiness will be when we've arrived at being fully engaged at least in trying to solve this life game of Sudoku.

Sudoku is good practice and a good reminder of what it really means and what it really takes to win in this life. Try a few puzzles yourself. Then, once you get the hang of it, you might want to try your skill at playing in the big game.

Now in this regard, here's a link to a strategy I've been thinking about for a long time that I believe could move us closer to the goal ... I'm hoping one day to get enough players together to really try it out in earnest:

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<http://www.gpln.com/udhr.html>

For an interesting application that my dear friend Ken Simpson created using Microsoft Excel, try this link: <http://www.starcastlefarm.com/XL.htm>. It allows you to enter your own Sudoku puzzle into the program and then work on it on your own computer, and it even offers hints when you get stuck. — Ken died in 2012 and he was someone who understood exactly what I'm talking about because that's how he played the game whenever he could.

Reality

5/6/08

These are interesting times. With oil trading above \$100/barrel, a larger portion of our national wealth is being spent on energy.

We are very near or already at what geologists call peak oil. Peak oil is the point at which the maximum rate that oil can be extracted from the earth's crust has been reached. From that point forward extraction rates can only relentlessly decline due to geological and technological realities. Prior to peak oil it was usually possible to extract as much oil as we needed to meet growing demand while keeping prices relatively low. After peak oil it will be impossible to do that. From now on, oil will become increasingly scarce.

The black gold will still be allocated according to price, but as supplies dwindle and prices increase, more and more people will become less affluent, i.e., poorer than they used to be. The age of cheap energy is over. Unfortunately, soon this will be true for all non-renewable resources as well.

This means that our economy, which runs on oil, will not be able to sustain current rates of growth indefinitely, if at all. Pundits on TV are discussing how long it's going to take before the current

recession will turn around and we come out the other side ready for the next round of growth. In my view, this recession is not going to end any time soon and without appropriate leadership it might not end in our lifetimes. The result might easily look like an economy in the throes of a long lasting slow motion train wreck.

If this sounds like a dire prediction, it doesn't have to be... but it very well might be. Americans, in general, seem averse to contemplating reality. Up until now it's been easy to ignore unpleasant facts. As long as energy was cheap we've been able to pursue personal interests and put most everything else out of our minds. But soon reality is going to confront us at every turn. For some, it's already happening.

For example, without cheap oil our food supply will begin to contract. American corporate agriculture runs on oil. It takes oil to prepare the earth, it takes oil to fertilize the fields, it takes oil to harvest the crops, it takes oil to kill the bugs, it takes oil to ship the produce, it takes oil to keep things cold, and it takes oil to cook our food.

Meanwhile, bees are dying, bats are dying, while our oceans are being over-fished, polluted with non-biodegradable plastics, and poisoned with PCBs and other chemicals.

Now consider, the cost of fuel is not going to go down except for short-term market fluctuations.

Producing energy efficient cars will help, but our oil based, combustion engine based economy, is coming to a close. Replacement technologies are not in place and it takes time to build infrastructure. The longer we delay the development of enlightened energy and transportation strategies, the longer and deeper economic dislocations will be.

A lot of people don't have much money now and they have less credit and are less credit worthy than they used to be. We are the only industrialized nation with a zero to negative savings rate. Very few industries do not in some way depend on energy and at the same time nearly every corporation in America is committed to growing their profits at double-digit rates.

There is not going to be double-digit growth in America. If significant growth occurs it will probably take place in emerging markets but only to the extent that energy allows. In the US, where citizens, government, and corporate executives are somewhat delusional, without society reinventing itself, the economy will decline or stagnate. You can argue these points with me, and I'm always open to it, but in the end, reality will settle the argument.

As corporate executives confront this reality, one can only imagine what kinds of strategies they will use to try to insure their double-digit goals.

Their strategies have been evolving for a long time. Look how much effort and money they expend corrupting government policy and officials with their teams of lawyers and lobbyists. Why do they do that? Because they don't know how to earn double-digit growth legitimately. The only way they can do it is to dip into our pockets and extract our wealth through deceit, corruption and back door government collusion.

Peak oil has been kept a corporate and government secret since 1956. We could have been planning for it all along had not a cadre of corporate and government power brokers diverted our public wealth into their self serving strategies.

So now we have some very severe problems facing us. From government we get lies, secrecy, and obfuscation to prevent what citizens might do if we only understood how we've all been cheated.

Officials are not stupid or uninformed... They know and accept that we are in Iraq to control resources. They knew if they had told us what they were up to in the beginning, we wouldn't have let them get away with defacing the Constitution, murdering a million people and injuring and displacing millions more to take control of the oil. They sugar coat and lie now about almost everything they do. No matter what

the politicians tell you, we are not leaving Iraq, at least not until we are sure that we will have certain unfettered access to the oil... or until we have some enlightened leadership.

It's important to understand this: If we approach these problems with anger, fear, and knee jerk responses, we will surely make things much worse. And yet for an awful lot of people, that will be the initial response to being confronted with, and being awakened by — reality. The problems we face are solvable. Human beings are capable of great creativity, compassion, and sacrifice. But we can't solve problems if we are afraid to talk about them, and we can't manifest a creative environment for developing solutions if we are afraid to tell the truth. The truth about what? In this case, the truth about everything! It should be obvious by now, that you can't lie about some things and expect that those lies will not eventually poison or corrupt most everything else. The health and well being of every human soul is in some way dependent, interconnected and related to every other.

We can't arrive at optimum solutions if we are so afraid to think for ourselves and examine our preconceived ideas and accepted myths. I don't think we will be able to find meaningful solutions to the problems we face, unless the great majority of us become willing to change our

interests, our habits, and our attitudes. This is not going to be easy.

At first, very few politicians, corporate executives, or religious leaders will look kindly on the prospect of examining the delusions and myths we grew up with. In fact they will probably go to any extreme to tell you what I'm saying is just a lot of nonsense. No one who has influence and power over others will want to give it up. But make no mistake... as Dr. Barlett¹ says, the problems are all going to get solved... the only question is how painful is it going to be and will these problems get solved with any semblance of compassion, justice and fairness?

If we attempt to look out only for ourselves, we can be pretty sure that's what others will do too. And if we do that, I can assure you, the suffering will be unprecedented. We are all members of one family. We need to remember that and realize that every one of us has a stake in finding viable solutions, where no one is left out, and where no one will be asked or be required to sacrifice their basic rights or dignity.

¹ <http://www.gpln.com/thinkforyourself.htm>

New:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aXRmMNVuTd5U&refer=home>

Thinking for Yourself

5/1/08

Here's something worth watching. It illustrates why education and intellectual integrity is so important and why it's important to think for yourself. Never blindly accept the word of an expert without thinking critically about it yourself... and understanding exponential functions can indeed be important.

Here Dr. Albert Bartlett explains why using your own head is what it's there for. Watch this video (all 8 parts). Superb presentation. See what you think.

The most important video you will ever see... 8 parts

Part 1 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-QA2rkpBSY&p=6A1FD147A45EF50D&index=1&feature=BF>

Part 2 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pb3JI8F9LQQ&p=6A1FD147A45EF50D&index=2&feature=BF>

Part 3 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CFyOw9lgtjY&p=6A1FD147A45EF50D&index=3&feature=BF>

Part 4 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yQd-VGYX3-E&p=6A1FD147A45EF50D&index=4&feature=BF>

Part 5 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHuwgxrTKPo&p=6A1FD147A45EF50D&index=5&feature=BF>

Part 6 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3y7UIHdhAU&p=6A1FD147A45EF50D&index=6&feature=BF>

Part 7 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RyseLQVpJEI&p=6A1FD147A45EF50D&index=7&feature=BF>

Part 8 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VoiiVnQadwE&p=6A1FD147A45EF50D&index=8&feature=BF>

[My comment on Dr. Barlett's presentation.](#)

Oil, Smoke, and Mirrors

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article15264.htm>

Presentation by Richard Heinberg

<http://transitionculture.org/2008/05/02/richard-heinberg-on-resilient-communities/>

Peak Oil: Alternatives, Renewables, and Impacts

<http://www.peakoilassociates.com/POAnalysis.html>

Must see video... some perspective... Parenti sometimes called a radical... that's what some people are called who engage in thinking for themselves and having the audacity to tell the truth. This video from Oct. 9, 2002...

Dr. Michael Parenti: "Terrorism, Globalization and Conspiracy"

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article11635.htm>

Superb interview with Michael Hudson by Mike Whitney dealing with tax policy and other economic insights:

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article20208.htm>

Another brilliant interview with Michael Hudson - not to be missed

[http://www.blackagendareport.com/index.php?](http://www.blackagendareport.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=696&Itemid=1&ref=p)

[option=com_content&task=view&id=696&Itemid=1&ref=p](http://www.blackagendareport.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=696&Itemid=1&ref=p)
[atruck.net](http://www.blackagendareport.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=696&Itemid=1&ref=p)

Unqualified

4/29/08

Barack Obama has finally done it. Obama now claims that statements by Reverend Wright “rightly offend all Americans and should be denounced.”

Well Reverend Wright’s comments don’t offend me. I would have found them refreshing had his answers and demeanor been less defensive during the question and answer period at the National Press Club. What I do find disappointing though is Obama’s inability to deal with the issues raised. He’s afraid that telling the truth will lose him the election. Maybe it would. But now we all can see, that for him, winning the election is more important than telling the truth.

Winning the election is more important than telling the truth for the other two front- runners too. That’s why none of them are qualified to be President of the United States.

<http://www.gpln.com/citizen.htm>

Certainly reconciliation between different ethnic groups or any other kinds of groups cannot happen without all parties recognizing and eventually taking responsibility for uncomfortable truths on all sides of any relevant issue.

Obama spoke eloquently about race earlier in his campaign but was unable to do the same with these new issues raised by Rev. Wright, and that's too bad. Instead of facing them, he ran for cover behind mainstream illusions.

We should be thankful that Americans are getting the opportunity to see these candidates for who they are now, in terms of their state of consciousness and how they deal with problems, rather than after the election.

McCain who claimed he was against torture, is no longer bothered by the reality of torture as long as he can point to his name being on a piece of empty legislation that offers the illusion that he deeply cares. He has no problem with Bush's signing statements, public statements, policies of unending torture, or any of the many other Bush administration abuses of the Constitution.

Clinton's level of intellectual integrity comes through loud and clear as she attacks Obama for associating with the good Reverend, so we know from just this issue, which is one among many, that she is just another Bush light when it comes to telling the American people the truth as to why this country is in the mess we're in. In all fairness, she appears not to have any idea why we are in the mess we're in, or what part failing to tell the truth plays in the decline of America's place in the world.

<http://www.gpln.com/howiseeit.htm>

So now it is ever more clear that there is no hope at all among the leading three candidates that any one of them has the courage, the consciousness, or the capacity to lead this country out of its quagmire.

<http://www.gpln.com/whotovotefor.htm>

What we need are citizen leaders and leaders in government who have a high degree of moral courage and intellectual integrity.

Where are they?

<http://www.gpln.com/nooneisleading.htm>

I've not read up on specifically why Reverend Wright charges that the US government has or had a direct role in spreading AIDS in the Black community, but knowing what I know about other atrocities committed by our government, I would trust Reverend Wright now before I would trust any of the three leading candidates to talk about it.

And there's no doubt at all in my mind that the good Reverend was dead on correct when he said that the attack on the World Trade Center was a case of chickens coming home to roost.

<http://www.gpln.com/childrenofiraq.htm>

(I am not suggesting that there is not also a case to be made that 911 was allowed to take place or was a planned inside job). For Obama to attack Wright for telling the truth... calling Wright's comments ridiculous and offensive is in itself a bit ridiculous and offensive.

I suppose Obama agrees with Bush that we were attacked because of our freedoms and democracy. How Bush's nonsensical statements can be spoken in public and accepted by the media and other institutions, or believed by the American people, just shows you how much of our national honor and integrity has been shoved down those American rat holes called greed, hypocrisy, hubris, stupidity, and treason.

<http://www.gpln.com/standupforfreedom.htm>

Rev. Jeremiah Wright in his own words:

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article19836.htm>

Monsanto's Patents, Food, & its Pigs

4/28/08

On March 11 a new documentary entitled [The World According to Monsanto](#) (One Hour and 48 Minutes) was aired on French television (ARTE - French-German cultural TV channel) by French journalist and film maker Marie-Monique Robin. This is a documentary that Monsanto was hoping Americans would never see.

Another documentary called a [Patent for a Pig](#), an HTTP production for WDR Westdeutscher Rundfunk Copyrighted in 2006.

Patents are an invention supposedly endorsed by government for the general welfare and benefit of society as a whole. Is that what these patents are? What is our responsibility now that we see that illegitimate acts of deceit by a relatively few people in positions of power pose potentially irreversible risks to our health, our food supply, our freedom, and to life itself?

Living in a Dream World

4/10/08

Americans are living in a dream world.

Government doesn't work for two main reasons:

1. people who are powerful, wealthy, well trained in management, well educated in business and finance, and spiritually immature don't want it to work as it is supposed to work; and
2. those who do want it to work are, for the most part, not powerful, wealthy, well trained in management, well educated in business and finance, and most are not well informed as to its operations or failings.

Case in point: a manager who is responsible for the success of his business will fire employees who are incompetent or untrustworthy or both. People who are not competent managers don't have the temperament or good sense to do that. They will only complain about what doesn't work rather than take responsibility and do what needs to be done.

Our government doesn't work for average working Americans, the majority of whom earn medium to low wages. These people do not, on average, progress up the economic ladder or become educated as to how things work or how

to make thing work. There are certain exceptions to this rule. Breakthrough exceptions are held up for all to see by the powers that be to convince everyone else that it's their own fault that they too haven't made it yet. Everyone in the upward mobile hierarchy makes sure that the status quo doesn't change. That's part of their unwritten but well understood job description.

Less than the top 5% of wage earners in America control more than 95% of the country's financial wealth. The people you get to hear or read in the mainstream media all earn from 6 to 10 digit incomes. They are called the experts. If any expert tries to upset the status quo, they are, with few exceptions, removed from view or hearing range.

In the US House and Senate, there is less turnover of members than there used to be in the Soviet Politburo. Citizens complain loudly and eloquently, some even participate in protests and other campaigns. But they will not vote for people who could change the status quo because they are brainwashed to believe that the current system can't be changed and therefore they won't try. The current system is set up as a two party duopoly where both parties are committed to the status quo, and that two party system has arranged things so that no third party or independent candidate—people who might try to

upset the status quo—can be elected to high office.

People are too confused and dumbfounded to change this reality. I call this confusion and dumbfoundedness... living in a dream world... because that's what it is.

How can you wake someone up who lives in a dream world? You can't.

You have to wait until perhaps 3 billion people have lost everything and their children are starving. Then you have maybe a 50 - 50 chance, during a short window of opportunity, to show them a better way.

Well, perhaps its much less than a 50 -50 chance, because while you're trying to show them a better way, they will have other options from which to choose. It's amazing that human beings are as successful as they are. Come to think of it, most human beings already probably exist on less than \$2 a day.

On a planet comprised of people not living in a dream world, everyone could be successful. That human beings still don't know that, is... well, truly as amazing as it is unfortunate.

[http://video.google.com/videoplay?
docid=-515319560256183936](http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-515319560256183936)

<http://cafr1.com/Audio/GC-041108.mp3>

What About Our Money?

3/25/08

What about our money?

It's not difficult to understand. Every country can participate in the global economy in a profitable way by trading or engaging with other countries according to the comparative advantage of the costs of production of its goods and services.

Large and well endowed economies like the US can choose to make, sell, or engage in any number of activities and do so effectively. But US policy makers decided to concentrate the country's energies in one specific area, and that strategic focus, while once successful, is leading the country to its decline and ruin.

The US, through its elected and un-elected powerbrokers, has chosen to sustain itself by plundering the wealth of other nations using the comparative advantage of its overwhelming raw military superiority and/or the power that simply accrues with the control and wielding of enormous wealth.

The current administration, for example, in attacking Iraq and Afghanistan, miscalculated when it risked an estimated \$3 Trillion to plunder Middle East oil and gas reserves. We don't yet know for sure how this will play out, but so far it

looks like this gambit was orchestrated by a group of incompetent amateurs who gambled away enough resources and goodwill to bankrupt our country. In effect, they bet the entire store on this one throw of the dice. Their gross mismanagement, which springs from their philosophical and spiritual immaturity, is unraveling at breakneck speed.

To cover up their incompetence, they squandered half a century of accumulated goodwill trying to cover up their hidden agenda by convincing the American People that their war mongering was necessary to protect national security. Their plot included a series of fraudulent, criminal acts accompanied by facilitating lies which resulted in the effective overthrow of the legitimate government of the United States, corrupting in the process... the Constitution, the rule of law, critical government processes, including the role of Congress, segments of the mainstream media, and a large body of international jurisprudence.

Did they succeed? Many elected officials and a great number of government employees and corporate facilitators are co-conspirators even though most may be oblivious to the overall implications, dimensions, and context of the expanding plot.

Slowly the American people are waking up. We'll see. And what about our money? The conspirators resorted to the wholesale expansion of the money supply as a political payoff to certain elite constituents and to hide the obvious economic consequences of their failed strategy. You can't see it directly because they stopped printing M3 statistics in 2006.

These dollars continue to create asset bubbles in the housing market and in the stock market, but this deceit is unraveling, as these bubbles are unsustainable. The current credit crisis and looming inflation make it impossible now to hide the blunders and fraud that the conspirators pursued.

Soon everyone will see that it was gross negligence, deceit and fraud that undermined the economy. The nation's treasury has been plundered, the country's goodwill has been squandered, the money supply has been devalued, and the American dollar is at risk now of losing its preeminent position as the international reserve currency. The collapse of the US economy might follow, finally revealing once and for all that the plot against the American people and the people of other nations was more than a case of incompetence. I call undermining, attacking, and dismantling the Constitution — an act of treason.

Will America survive this debacle as a democratic republic? That remains to be seen. The answer to that question will likely depend on if, how, and when the American people take responsibility for the crimes that have been committed in their name by a relatively small cadre of wealthy power brokers... who still believe that war, lies, intimidation, plunder and murder offer an economic comparative advantage over truth, honor, peace, justice, and basic human rights.

If you still don't see how corruption, greed, cowardice, death, destruction, war, and a shrinking economy are inter-related and co-dependent, just be patient; one day you just might have plenty of extra time on your hands to think about it.

No One is Leading

3/23/08

The American people have no one leading the charge for the restoration of the Constitution and the rule of law.

My point is not that few Americans are engaged and energized in doing good things, but simply that there is no individual who is leading... no one with whom you and a great many others are willing stand and fight in order to defend your country and your heritage.

Vying for political leadership are the two principal nominees hoping to be the Democratic candidate for President of the United States. And there's also the Presidential candidate for the Republicans. But none of these candidates have made the ongoing perpetration of crimes — against our Constitution and the American people — an issue or a cause worth fighting for.

I'm not going to recount here all the ways that the Constitution and the rule of law have been trampled upon in recent years. A Google search on "Bush crimes" might be time well spent for anyone who needs a review.

Apparently most citizens have been talked out of their patriotism by the mainstream media, the two main political parties, and our elected officials

— those traitors who conveniently forgot their oath of office while the Constitution was being so denigrated.

One issue in the upcoming election under discussion is the ending of the war in Iraq. But on close inspection we see that that, in and of itself, would be a bogus issue. The real issue is whether we are going to recognize the illegitimacy of the war, the crimes that were committed to instigate the war, and the ongoing crimes against the Constitution and innocent people in the administration of the war. The war itself was a direct attack on the Constitution and the American people... and of course on the people of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The real issue is whether we are a nation of laws... i.e., do we believe in the rule of law... or have we simply given up on the American Experiment and the Constitution itself. If we acknowledge that the war was illegal — that egregious crimes were committed in its execution — then it will follow that we must end the war. But what follows is much more than that.

Just talking about ending the war and bringing our troops home, without addressing the shredding of the Constitution, is a betrayal of every American and every soldier who ever fought in this war or any other. Are we going to reclaim ourselves as a Constitutional republic or have we given up trying

to be the America that was originally conceived into being by the Framers?

Beyond the war and its illegality, are the following travesties that need to be addressed:

1. The illegitimate elections that fraudulently put criminals in charge of our government and kept them there.
2. The ongoing destruction of government itself by the purposeful evisceration of nearly every oversight function of government. Lies permeate government offices everywhere. That's why the economy is failing, why we have no energy policy, why our educational system is behind the rest of the developed world, why all citizens do not have access to affordable health-care, why our food supply is at risk, why our children are at risk even when they play with toys, why our infrastructure is in a state of decay, why inflation is stealing from every paycheck, why the over-bloated military industrial complex is bankrupting our country, why Congress no longer works as a body representing real people... and the list goes on and on.
3. When and how are we going to recognize and take responsibility for the crimes we have committed against other members of our human family?

If we refuse to acknowledge the crimes, and if we refuse to find and stand with a leader who is willing and able to honorably seek justice in their resolution, we will be surrendering our rights, our freedoms, and our heritage to the true enemies of our republic — we will be surrendering to ignorance, arrogance, cowardice, and greed. I invite you to review the following links as you consider your response.

<http://www.gpln.com/howiseeit.htm>

<http://www.gpln.com/citizen.htm>

<http://www.gpln.com/oneissue.htm>

<http://www.gpln.com/resolution.htm>

<http://www.counterpunch.org/cohn05062008>

Simple Strategy for Deciding How to Vote

3/5/08

Listening to presidential candidates promote themselves during this year's presidential campaign is pretty much a fruitless and counterproductive exercise. We see what's happened to our country... how our reputation has changed in the world... and how we as a people, acting through our elected officials, impacted our children and the rest of humanity since the current administration took office.

In selecting the next president and members of Congress, the most productive strategy you can adopt as a citizen, will be pursued not by listening to what any one of them has to say, but by going back and reviewing what each of them actually did or tried to do since the Bush administration began running things. Review the hard evidence. Review what they said, what they wrote, and how they voted (if they had a chance to vote).

How much leadership did they provide? That will tell you more about who they are and what you can expect from them, than who they now tell you they are, or what they tell you to expect if you elect them. Hope is one thing, responsibility is another. If they haven't been doing what you think they should have been doing all along, as

citizens and/or as public servants, you can be pretty well sure you will feel the same way 5 years from now. Hoping for something else is pie in the sky. Am I telling you something you don't already know?

Are you going to waste your vote, or are you going to use it to make a difference?

Guantanamo Comes to Main Street U.S.A.

2/24/08

They say that the difference between how democracy in Europe has evolved compared to that of the United States is that in Europe the government is afraid of the People, whereas in the United States the People are afraid of the government. That's a dangerous state of affairs and it looks like it's getting worse.

It's not only a matter of who we vote for... it's a matter of how well informed we are when we do vote... and Americans now are notorious for not being nearly as well informed as are the citizens of many other countries. And it appears that we Americans don't really think very deeply about the range of choices that are or are not available to us... and that just might be a fatal mistake.

The videos below are indicative of the evolving trend and consciousness of law enforcement in our nation. And it's our 'Shock and Awe' government, with its penchant for gratuitous and unconscionable violence — and our refusal to hold them accountable — that is reshaping the nature of civil liberties going forward in this, our 'land of the free and home of the brave.'

When we allow fear and force to dominate the way in which our government deals with people we don't know... we open the door to despotism, for surely when we fail to protect the legitimate rights of any group or person, we sow the seeds of our own destruction. Take a look at these videos if you want to know what is happening to civil liberties in our country and elsewhere. I guess for some members of our community, this is not news at all.

Apparently local law enforcement officers are now being trained to treat citizens in a manner similar to the way military personnel were trained to treat Guantanamo prisoners. Our government doesn't seem to care anymore what we think... except maybe during an election year and even then, not so much. And like the military, many police officers who have been trained to just follow orders, are doing just that...just following orders. These videos are very disturbing to watch. Do not view them unless you are prepared to be upset.

Everything by the book...?

Part 1: <http://www.wkyc.com/video/player.aspx?aid=53707&bw=>

Part 2: [Follow up](#)

Part 3: [Follow up](#)

Part 4: [Follow up](#)

Our silence and indifference to the plight of others is what allows this kind of thing to happen. We probably won't get a better wake-up call than this. No doubt bad public relations will force this kind of evidence into dark corners. The question is, will we wake up, or will we remain silent until something like this happens to someone we know and care about... or maybe to a lot of people we care about?

And there's the larger issue too: will we continue to allow our government to inflict this kind of treatment on people who are not part of our culture? If other people are not treated with the same level of respect and dignity with which we ourselves would hope to be treated, then we can be sure that sooner or later, our government will treat us the same way they treat others... The current state of affairs is unconscionable... look into your crystal ball... what do you see... ?:

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article19422.htm>

<http://www.youtube.com/v/fQnv2H4uv08&rel=1>

(the five videos listed above have been blocked or removed from the internet)

Stand Up for Freedom

1/30/08

I see that someone is exploring whether or not there is interest in having Ralph Nader run for President in 2008.

<http://www.naderexplore08.org/>

I for one am interested in having him run and would support his candidacy. I would do so because I believe that of all the people who have been candidates for President in recent memory he would make the best president. We do not need any more liars and cheats in the White House. We don't need anyone in the White House who, as a public official, failed to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution which they were honor bound to do. We don't need anyone in the White House who can't be trusted to do their best for all The People. We don't need anyone in the White House who doesn't understand the meaning of honor and integrity... who doesn't have the will to fight... who would continue to shame us for what we have allowed our country to become. I believe Ralph Nader would serve honorably. I believe he can be trusted to do what needs to be done. He believes in the rule of law and would not shirk his duty. He has the vision, the experience, the guts and the skill to be the best President we ever had. I would

vote for him. If he runs I will vote for him. I am saying this in hopes that you will finally stand up and fight for what you believe in... I hope you will let go of any fear of failure but instead stand up for what we really need now. Please click on the link above and ask him to please run for office.

Thank you,

Mark A. Goldman

On Citizenship: www.gpln.com/citizen.htm

Torture is always illegal:

<http://www.counterpunch.org/cohn05062008.html>

“Liberty lies in the hearts and minds of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it...”

—Judge Learned Hand

Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr. and Others

1/08/08

In honor of Martin Luther King I am not going to speak directly about his dream or his sacrifice.

His contribution and the contribution of all who helped make him what he was—which is to say, all those who marched, boycotted, broke the rules, sat at lunch counters and on buses, got dog bit, hand cuffed, fire hosed, jailed and billy clubbed so that he might have a platform on which to speak—cannot be properly honored with fancy words or platitudes.

I will not offer praise either... for the same reason that I sometimes feel slightly unsettled when I hear people say, “Praise the Lord,” as if praise is really what God was hoping for.

The movement that provided King the platform from which he so eloquently spoke, made great strides under his leadership, and did so in the face of terrible odds. One of King’s most important victories was having both the consciousness to recognize and the courage to then proclaim, that all people—not only Americans—are entitled to basic human rights, compassion, and respect. Today, remembering King, we are grateful for what he, and those who

marched shoulder to shoulder with him, stood for... and what they stood against.

But alas, history reminds us that the fruits of victory which are won even with enormous sacrifice—which is how our freedoms were won—are not guaranteed to last forever. The will to dominate, and other aspects of human depravity, somehow show up time and again just like hunger, poverty, and injustice do even in the midst of plenty and in the face of what we call progress.

At the close of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, when a woman asked Ben Franklin what kind of government had just been created, he replied, “A republic, madam, if you can keep it.”

That republic was only the skeleton of an idea—a promise—that Franklin knew could only be fulfilled and then periodically renewed by future generations.

A longing for universal peace, justice and freedom has been incubating in the human soul for as long as there is memory. Even the birth of our nation, in pursuit of those goals, had to wait eons for its time to come. It was the hope of the world.

Now fast-forward two centuries. In just a blink of an eye we have seen many rights and freedoms that were once secured and later defended through the sacrifice of untold quantities of

blood... and supposedly etched, as if in stone, into the hearts and minds of our countrymen... fade... as if those promises were written onto our sacred document in time-delayed invisible ink.

We have now suffered through two consecutive fraudulent national elections that installed a would-be king to the presidency—a man who calls the document on which The Great Idea of our republic is inscribed, “just a goddamn piece of paper.”

And what is left of that “goddamn piece of paper” which, for over two centuries, was the glue that held our nation together and united us as a people?...

- Habeas Corpus and the right to a fair trial ... crossed out
- Basic Principles of International Law... erased
- Treaties... no longer the Supreme Law of the Land
- War Crimes... no longer prosecuted, but sanctioned, funded, administered, and ignored
- The Right to Privacy... removed
- Cruel and Unusual Punishment... now business as usual by executive fiat

- Free Speech... relocated to a free speech zone and on it's way out
- Freedom of Religion... contorted beyond meaning and recognition
- Freedom of the Press... diminished, corrupted, and self- or state- censored
- Justice... guilty until proven innocent; while liars, cheats, and war criminals go free
- The Rule of Law... applies to some but not to all
- Separation of Powers... cancelled
- Impeachment for High Crimes and Misdemeanors... off the table

All of this made possible by public servants and citizens too, who behave as if they never read a book, visited a museum, went to school, took an oath, or pledged allegiance. The ship of state is lost at sea, captained by a would-be king, and attended to by painted courtesans, all busy defending their lust for power and feigning innocence with platitudes and half-truths.

Their handiwork has left behind a multitude of dead bodies, still uncounted. The murdered, the dispossessed, the mind-damaged, and the broken-bodied suffering souls remind us that something evil has been going on in our name that we don't understand... something that by

official decree we are forbidden to understand. We are faintly aware that something has been stolen from us and our progeny, the full accounting of which, is locked up, hidden away, and beyond our reach—like the papers of past and future presidents are locked away... until they are dead and gone and so are we.

Lies, deceit and fear hang in the air like the exhaust of half a billion oil burning engines, and squinting through the stifling smog—we finally open our eyes and ask ourselves, “My goodness, I’ve lost track of time...what time is it... look over there through the haze... does that look to you like a rising sun or a setting sun?”

And then as if from some distant past, we hear a voice answer, “I guess that will depend now on how you honor your dead, and what you intend to leave to your posterity.”

Your Prayers Have Been Answered

11/01/07

This is a message to all who believe in God and pray for peace (and also to all who desire peace and do not believe in God).

If you really want peace, your prayers have been answered. God has given you a road map for achieving peace, justice, and prosperity but God will not make you follow that path. It is your responsibility to open your heart and your mind in order that you might see and respond appropriately to the gift that has been given to you.

God is not going to make you do anything, for God loves you in freedom. Part of the responsibility of having been given the freedom to think for yourself is the responsibility to take appropriate action if it is within your purview to do so, and to move towards the goals you wish or pray for once you have been given the tools and the insight you need to proceed.

If you are expecting God to relieve you of the responsibility and necessity of advancing your goals through your own purposeful and responsible behavior of which you are capable, then that is an expectation that probably will not be fulfilled, at least not in a way that you might

hope. If you are somewhat confused by the options available to you and question your own ability to separate that which is real from that which is illusion, then you might rightfully ask God for help in sorting it all out. If you ask with an open heart and with sincerity, that help will be given.

I can tell you this. God is real and not a myth. Your prayers and desire for peace and justice have been heard, and a path to their fulfillment and/or appropriate clues to spark your imagination, have been provided. The rest is up to you. To follow this path does not require a belief in God, but it does require a belief in the power of the truth and a commitment to intellectual integrity.

Who am I?

I am a messenger. Over the last seven years I have been delivering the message. On a number of occasions I have even repeated myself, thinking that perhaps repetition might be useful, particularly since there are always newcomers to the realization that a better world requires personal responsibility and participation. Now that I've told you I am a messenger and have delivered a body of work which I refer to as the message, "the ball is now in your court".

I do, in fact, sympathize with you, for the task before you is not an easy one. A lot of what you

believe or think you know are illusions propagated by religious and cultural institutions steeped in dogma. Religions are attempts at explaining what is not very well understood by its proponents. One common illusion is that having an exquisite relationship with God requires a religion. It does not.

It is not always easy to let go of misunderstandings, particularly when the misunderstandings were presented to you by people you love and trust. These people did not betray you... they only shared with you what they were taught; what they believed to be true.

But human history is a story of discovery. Old beliefs rightfully die and illusion is replaced with something closer to the truth, as human beings gain experience and learn more about their universe.

There will always be greater knowledge and deeper understanding ahead of you if you allow and keep yourself open to that possibility.

In any event, these are interesting times and God has not, will not, betray you. But your happiness, success, and freedom will require that you actually use the full measure of your intelligence and abilities. God loves you and so do I.

Mark A. Goldman

An Open Letter to Citizens of Planet Earth

10/28/07

Dear Friends,

I would like to say something about oil and also make a few other comments:

It took nature probably 200 to 300 million years to create the entire supply of earth's oil and we have, in approximately 150 years, already used up about half of it. To think that it is right and proper for us to continue to search for and extract more oil now is quite improper. The rest of the oil does not rightly belong to us (we have inadvertently already used much more than our fair share... the rest belongs to future generations).

It is unconscionable to continue to search out new sources of oil, or to deplete the sources we can already identify, in the face of what we now know. Any unnecessary additional oil we use for powering automobiles from this point forward, no matter where it's located, is wanton theft from our own progeny.

Even with our limited scientific knowledge, we know that oil can be converted into wonderful

products and miracle-like compounds, such as medicines and plastics. We need to conserve the rest for these kinds of uses, some of which we might not even be able to imagine right now. We should not continue to extract as much oil as we can find to burn up as fuel when other alternatives are available or could be made available if we had the political will.

Is there anything more selfish, covetous, and malicious than for us to continue to extract more oil for fuel, when our hope is that our children and grandchildren and their progeny will continue to make Earth their home perhaps for as long as mankind has already been here. Whether estimates from experts conclude that the current amount of oil left in the ground will last another 50, 100, or 1,000 years is not the point. We should be preserving as much of the remaining supply as possible for future generations.

Fortunately, a little research can demonstrate quite clearly that there is no need whatsoever for us to be so dependent on oil. And there's no need whatsoever for us to mismanage our land either, as we are now doing, having foolishly embarked on new projects to squander our rich soil to grow plants that we intend to convert into bio-fuel and burn for energy just like we did with oil. We and future generations will surely need that land for food.

Managing our resources the way we do now is insane when you consider that other technologies are already available or nearly so, and better suited for the purpose. Every day the sun sends us more energy than we will ever need. We would be wise to focus our sights on learning how to use it.

What needs to be done...

1. We need to restructure and repair our government so that our most capable, wise and responsible citizens are the ones who end up representing us.
2. We need to insist that corporations do not and should not be treated as if they had human rights. Only people should have human rights. People who run corporations need to be held accountable and should not be able to hide behind a corporate veil in order to absolve themselves of culpability when they make decisions that result in corporate crime.
3. We need to believe in the power of telling the truth and we need to make justice and peace our personal and national purpose and goal... not as rhetoric, but as true intention.

Please consider these thoughts and see how you might contribute to expanding and refining them as you participate in the various aspects of your life.

Very truly yours,

Mark A. Goldman

<http://www.gpln.com/citizen.htm>

Listen to Enwin Black on Electric Cars and the Internal Combustion Engine

www.mkinghubbert.com/resources/interviews/edb_lack20070924

Added 5/1/08

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The Last Man Standing

10/25/07

George Bush is one of the best teachers we've ever had. His administration offers us a great opportunity. The lies and incompetence of his administration are so transparent that it gives us the opportunity to gain insight into things that we don't usually get to see... things that went on in other administrations as well as this one... but were better hidden.

(Read Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA by Tim Weiner).

Evidently the powers that be are so confident that they have the situation so under control that they can now afford to have us come to the realization that we are powerless to stop them and/or turn things around. All that's needed to complete their strategy is for us to admit to this new reality and then resign ourselves to it. We might still have a chance to change this reality but this window of opportunity, once closed, probably will not open again for a long time.

Last week I got an email informing me that the Chamber of Commerce in my community was hosting a meeting where local business leaders were to discuss "traffic flow, parking in town and recent break-ins." Everyone was invited.

This was a good thing for the Chamber to do I thought. But it got me to wondering if and when the Chamber would ever consider hosting a meeting to discuss the loss of our purchasing power due to war inspired inflation, wide spread government corruption, the degradation of our Constitution, and the loss of our civil liberties.

I was going to go to the meeting and ask this question but I decided that for me to do so would be counter-productive.

People barely tolerate my ramblings in our free local newspaper. Some people say I am a left wing radical and so anything I say now is viewed by them as not worth the time of day. I personally don't see anything radical about any of my views, but obviously that depends on your point of view. In any event, I believe that if I had gone to the meeting I would have been told that these are not the kinds of questions that fall within the purview of the Chamber of Commerce and, of course, that would normally be true. But these are not normal times. Two years ago I was told the same thing by our local Community Council when I tried to ask whether or not George Bush and Dick Cheney's should be allowed to keep their jobs.

That same question is even taboo in the U.S. House of Representatives. Where do responsible citizens go when it's time to defend our country

and our rights, and the people who we hired to do that job are too afraid to do it and have gone AWOL?

People don't think they have much to worry about. They figure, "As long as I don't break any laws, cause a ruckus, or be too annoying, what do I have to worry about... I don't see where my civil liberties are being impinged."

I've come to the conclusion that it's not so much that folks don't care about their freedoms and financial security. It's that maybe they don't care that much about the freedom and financial security of other people, particularly the kind of people who always seem to be making a fuss or getting into trouble with the powers that be.

But here's the problem. The George Bush's of the world say they are out to fight evil. Right now, according to them, most of the evil people in the world seem to live in places that have lots of oil. Once those people are brought under control or gotten out of the way, perhaps most of the so-called evil people will then be those who are always complaining about how administrations lie, cheat, invade privacy, inhibit free speech, offer tax breaks to the rich and no bid contracts to their friends or just have the wrong color skin, practice the wrong religion, or speak the wrong language.

Somehow people who are out to fight evil are never at a loss at finding evil in whoever seems to be in their way now, or might be in the future. In that consciousness, the only real way to get rid of evil once and for all will be when the only folk left are The Last Man Standing... and his or her slaves. If you want to play that game, and eventually have that game be what your life is about, then all you have to do is... nothing.

I Can Show You How To Build An Empire

10/25/07

So if it's an empire you want, I can show you how to build an empire. But I see no reason to do it like a bungling fool. Why would I spread nuclear waste on property that will one day be part of my own empire? Why would I build an empire in a way that causes people to despise me... forcing me to spend all my wealth constantly defending my gains... making up lies, arresting people, building prisons? What a waste after all that work.

The problem is that these would-be builders of empire have no imagination or finesse. They haven't the sense to look at history and see that what they are doing has already been tried and failed. They repeat the same stupidities like greedy idiot lemmings. They make war, waste resources and leave ruin and animosity in their wake. They lie, plunder, cheat, and hide behind secrets... proliferating distrust, decay, and incompetence.

Building an Empire might actually be a good idea if, it weren't always being pursued by idiots and fools.

Even those who get rich fanning the flames of war, end up depressed and morally bankrupt.

They live their lives in the shadow of lies, forced to hide their methods and accomplishments even from their own children. All they are ever able to enjoy are the accoutrements of wealth... they don't even know what real wealth is.

The problem is, these empire builders really don't understand the power of intelligence, creativity, or wisdom. They could be wealthy, admired and loved. Instead they trade true riches for personal power and then wonder why joy eludes them. Theirs is the work of pretenders and fools.

Their empire is collapsing. One day mine will rise from the rubble.

Truth, honor, dignity, compassion, courage, love.

www.gpln.com

Nothing to Fear

9/28/07

I have been offering commentary for quite a while in an attempt to alert the community at large as to certain dangers that we all face now. I think there is a war going on and I'm not talking about the death and destruction that's going on in Iraq and Afghanistan or the death and destruction that soon might be visited upon Iran.

I'm talking about a war that is silently being pursued by some of us against the rest of us right here at home. What I observe is a shift in consciousness that has taken place in our culture. It is the result of powerful people using their money and influence to slowly dominate and corrupt whoever they can in order to further their own purposes. They do this without understanding or caring how their behavior undermines the quality of life for everyone else. It is a cancer that has in fact led to the end of our republic as we know it or once thought we did.

Our resources and our wealth are being diverted into the hands of a few. The means of accomplishing this are varied but we see it happening in the manipulation of markets, in the cloak of secrecy and the unaccountability of government, and in the pursuit of war, among other things. We have been lied to in order to

pursue war. We have been lied to in order to have us turn a blind eye to the emptying of our treasury. We have been lied to in order to influence us to become indebted and therefore enslaved... usually without being aware of what is happening. We have been lied to in order to make us ignorant, preoccupied, divided, weak, and compliant. Why are our children fighting in far off lands when the real war is going on right here?

There is not enough space here to recount, nor am I aware of all the lies and deceptions that are being used to destroy our wealth and undermine our culture and happiness. But what I can say is that this pernicious state of consciousness is being fed and nurtured (consciously by some and unconsciously by others), not by any one person or institution, but rather by a great many people and institutions who have unwittingly accepted their role as competing participants in a perceived reality that functions only as a zero sum game. In this reality, winning is everything. If you live in a reality where winning is everything, then you do not believe in freedom, democracy, justice, truth, honor, dignity, compassion, courage, love, or peace.

W.C Fields once said that, "you can't cheat an honest man."

That is generally true but not always. People who have certain gaps in their education, experience, or training can be cheated even if they start out honest. Once a person comes to believe that winning is everything, they are then willing to deceive and cheat to win, even though they may still think of themselves as honest. In some circles, this is how things are and the results are tragic.

I have identified in my writings some of the hypocrisy we live with because of how confused we are now... and I have also offered solutions.

What you should realize is that the only solutions available require self-awareness and a commitment to personal responsibility. There is no institution that can change consciousness for the better. Only individual human beings can do that one person at a time — alone — through personal determination and commitment. No government can do it, no corporation can do it, no religion can do it.

Why should you believe what I am saying rather than what you have been taught to believe or have come to believe? I'm afraid I don't have a good answer for you other than to offer you the opportunity to read the body of work that I have created. In those writings I have attempted to share with you just about everything I could think

of that might be useful to responsible people who want to live in peace and in freedom.

Our ship of state is in rough waters now. I explain how we can navigate these rough seas and sail this boat safely home. But neither I nor anyone else can be of any use without your permission and your own intention. Why? Because you are free to choose. You are loved in freedom. I've charted out one way home; there are many others who will suggest another way. You are free to seek your own destiny. No one can take that away from you. You will choose your own destiny... actively or passively, consciously or unconsciously.

I can assure you that no one is going to come and save you from your future. The future is not something to be saved from. One thing worth remembering is that no matter how fierce the winds blow; no matter how off course you might think you've drifted, the truth is, you have nothing to fear. One day you will reach the far shore... and on your way there, you will never be alone, you will not be forgotten, and you will always be loved.

Debating Iraq

9/9/07

In arguing why we should stay in Iraq during a recent debate, Republican Mike Huckabee, on stage with other presidential candidates, gave this as his reason why:

He spoke about a lesson he learned from his mother. What he learned from her, he said, was that if he went into a store and “if I picked something off the shelf at the store and I broke it, I bought it. I learned, I don’t pick something off the shelf I can’t afford to buy.” He went on to say, “Well, what we did in Iraq... we essentially broke it. It’s our responsibility to do the best we can to try to fix it before we turn away...” He then went on to say that he agrees with Senator McCain, that we shouldn’t leave Iraq until we can leave with honor.

Well, let me say this: First of all, we must all understand that Iraq wasn’t something sitting on a shelf that was for sale... something that was ours to pick up, handle, break, or pay for. It wasn’t a toy or a dish that we broke. And we didn’t just break something that can be replaced. How do you buy back the missing arms and legs of thousands of innocent men, women, and children? And how do you fix the brain damage that your bombs caused or replace the eyes that

your shrapnel ripped from heads. How do you buy back the dead parents, the dead children, the dead brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, and grandparents who were murdered because you walked into that 'store'. How do you apologize to parents and their children for the birth defects of those recently born and those yet to be born (possibly for generations to come) because you poisoned their country with depleted uranium.

How do you buy back the innocence of youth that you stole from millions of children who are now afraid to sleep at night for fear of the dreams they will encounter when they close their eyes. How do you give back the homes, the savings, the joy that you took away; the basic human rights you stole; how do you fix the grief and insanity that you caused through torture and your blind negligence, malfeasance, and inhumanity. How do you replace the years you stole and dreams you killed. How do you bring back the neighborhoods and the goodwill that once existed between neighbors? Tell me how do you fix that? What would your mother say now?

And what honor is there if you don't pay full price for what you broke? The only honor possible would require more courage than anyone on that stage of candidates or anyone on just about any other stage has yet to demonstrate.

The only honor possible is the repudiation of the mindset and consciousness that allows people to quietly stand by while atrocities take place and the rule of law is demeaned by their own government.

To take responsibility would require that you understand and admit your crimes and be able to honestly ask forgiveness... and then lay out your plan for how you will respond once you understand what you have done.

Figure it out... what do we all owe the Iraqi people, our own people, all people, for what we took from them without honor, without decency, without permission, without reverence for life, and without love.

There are those who will argue that we went into Iraq for an honorable purpose and/or we did the best we could there. I don't believe either of those propositions is true. At least Huckabee recognizes that we broke it. I don't know if he understands what we broke, how bad we broke it or what kind of people we have unconsciously become to allow ourselves to break it in the way that we did.

Before there can be any honor in action, particularly in debate, there must be a willingness to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth about what you know. And that includes being willing and open to understand what you

currently don't know, perhaps because before you really didn't want to know.

If you go into a store and destroy the merchandise, poison the building, kill the owner and his children, you don't get to buy your way out of it. Not this time. The only honor that is left to you is your own transformation. That begins with recognizing what you have done. Until you have done at least that much, you will not even begin to understand what responsibility is.

And you know what, we are all in this together, as individuals, as a country, and as world citizens.

Until we acknowledge what we have done; until we understand that what we did and what we are still doing is dishonorable, there is no way to leave with honor. Leaving Iraq is not good enough. Staying in Iraq is not good enough. Until we understand what is good enough, we will not have our honor back and neither will we have a chance to vote for someone who is truly qualified to be President of the United States.

<http://www.gpln.com/commentary.htm>

On Sub-Prime Behavior

9/8/07

The way I see it, it was trickle down economics, a penchant for war, along with outright corruption and fraud that will cause the economic dislocations and poverty for so many Americans in the months and years to come. It is estimated that before Bush's (our) wars have ended, Congress will have pumped perhaps two trillion inflationary dollars into these misadventures, much of this money squandered into the coffers of corrupt war mongering corporate vultures, the managers and stockholders of which, having become bloated with their illegitimate war profits, poured them into hedge funds hoping to leverage their gains into even more undeserved wealth. These hedge funds, using as much leverage as they could, turned around and, through their corrupt intermediaries, used this money to lure unsuspecting, unqualified home buyers to purchase homes they could not afford.

The wars are illegal, Congress is criminally negligent, the profits were fraudulent, the hedge fund instruments were deceptive, and the lenders were cheats, as were many of the home buyers themselves who were willing to lie about their incomes on mortgage application papers in order to get them approved. In some cases it was only ignorance and not dishonesty that allowed this to

happen, but corruption and dishonesty were the main events.

Between the tax cuts for the rich and war, the US treasury was wiped out. In the final analysis it was outright theft. These policies stole the health-care, education, hope, and financial security from millions of Americans to secure political payoffs for a wealthy few. The booming economy is and was an inflationary illusion characterized by a dismantling of our manufacturing base and replaced with a temporary bubble of housing prices. Stupified, many Americans mortgaged their illusions to buy toys. And in the coming months a lot more of our illusionary wealth will likely continue to disappear through a hidden government sponsored tax called inflation.

There are those who will generate all kinds of theories as to why the housing bubble came to pass including the former Chairman of the Federal Reserve, but the reason is crystal clear and bright: Poverty in the richest country in the world is self-induced and engineered. Where do you point the finger... the proper direction is always straight ahead to the person you see in the mirror. Every lie, every deception and self-deception, every dishonesty that we think we can get away with hurts someone, very often someone we love, and always ourselves.

People who are lucky enough at some point in their lives to have been truly nurtured and loved will be inspired to want to improve themselves as human beings. In that effort they eventually will come to realize that for that to happen ignorance must give way to education, formal or otherwise. On the way to becoming educated, a diligent person will learn that intellectual integrity is necessary for anyone who wants to be able to separate truth from fiction. And the search for truth leads one to the understanding that before one can know the truth, he or she must strive always to unflinchingly tell the truth... to oneself and to others... even when no one else is looking and when no one else will ever know the difference.

In the end, having traveled this path, we discover that the search for truth leads to love, which is how it all began in the first place.

Truth, honor, dignity, compassion, courage, love...
the answer and the way.

Here We Are

9/1/07

Here are three postulates and two questions that I offer for your consideration:

1. In order to get elected to high public office in America, you must be willing to tell people what they want to hear. If you tell the truth, or otherwise tell people what they need to hear in order to protect their freedom and way of life, you can't get elected.
2. There is insufficient national income now being generated to pay our debts. We are essentially an insolvent nation. I now believe that the powers that be have no intention of paying our debts. When our creditors come to understand this, they will stop funding our purchases and our wars, and many more of our citizens will be thrown into poverty than are there now. Many others will, for the first time in their lives, have a very hard time making ends meet.
3. We have lost many of the fundamental rights that are enumerated in our Constitution. Most of us have not yet lost our freedoms only because the freedoms we now enjoy do not exist as a matter of

law, but rather they only persist at the pleasure of certain individuals.

4. If a certain someone decides that you are somehow a threat to his or her plans and decides to remove you as a potential obstacle by taking your wealth or your freedom from you, who will risk their own wealth and freedom to defend you? And if you see someone being treated unjustly, will you risk your wealth and freedom to defend them?

How the Twin Towers Fell

8/29/07

I found this video presentation by Architect Richard Gage to be professional and persuasive. Click this link and decide for yourself:

[Manitoba Presentation — 2 hours](#)

Added on 11/17/07....

Also see...[The Great Conspiracy](#) by Barrie Zwicker

The 9/11 News Special You Never Saw

1 hr, 11 min. Nov. 5, 2005

Also...Bill Clinton's response on 10/23/07 when asked if 9/11 could have been an inside job.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VEGnIIW0PY>

What Do Sub-Prime Loans Have To Do With The Stock Market?

8/15/07

For years, the residential real estate market boomed. Sub-Prime loans—loans made to folks with poor credit—helped drive this boom. The most important economic support for the boom was easy credit. Interest rates were very low compared to historical norms and the risk to lenders for making these loans was also low because once made, lenders were able to sell the contracts to other institutions, leaving themselves unaffected if borrowers later defaulted on the loans.

Who eventually ended up owning those loans? They were purchased by financial institutions who packaged them into high yielding securities called CDOs (collateralized debt obligations) which in turn were sold to hedge funds whose shares were purchased by high net worth investors.

This was a good deal for a while as the value of homes were bid up by the influx of new homebuyers and speculators able to borrow on easy terms. These variable rate contracts obligated homeowners to pay higher interest costs when interest rates later rose. Some of these loans didn't require any down payment, so people were "owning" homes without any equity

interest in their home at all. Lacking experience and good advice, new homebuyers didn't understand what could happen if and when interest rates rose. For many, this seemed like their only chance to own a home. They hoped if rates did go up later, by then they would be able to handle the increased costs.

Eventually, the Fed did raise rates, mainly to control inflation (the reality of which is often understated). But by the time interest rates rose substantially, more new homes had come onto the market than there were qualified buyers to purchase them.

So the real estate market in many parts of the country began to cool. As demand for new housing dried up, demand for existing homes did too. With declining home values, many homeowners owed more on their mortgages than their homes were now worth. With interest rates rising, some of these homeowners couldn't pay the increased mortgage costs and were forced to sell. But selling their homes didn't cancel the debt because their debt was more than the value of their homes. Many of these loans went into default. As they defaulted, the value of the securities into which these loans were packaged declined precipitously and those high net worth investors lost money.

So investors, who were once a source of capital for mortgage lenders, once they began losing money, now wanted out of these investments and money for risky loans dried up. Now buyers with poor credit can't get mortgages. With fewer people qualifying for new mortgages and with so many people unable to make payments on the mortgages they have, the downward pressure on home prices is exacerbated.

Unfortunately, the fear associated with sub-prime loans losses appears to be carrying over into other markets and now other loans are hard to get too. Many people are arguing that the Fed should now come to the rescue by lowering rates to make it easier for individuals and businesses to get the credit they need. But for the Fed, that presents a problem.

Essentially, the US is living on borrowed money and borrowed time in the same way that many individuals are. We borrow from China and other countries by selling them our bonds. We borrow to fund our foreign military occupations and maintain our lifestyle. Some countries may decide they don't want to buy any more of our dollar denominated bonds given that the dollar is likely to be worth less later than it is now. Of course the Fed can print money if it wants to, but printing more money when there is not an equivalent increase in the amount of goods and services being produced means more dollars are chasing

the same amount of goods and services. This bids up the price of goods and services and we call that inflation. Inflation is a reduction in the value of the dollar.

Inflation means things cost more than they used to. And when things cost more than they used to, some families can no longer afford to buy what they need or want. And if these families have no savings to fall back on, the only way they can get by is by borrowing on their credit cards or taking out second mortgages. But Americans have been doing just that for a long time now. Americans have the lowest rate of savings in the industrialized world. Now a lot of folks have no savings to fall back on and no more credit either. Many will need to sell their homes, and some will go on welfare.

Americans will likely have less discretionary funds with which to buy cell phones, dish washers, tv sets, and everything else.

This suggests that retailers are going to sell less, unemployment will increase, and wages will stagnate. Times will get tougher than they have been. The people who will be hit the hardest will be those who are least able to cope: those currently just making it on a fixed income; those who have little savings and/or lots of debt; and those who don't have marketable skills. The middle class is moving down a class.

What will this do to the stock market? Actually I don't know, I can only guess. But now stocks are riskier. People who already have lots of money will buy stocks at bargain prices when average Americans are forced to cash in their equities to pay current living expenses. The gap between the rich and poor will widen.

The wealthiest among us will end up owning more assets and having more bargaining power over the rest. They will grow their wealth by investing their capital and selling goods and services where people have money... if not here, then in other countries. America will begin to look less like a super power and more like a lot of other places on the planet. Large multinational corporations and the most well-healed players will probably do ok. Inexperienced investors will continue to invest in things they don't understand and the stock market will reflect the dislocations to which I've alluded, until that which has been dislocated becomes the norm. None of this had to happen.

Our Children's Last Chance

8/04/07

What we are in need of now is more wisdom than is being offered in the halls of our government or in the mainstream media.

Perpetual war threatens our country because both Democrats and Republicans refuse to put historical facts into proper perspective and lay them out before the American people. There is no way that we can build a useful national strategy for achieving peace and prosperity using as raw materials, ignorance, lies, fear, and disinformation. 911 was “blowback” due to policies of which the American public at large was never made aware and never understood. Their ignorance persists.

Our illegal attack of Iraq was a totally inappropriate response to 911 and resulted in the recruitment of a whole new generation of enemies. Reading correctly how corrupt our government is and was, Osama bin Laden was able to accomplish his goal of retribution. At the same time, the corrupt leadership of the United States used 911 to accomplish their goals as well: the overthrow of the US Constitution in favor of what Paul Craig Roberts calls the “The Return of the Robber Barrons.”

The Bush policies, by creating a new army of insurgents and Al Qaeda recruits, used the threat of terrorism, (which they created out of nothing), to execute a strategy that will result in the impoverishment of the US middle class and the transfer of middle class wealth to the already wealthy elite among us. The result will be the destruction of what we once called the American Dream.

Every day that this reality goes unexamined and unexplained, the threat to the people of the United States increases. It may already be too late to reverse the dynamics now in play. Too many people might hate us now, forcing us to defend ourselves against attacks that our leaders orchestrated for their own purposes... purposes inspired by greed for undeserved wealth and power.

The transformation of the United States from a first world country to a failed state is well under way and perhaps close to complete when you consider the dynamics in play.

No one in government is suggesting a strategy that would reverse these dynamics.

In my view, the only strategy that will now reverse these dynamics must necessarily include the following four components:

1. The American people would have to be properly informed as to the accurate historical context in which current events are now playing out.
2. The American people would have to conclude that they want to repudiate the policies and behaviors that our government has pursued which have contributed and are contributing to the present state of affairs.
3. The American people would have to take action to remove from power those individuals who planned, carried out, and facilitated these strategies, and hold them accountable in a way that would convince the world community that we seek forgiveness and intend for justice to be done. It would mean that the American people would have to acknowledge that other human beings on the planet are entitled to the same consideration, respect and dignity, and have the same claim to justice, that we claim for ourselves.
4. The American people would have to acknowledge responsibility for, and restate their commitment to, the highest ideals expressed by our founding fathers, poets, and writers in such a way that the larger world community could be convinced of our sincerity and would therefore be willing to forgive us. Our commitment would have to

be real and not a public relations ploy. For if we cannot now make friends with people we have grievously harmed, we will not have the allies we need to stop and then reverse the trend that now is moving us towards perpetual war, impoverishment, and destruction.

The question is, is it too late for these four things to happen? Do we actually believe that we will get away with all the crimes we have committed without paying the price? Do we really think we can fight our way to victory and at the same time survive as a constitutional democratic republic?

I don't know the answers to these last few questions. They are not for me to answer. Each of us has to answer them for ourselves. Each of us has to take responsibility for the answer we come up with. But finally, the answer will come in the form of what we then do as a community.

In my opinion, all of the information we need to become properly educated and informed is now in the public domain. We only have to access it, talk about it, and come to an appropriate understanding if we want our children and grandchildren to ever live in peace and prosperity. But we can only succeed if each of us recognizes that the part we ourselves play is crucial. If any of us thinks that what we (you and I) do doesn't matter, the chance of success is greatly diminished.

Time's a'wasting

7/26/07

While we're waiting for members of Congress to change their minds and actually do their jobs, the days are clicking by. While we're waiting on representatives who have failed us, all we seem to be able to do is wring our hands and whine. What we are not doing is proactively taking responsibility for our crippled, incompetent government.

Now mind you, most of us are looking at this all wrong. We think of elected officials as the government... as them rather than as us. In doing that we are as incompetent as they are. We are their employers. They work for us. They should be fired. We've argued with them enough. The more we argue with them, the weaker we become. As we use our energy to launch email and phone call campaigns, marches, and all the rest... all they have to do is run out the clock. We need to stop this foolishness.

What we need to do is turn our energy and our attention to finding people we can replace them with, just like your employer would do if you were a jerk and needed to be fired. If you couldn't be removed until your contract ran out, your boss meanwhile would be hell bent on searching for your replacement, so that on the day he could

kick you out, your replacement would be right there ready to hit the street running. Our job now should be to find people to represent us who are aligned with the best values we can identify and are not corruptible by the system by which most folks get elected.

If all we do is rant and rave for another 16 months, when election day comes we will have no choice but to put back in office the same people we put there last time... and then what? Same-Old, Same-Old. How do you expect things to change if we don't change things and if we don't change?

In my opinion, if you stay aligned with a major political party, that party will not really support any candidate who has not demonstrated party loyalty or pledged to tow the party line. That means you are not likely to be much help in transforming our government from one that doesn't work for The People to one that does.

We need to convince ourselves and every other honorable, responsible citizen to put our energies where they need to go: we need to clean house, identify a new group of independent qualified citizens who are capable and willing to serve. We need to find a way to elect them to office so we can one day actually have a government in place that will truly be of, by, and for the people. And we need to start now!

Be Strong, Be Yourself

7/25/07

Every day I read commentaries posted at several well-known left leaning web sites. Some of the commentaries are eloquently stated points of view and sometimes usefully educational. All too often though, I think I can almost read the minds of readers as they ask themselves the natural response to much of what is written: "Well I agree with what this person is saying, but what can I do that would really make a difference?"

Well here are some itemized points to consider in no particular order:

1. Staying informed is no small thing. That in itself makes a difference.
2. If you read something well written, understand that the author probably intended not only to inform you, but also to give you some ammunition that you can use to inform others and build consensus. That is, circulate and/or promote good stuff to people who you think need to hear the information.
3. Two things are critical to transforming our culture in a positive way: a) people need to be well informed, and b) people need to align themselves with sustainable contextual values that have the potential to

knit all members or factions of our culture together in a common bond. For example, two values we should all be able to align with are those expressed in the Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

4. Our government is broken and needs to be reinvented. If you are trying to make the Democratic or Republican parties better, you are probably wasting your time. Party politics in America is antithetical to enlightened self-government. Its influence forces individuals to abdicate personal responsibility in favor of The Party. We need a government run by responsible citizens who are in and of themselves steadfast in honor and integrity and not corruptible by money or unearned power... i.e., power that is inconsistent with the underlying values and principles of democracy, justice, and the common good. The framers were steadfastly against political parties (which they called factions.)
5. No democracy or common goal can succeed where citizens are not well educated, secure, and personally responsible for its success. Any sustainable solution will make sure that all citizens have the opportunity for a good education, an adequate diet, affordable housing, health-care, and other

amenities that support a person's dignity and self-respect.

6. No democracy can succeed where some people are treated with less dignity than others for whatever reason. Justice must be blind, consistently fair, and administered with compassion.
7. We need to find new ways of promoting qualified citizens to responsible positions of leadership. This means we need to structure our society so that institutions and citizens naturally cooperate to identify people who have demonstrated their wisdom and character in a way that makes it obvious to all that they are qualified to lead and/or serve. We need to make changes to how we run elections so that the best ideas and the best leaders are encouraged to enter the political arena and are able to succeed if they do. Leaders are more than products to be branded and advertised to unthinking consumers.
8. We need to restore our respect for the commons. These are tangible and intangible common assets that belong to all for the benefit of all, not allocated according to money but according to our universal human rights. Certain assets and certain rights should accrue to every member of society regardless of their economic or social standing in that society:

we all have a right to... breathe clean air, have access to clean water, receive affordable health-care, receive a free, quality education, and have access to other benefits that are consistent with basic universal human rights as already defined and conceived.

9. To have the above, you will need to rethink your participation as a citizen. You will need to promote these values if you agree with them and to do so will require new kinds of social organizations and structures, which currently might not exist. We need to open our minds and hence our chance for success.

If you keep these thoughts in mind as you plan your strategy for participation, I think whatever you do will make a difference. Discard any strategy that does not support or is inconsistent with the overall context of what has been expressed. Success will require courage, determination, imagination, goodwill, tolerance and heart. You are capable of this. We need each other and we need to express the best that's in us. Be tolerant of others who might have a hard time with change. Be strong, be yourself.

Now What Are You Going To Do?

7/19/07

The reason we are in Iraq is to control the oil there and profit from it. Controlling the oil will allow us to intimidate other countries and postpone expected future energy shortages at home. Those who made it their vision to control these resources are unconcerned about the cost in money, lives, or human consciousness, for the cost will not be borne by those who will benefit most from the theft. Tragically, those costs were unnecessary anyway, given that technologies already exist which could eliminate our dependence on foreign oil if we only had the will to pursue them.

In any event, our government intends for our troops to be in Iraq as long as it considers it useful to control those resources.

In carrying out this project, our government and our troops committed and continue to commit unconscionable crimes. The primary planners, instigators, and perpetrators of these crimes have yet to be repudiated or punished. Those who are directly responsible for and have been commissioned to uphold the Constitution and the rule of law are derelict in their duties, so much so that one can rightfully call their negligence and dereliction, criminal, even treasonous. Those

who have betrayed their oath of office are now responsible, along with the original perpetrators, for much of the carnage that has resulted. Almost every member of the legislative and executive branch of government is now complicit in these crimes and in the undermining of the rule of law.

In a very real sense, the Constitution of the United States has been suspended—is suspended—and whether or not it will or can be restored any time soon is very much in doubt.

National elections are not far away and none of the popular candidates for high office are willing to make observations similar to what I am offering here. So far, the mainstream media is mostly silent on these issues as well. Some people will remind me that I still have the right to make these observations, and will conclude that surely our democracy must therefore be healthy. No. Our democracy is not healthy even though I am free to say these things. For a long time, the public mind has been conditioned not to think or be responsible about anything important. As long as that's true, the administration is not worried about anything I might say.

Much of the world's population now sees the United States government as the primary enemy of peace, prosperity, and justice in the world. More of our citizens are in prison than in any

other country. Our policies are now responsible, after just a few short years, for the death, injury, and displacement of more innocent people than any terrorist organization we claim to be fighting. The way we made war in Iraq fits very well the definition of terrorism that our own government would have us believe is engaged in by others. The methods we use are somewhat different but the resulting indiscriminate terror experienced by innocent people at our hand is very much the same.

I suspect that terror is on it's way to a neighbor or neighborhood near you. Today, innocent people could be disappeared off the street and sent to some far-away place indefinitely to be tortured or killed. If it happens, what would you do about it? Probably nothing. Citizens can no longer be assured of a fair trial if accused of a crime. In fact, citizens can no longer be assured that they will remain free even if they are not accused of a crime. If accused of wrong doing, no one is guaranteed a public trial by a jury of their peers, nor are they guaranteed the right to be fairly represented by an attorney. It is not even guaranteed that they would be told what offense they are accused of committing or what evidence there is against them. Who do you think is available now to defend those rights we once took for granted? You? Your congressman? Your constitutional right to privacy has been suspended. More than 20 million documents

previously available to citizens have now been classified as secret, removing your right to review, oversee, and be informed about how your government works and is being administered.

The President of the United States no longer considers himself subject to laws passed by Congress. Members of Congress, almost to a person, have transferred to their political party, the President, or some other interest group, loyalty that they once pledged to the Constitution and to you.

Most Americans still appear to be unaware of the implications of all of this. This is true because most Americans have not yet been personally exposed to these injustices. Only a few have. Reports of same are not front page news. So most Americans continue to go to work and engage in their normal daily routines not realizing that they no longer live in the constitutional democracy they once called America. They don't realize the government they studied in school no longer works as they were told it did. They don't realize that their children and/or grandchildren are at risk of one day being forcibly inducted into a military regime that will require them to commit unconscionable crimes while risking their lives, limbs, and sanity as they do so.

Government spokespersons claimed and 'predicted' that terrorists were and are conspiring

to attack Americans on our own soil because they hate our freedoms and our democracy. They then stepped up the very same policies and activities that resulted in 911 in the first place, thereby guaranteeing that we will be attacked again one day even though those 'predictions' were assuredly nonsensical and ridiculous when they were made. It's only a matter of time now. Is it too late? I don't know.

But I do know this: if what I'm talking about isn't near the top of your list of what's important... and if that's also true for your friends and your family and the people you work with, buy from, and sell to, then it probably is too late.

In 1988, when people were campaigning for president, I once wrote a commentary in which I said something to the effect, that if you elect one more president who doesn't love you, very soon you will no longer be living in a free country. I was right. No one seems to realize that it was HW who gave you W.

Now what are you going to do?

Kucinich vs. Cheney

6/25/07

Dennis Kucinich has filed articles of impeachment against Vice President Cheney. In an earlier commentary I called this a half-hearted attempt at defending our Constitution.

<http://www.gpln.com/halfheartedattempts.htm>

Here are my reasons for saying that:

1. While the President is actively acting as President, the Vice President has only one job to do under the Constitution: He is President of the Senate. He does not need the President's permission to do the job he was elected to do and he doesn't need to follow the President's agenda when doing his job. He doesn't work for the President unless the President asks him to do something in addition to his official duties and he accepts. If he is asked to do something outside the scope of his official duties or if he convinces the President to delegate him any additional authority whatsoever, he is acting as the President's agent. All of his authority comes directly from the President. It is the President who is responsible for what Cheney does or does not do and it is the President who has

silently or not so silently stood behind Cheney and affirmed his behavior.

Do I have to say it again: In any government activity that Cheney engages in, outside of his role as President of the Senate, he as acting as an agent of the President.

2. The list of crimes for which the Vice President might legitimately be charged is a long one
(<http://www.gpln.com/livethedream.htm>) and it is negligent and irresponsible of Kucinich to leave those charges out of his impeachment articles, for by doing so, he limits his own prerogative to bring those issues before the American People in order to expose the crimes for which the President, the Vice President, and their co-conspirators are responsible.
3. By not including the President in his articles, I assume Kucinich is afraid of the political fallout. I see it as a missed opportunity and his unwillingness to press the case to its fullest degree is unfortunate at best.

Now let me say in his defense: Kucinich has more courage than most of his colleagues, for at least he did something. But this effort is doomed to fail for it is timid and doesn't open the space for the full disclosure of the much longer list of crimes for

which this administration should be held accountable and in contempt.

I give Kucinich an "E" for effort. I give the rest of the members of the House an "F" for failing to uphold their oath of office. And I give the Senate an "F" for the same thing (no one in the Senate is asking members of the House for a more full, fair and complete list of articles).

I believe that in not filing articles against Bush, it would have been better for him not to have filed these articles at all, for it gives the impression that maybe Kucinich, and/or anyone else who signs on with him, do not also believe that Bush is a co-conspirator with Cheney. Anyone who would believe that shouldn't be in public office. The implication is, indeed, an unfortunate footnote to the historical record.

I also believe that with a population of 300,000,000 citizens to choose from, we ought to be able to find One President, One Vice President, and 535 Congressmen who have enough courage, honor, and wisdom to keep their word, love their country, and defend the Constitution. Obviously, if you look at the job we've done in hiring people to run our government... we deserve an "F" too.

Live the Dream

6/08/07

Cowardice, Incompetence, Irresponsibility, and Treason Among Citizens is Killing America and the American Dream —Now we have to live the dream, if we expect to save the dream.

Chances are, whether you see yourself as being on the political left, middle, or right you may have already decided to sell out your country and your children. You may have already decided to betray your ideals, the Constitution, and your freedom. Don't do it.

You might believe that the only people who have a chance of winning the next presidential election are those who have already announced their candidacy. And at this moment in time you might be intending to vote for one of them. If you intend only to vote for someone who you currently believe has a chance of winning, chances are, you will be betraying your country. Don't do that.

Under the 14th Amendment, Section 3 of the Constitution, not one of the candidates you have seen on TV is qualified to serve another term in Congress, let alone as president... at least not without a vote of two thirds of the each House of Congress.

Amendment XIV , Section 3

No person shall be a Senator or Representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof. But Congress may by a vote of two-thirds of each House, remove such disability.

It is my argument and my contention that all of the candidates who have participated in the televised debates have given aid and comfort to enemies of our Constitution. They have given such aid and comfort to our enemies by not living up to their duty to defend the Constitution when it has been under attack.

And who has attacked our Constitution? I say George W. Bush, Dick Cheney, members of his administration, and other citizens have done so...

1. By lying to the people of the United States, to Congress and to the world at large in order to start an illegal war.
2. By, in fact, starting an illegal war, during which they or their agents perpetrated war

- crimes and crimes against humanity, in addition to the crime against peace mentioned in Item 1 above.
3. By undermining the First Amendment on many occasions, including the forceful interruption or prevention of legal protests by concerned citizens at public political events.
 4. By obstructing justice on many occasions, including falsely classifying documents as secrets in order to prevent the detection and prosecution of various crimes and dishonesties.
 5. By participating in, through negligence, mismanagement, and/or fraud, the gross misuse and squandering of public funds.
 6. By illegally suspending the right of habeas corpus and other legal protections.
 7. By engaging in illegal wiretaps and other illegal invasions of privacy.
 8. By undermining the right that all citizens have to defend themselves against arbitrary abuses of government power as provided under the Constitution.
 9. By undermining treaties established under Article VI of the Constitution, which incorporates various rights and privileges belonging to citizens and non-citizens alike.
 10. By promoting or allowing their agents to engage in torture of citizens and/or

non-citizens in contravention of national and international law.

11. By illegally setting up prisons in other countries in order to evade national and international law and to torture people there without scrutiny or detection.
12. By corrupting and mismanaging members of the CIA, other intelligence agencies, and many other government employees in order to carry out illegal activities against US and non-US citizens.
13. By facilitating a great injustice that was perpetrated on the American people by allowing and not bringing to justice those who engaged in illegal election practices that resulted in this administration undeservedly coming to power through methods of fraud and deceit.
14. By failing in their duty to protect and defend the legitimate rights of the people of Iraq and Afghanistan as they have been denied proper medical care, food, shelter, and other services required under international law by occupiers of an occupied country. Their infidelity has forced hundreds of thousands of people to leave and lose their homes and possessions as refugees; has resulted in the death and dismemberment of tens or hundreds of thousands of innocent people; has destroyed the infrastructure and artifacts of

a culture, has squandered and mismanaged billions of dollars of Iraqi funds that were under the fiduciary care and supervision of US officials, and otherwise caused misery and pain to millions of innocent people.

15. By engaging in or allowing agents to engage in extra-judicial and summary executions, resulting in the killing of innocent people.
16. By illegally avoiding Congressional oversight by various means including the illegal use of outside contractors and by giving certain contractors or their agents immunities, thereby protecting them from prosecution for crimes they have committed.
17. By undermining the Constitutional requirement to keep church and state separate.
18. By passing legislation that weakens and undermines fundamental Constitutional rights and protections of citizens.
19. By using illegal "signing statements" in an attempt to undermine Congress and the Constitution, putting everyone on notice that this administration will, at their own discretion, refuse to follow properly executed laws of the land.
20. By consistently lying to the American people about their aims, strategies, activities, and crimes.

21. By these and other means not named herein they have undermined the rule of law, both national and international, undercut America's reputation among citizens and the world community, and threaten the freedom and security of every American as well as the sustainability of freedom and democracy that every citizen hopes to pass on to their children and grandchildren. In short, the intention of this administration has been to subvert the Constitution and in many ways they have succeeded. Taken in total, their performance in office amounts to treason.

In each item listed above, every Democratic or Republican candidate to date who has formally announced his or her candidacy has allowed these crimes or misdemeanors to occur either knowingly or through gross negligence, without taking appropriate steps to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution and the people of the United States against these grievous acts, and by betraying their oath of office they are complicit in them.

I have enumerated many of the abuses this administration has perpetrated while these candidates, (for a very long time now), have remained silent when they could have challenged this administration. They could have called for or issued articles of impeachment to draw attention

to and put a stop to these crimes, and also to seek justice in light of them. They could have taken their case to the American people and told the truth as they knew and discovered it. But they chose not to do any of this. Instead they have allowed these criminals to go unchallenged and to continue their dirty work day in and day out, to the disgrace of the institutions in which they serve, to themselves... and surely to the detriment of our nation and its people.

If you vote for any of these candidates, you are voting for people who are or should be disqualified from running for or holding any elective office. If you vote for them in spite of this, you yourself will be undermining the Constitution and what it stands for. Don't do that. Live the dream... if you don't, you'll share responsibility with those who, through negligence, cowardice, or worse... would let the dream die.

Mark A. Goldman

Announcing for President

To ask a question or see answers to other questions put to the candidate, click here:

<http://www.gpln.com/candidate-qna.htm>

Half Hearted Attempts at Defending the Constitution

5/21/07

Everything Jimmy Carter said was true and at the same time it was incomplete and timid. Cheney ought to be impeached, but why did Kucinich chicken out with Bush.

In a very real sense these timid attacks on Bush and his criminal administration are counter-productive. What they communicate is that no public figure has the courage to tell the simple truth about the crimes and deceit perpetrated by this administration. One by one our most well known political leaders are offering these half-hearted attempts at defending the constitution, which in reality is no defense at all.

Even VoteToImpeach.org misses the point by tying the need to impeach to a need to end the war. Whether we end the war or how we end the war is not the real issue here except in the sense that it was an illegal operation from its inception.

Impeachment is not about mistakes in foreign policy. This is not about errors in judgment. This is about a president and an administration that has

trampled on the constitution, done everything possible to destroy the rule of law, committed war crimes, committed crimes against peace and against humanity, plundered the treasury, and crippled nearly every administrative function of government by replacing thoughtful public servants with incompetent political hacks and yes men who have no idea how to conduct themselves with honor and integrity.

This president and his men are responsible for the death and injury of hundreds of thousands of innocent people and the destruction of their homes and way of life. They are torturers, murderers and obstructors of justice. Their negligence, lies, and deceit have caused untold suffering at home and abroad. Even Bush's presence in the White House is almost certainly due to criminal conspiracy and fraudulent election practices.

Bush and Cheney's leadership is unquestioned, but they have led us all down a path of death, destruction, dishonor, and criminality. They have inspired citizens not to think, not to believe in the truth, not to believe in justice and fairness, not to believe in America.

They have inspired elected representatives to betray their honor and their oaths of office. They are tyrants and traitors. They should be impeached. They and their helpers should be

tried for the crimes they have committed and if found guilty they should pay the price that fits those crimes. And the rest of us should stand up finally and take responsibility for our negligence and sloth. It is now up to us to do everything in our power to turn this treason around and make amends as best we can to those who have suffered because of our lack of citizenship.

Is there not one elected representative past or present who has the courage and the capacity to make this case? Is there not one major newspaper?

For those who have not kept vigilance and are still unaware of the evidence that supports my allegations, all you need is a computer, a love of country, and a desire and the courage to know the truth.

Message from Tanzania

5/18/07

On May 6, 2007 I was in church most of the day. The church was in Tanzania. The service was conducted in Swahili and I didn't understand a word that was spoken. In attendance were about seven or eight choirs from various Tanzanian churches, one of which was led by my step-son, who now lives there with his family as missionaries. My wife and I were his invited guests.

A week later we were in a different church. This time the service was in English. The following day we were on our way back to the US.

In the week sandwiched between these two church visits our family had gone on two safaris, attended a poisonous snake museum, attended a concert, visited a Maasai village where we were invited to sit inside a Boma (a round domed hut where a Maasai family lives). We had shopped at various markets and had even purchased some artifacts from young street vendors who try to eek out a living from tourists. (Their persistence suggests these kids could one day make an excellent talent pool for a new generation of used car dealerships.) I spent the better part of one day at the UN mission in Arusha where I sat in on several still ongoing trials pertaining to the

Rwandan genocide of 1994. We had met friends, students and associates of my step-son, and his wife. My step-son plays keyboard with one of the best jazz groups I have ever heard. The drummer graciously gave up his seat so I could sit in for a couple of tunes. Luckily I didn't play long enough to ruin their reputation. Near the end of our visit we all suffered from some gastrointestinal malady. As we drove down some of the main and not so main streets of Tanzania we had an opportunity to see some of its people up close, a great many of whom work harder every day, day in and day out, than I ever have. Most do not own cars. The bikes they ride are for the transportation of people and goods rather than just for the fun of it. But most walk from place to place in the sun and in the rain, the women carrying loads on their heads that I wouldn't attempt with a wheelbarrow. Somewhere along the way the question came up as to whether the people of the West and the people of Africa would ever really understand one other, which is to say, speak the same language. Here's my answer to that:

It is true that when I was in church the first week, I didn't understand a word of Swahili. But while I don't understand Swahili, I do understand a smile. And I do understand when someone graciously welcomes me to their home or personal space. I understand the look in someone's eyes when they are glad to see me. I understand patience and

kindness when it is given and I understand enthusiasm and joy when people sing and dance with abandon. And as for love and kindness: these I understand. Love and kindness: it is both a language and a message. It is a language and a message we all are able to understand. This language is God's message to each of us. It is part of who we are. It is a language and a message that is closer to us than our own breath. And so what is this message...

Love one another. Be with other people in a spirit of brotherhood. Treat one another as you yourself would want to be treated. Have patience and compassion for others. Learn to forgive. Be slow to judge. Seek justice.

This is not hard to understand. God's understanding might be infinite, but that does not mean it has to be complex. In fact it is simple: love one another. Be kind to one another. Treat others as you would be treated. This is profound wisdom, yet not beyond our understanding.

You know, when Jesus walked on this plane he was not a Christian or a Lutheran. There was no church, no bible that he said everyone should read or try to understand. No. He simply said he had come to share what he had learned from his Father. And what was that? It was the same as I have already stated.

Love one another. Be kind to one another. Do not judge. Learn to forgive. Simple message. Not hard to understand.

So what is all this about religion? Why religion? Well, I would say that the message is very simple: speak and live in the language of love and kindness. Everything else is commentary. And that's what religion is... commentary on the message. Whether you are a Christian a Jew or a Muslim or anything else, the message is the same because the message is already written on every heart. We only need to acknowledge it. The purpose of religion is to remind us of this message. Love one another. Be kind to one another. Treat one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

When I visited the UN and attended the genocide trials, it reminded me how easy it is sometimes to forget this message. So we need reminding. If the religion you practice reminds you and supports you and encourages you to live the truth of God's message, then your religion serves a useful purpose. Just calling yourself a Jew or a Christian or a Muslim, reading scripture, or following orthodox traditions does not guarantee that you understand the simplicity of what God has to say. And what is that? Love one another. Treat one another with kindness. Seek justice. Forgive. Do not be quick to judge. Use your abilities to understand and strive to become all

that you can be. Be with others as you would want them to be with you.

So what am I saying? I'm saying that God's message is already written on the scrolls of your own heart.

Religion can be a good thing... if your practice of it inspires you and others to love, to be kind, to have compassion, to forgive.

And so I now can say to you, that I traveled half way around the world. And do you know what I found there? I found people there who speak my language. It's nice to know.

Beware the Jabberwock!

4/5/07

“Beware the Jabberwock, my son! The jaws that bite, the claws that catch! Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun The frumious Bandersnatch!”

-Lewis Carroll

On February 28, 2007, Newt Gingrich masterfully demonstrated how to misdirect your attention by telling the truth. Mario Cuomo did the same thing. Republican. Democrat. The Jubjub bird. The Bandersnatch. I just watched the 'debate' on CSPAN yesterday. You can also find it here:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-tv/webcast-gingrich-cuomo-_b_42329.html

The two of them met at The Cooper Union (search: Lincoln at Cooper Union) in what was billed as a debate. The host was Tim Russert of NBC's 'Meet the Press'. This was no debate. This was subterfuge disguised as intelligent conversation. Don't stop reading yet.

It was quite an interesting event, too. First up was Newt Gingrich who knocked me off my chair by actually telling the truth about how government functions, or rather doesn't function, and he

didn't exclude the Bush administration. One might be tempted to say that he didn't pull any punches. At least I was almost tempted. He actually said some interesting things and talked about how much we needed change in politics, in government, in America. He talked about reforming Presidential campaigns, nuclear proliferation, and how we could have a health-care system that works.

He talked about real change. He was almost brilliant. He was also a deceiver. It was a cover up. When he asked why we haven't had a national dialog about nuclear weapons and how important it was... that was calculated misdirection. Nuclear proliferation is dangerous to be sure, but nuclear weapons in the hands of North Korea or Iran is not the mortal threat we face today. The threat we face comes from within.

I couldn't help wondering what happened to the old Newt. Here we have a man who once behaved like a mad shark who would say or do just about anything to accumulate power at the expense of the truth and basic decency. He as much as anyone was responsible for convincing Republican officeholders to completely surrender their sovereignty to their party leadership in order to accumulate and consolidate power... to win elections... to dominate government. And what was the result? The disenfranchisement of The People.

Some of the time on stage he actually sounded like a hero. In fact, his comments were so thoughtful that Mario Cuomo almost fell over himself. When asked who would make the most interesting Republican candidate for President in 2008, Mario thought that Newt would be their best choice. Maybe he would be. While he thought Clinton would be the most likely standard bearer for the Democrats, the way I heard it, Mario honestly couldn't think of any Democrat who was really qualified to be president. I can't either.

Mario was no slouch with his ideas either. He was not quite as on target as Newt was, in my view, but he did say some interesting things. He criticized the Democrats, for example, for being unwilling to discuss anything of real importance. Democrats, he said, have an unwritten rule that you shouldn't talk about anything controversial during a campaign. The idea being, that the most important thing to remember in order to get elected... is not to rock the boat. The idea being, that if you don't get elected you will never get to do the things you really want to do. The idea being, that once you do get elected, then you can do the important work you always had in mind.

Well, Mario rightly pointed out that this is just the strategy of cowards and fools. If you don't raise the issues when you're running for office, the public won't be prepared for them once you are

elected, so you won't be able to get them done once you are in office anyway. So what was so deceptive about all of this? It sounded like a pretty enlightening conversation to most listeners I'm sure? It sounded that way to me at first. I enjoyed it so much I was almost willing to believe my ears.

It took me awhile but I finally figured out what could possibly inspire Newt to actually tell the truth about how bad government and this administration is: by telling the audience the truth about bureaucratic and governmental dysfunction and offering a few good suggestions about how to make things work better, he was able to gain the trust of his audience. But I don't think his intention was in any way altruistic. He used the truth to avoid talking about a much greater truth. He used the truth to avoid talking about what is really important: this administration and this Congress are more than incompetent... they're a malignancy on our republic.

Newt was right when he said he was afraid for his grandchildren; that they were in more danger now than he was when he was a child. They are. And he is part of the reason they are. Why? Partly because of how he conducted himself when he was in office and partly because he is still covering up the real danger we face even now as we enter the last turn in the bend just before we head over the precipice.

Our Constitutional republic is being replaced by a fascist regime right before our eyes. It threatens to end the great American experiment itself. These people are usurping our freedoms, leaving every honest American bereft of the legacy we promised our children. What we are facing here is treason.

<http://www.gpln.com/howiseeit.htm>

We do need to improve government, but first we need to preserve the rule of law; we need to protect and preserve the Constitution. What we have is not incompetence, but systemic corruption. If you don't know what I'm talking about, it's time for you to wake up now. You've got some catching up to do.

“What has happened to basic honor and decency? Torture? Rendition? Indefinite detentions? The right to be legitimately represented by an attorney? Fraudulent elections? Depleted Uranium? Cluster bombs in populated areas? Dead citizens floating in the street? No-bid contracts? Secrecy? Signing statements? Criminal incompetence and negligence?”

<http://www.gpln.com/acceptingtreason.htm>

Sometimes Doing Nothing Is Better

3/29/07

I don't think you understand the situation.

The system is broken. It is not just damaged, it is broken, and current behaviors on the part of citizens and legislators will not fix what is wrong. To continue to do things that cannot work simply because you don't know what else to do, is not better than doing nothing.

In fact, it is better to do nothing and have the understanding that you don't know what to do, than to do something in ignorance, because you think "something" needs to be done. To do nothing is more thoughtful and caring than doing something without giving it serious consideration and thought. I'm not saying that you aren't making a difference or even that you aren't moving the ball down the field in the right direction. What I'm saying is that it would be useful to evaluate whether or not the strategies you commit to can actually win the war and not just a few of the battles. This is a war we can't afford to lose.

If you really understood how dangerous things have gotten, you probably would also realize that you don't know what to do.

Doing something when you really don't know what you are doing is noise that keeps good ideas and strategies from being heard. And this is true even if you are able to garner a lot of support and get a lot of people to agree with your point of view.

Now if you are truly conscious and honest as you go about doing what you do, you will eventually be able to see if what you are doing is working or not. If it isn't, you will do something else... hopefully something that will be more effective than what you already tried.

I have been very critical of people who hold responsible leadership positions and appear to be unwilling to act appropriately or courageously. They are probably not just unwilling. Most likely they are also frightened and confused. And when people are frightened and confused they are unlikely to make rational, well reasoned decisions.

If our legislators listened to what the majority of Americans, or even just their own constituents want them to do, they would do a lot of very stupid things. In fact, they are already doing a lot of stupid things. With respect to their own security, the majority of Americans right now are not well informed, expert, patient, courageous, or thoughtful. There are some exceptions.

Members of Congress have competing interests and loyalties. They are confused by how their

behavior will impact their party, career, country, constituents, family, friends, wealth, and influence. And most of the input they get is unhelpful.

The stakes are very high. We are at war and the enemy is not the so-called terrorists or terror. The war is between you and those who would manipulate and enslave you. Your immediate enemies are complacency, thoughtlessness, and fear. Your freedom is in jeopardy and preserving your freedom is going to require all the courage, intelligence, and passion you can muster.

Mark A. Goldman

Citizen and Candidate for President of the United States

Losing the next election

3/23/07

I believe the Democrats are days, hours, or maybe even minutes away from losing the next presidential election.

Very soon a Republican is going to enter articles of impeachment against Bush and Cheney and other Republicans are going to jump on the band wagon before the Democrats understand what has happened to them. Republicans no longer need Bush and Cheney. These guys couldn't have done a better job while appearing totally incompetent.

They've accomplished so much: The Constitution has been defanged of civil protections, Iraq's Oil has been converted to US control, the treasury has been wiped clean (allowing unwanted social programs now to be put to rest), tax legislation to benefit the rich is working as planned.

All the ill feeling that was engendered along the way resides with the guys in the White House. All that needs to be done is to dump them and whoever does it will win the next election. The Democrats are too afraid to do it. The Republicans know which side of their bread is buttered.

Some people say there have been no polls dealing with impeachment, but there have been polls. They just haven't been published. When the numbers are right—and they are probably right on target as I speak—Bush and his gang will be thrown overboard.

Bush and Cheney will retire in comfort with the quiet praise of their party. They will be pardoned by the next Republican President so that neither one will pay a price for their treason, and Republicans will continue their march. The public will be left believing that it was Republicans who saved us all from disaster. After all, they protected the homeland from any additional terrorist attacks; they saved us from the economic ravages that might have resulted had we run out of oil, for with Iraq under our control we won't run out of oil anytime soon. And they threw out the incompetents when it finally became clear that the White House was leading us astray.

Not a bad perspective if you're a Republican.

Anyone want to place a bet?

Mark A. Goldman

Citizen and Candidate for President of the United States

The Price of Oil

3/21/07

There never was terrorism per se. There was retaliation for the unconscionable interfering in the internal affairs of other nations and other people's lives. 911 was a terrorist act—an act of defiance and retribution for crimes committed primarily by the United States and to some extent Israel—a consequence of there being no alternative legitimate institution available for seeking justice. The so-called terrorists took the law into their own hands, given that there was no other law available.

But a few Americans, capitalizing on the ignorance of most Americans, used lies and deceit to wage a war of aggression in pursuit of a nefarious end.

Our invasion of Iraq was not part of a war on terrorism; was not a defensive measure to protect the US against possible aggression; was not an attempt to bring democracy to the people of the middle east; it was what it was: an act of aggression perpetrated to secure oil; to take it out of the hands of one illegitimate regime, and place it into the hands of another...the United States.

The US has succeeded in taking control of Iraqi oil fields and has arranged for most of the profits

that will result to accrue to Western owned oil companies and Western society.

What the war in Iraq was about can be summed up in just those few sentences.

When you consider all the sentences that have been spoken and written about this misadventure, it all seems so childish and silly. It takes a lot of words, a lot of blood, a lot of pain and a lot of sorrow to steal a lot of oil. Not only that but we are left with the residue—a lot more interest to pay: while there wasn't a problem with terrorism before, there will be now.

The people who had their lives and their oil stolen from them have won the sympathy of those who, out of their own sense of justice, decency, and ignorance, will try to exact retribution on those who perpetrated these indecent acts. The cost of stealing this oil and these lives will be great.

Of course the people who will pay this price will not be the ones who should pay—those who planned this skullduggery and will benefit most from it. Those hundreds of thousands of souls who have already paid dearly did not deserve the pain they suffered.

Not only will there be pain and death as a consequence of this thievery, but when you consider all the lies and self deception that must be maintained so that people can avoid the

painful act of looking at the truth and taking responsibility for it, there will be a pall over our society that will last for a very long time.

Lies will be used to misinform and misdirect hundreds of millions of people, mostly children. And every lie each person lives with will diminish their lives... for the right to know the truth will have been stolen from them and it will leave them ignorant and even stupid, which is an unearned punishment for crimes committed by others—the liars, cowards, and cheats.

War on terrorism? There is no war on terrorism. There is only terrorism. Ours first and now theirs. How much will a gallon of gasoline cost? The price at the pump is a mere fraction of what we all will pay. Perhaps the highest price we will pay will be in the form of our own stupidity, our ignorance, our immaturity, and the persistence of myth in our lives... the separation of self from reality... the persistence of un-enlightenment and all the sorrow that that entails.

Mark A. Goldman

Citizen and Candidate for President of the United States

About Those Signing Statements

3/17/07

I suppose you thought this was going to be about those illegal statements that Bush is in the habit of adding to his signature when he signs legislation passed by Congress. Well it's not.

It's about the signing statements I keep seeing at web sites or getting in my email box from various well meaning individuals and organizations to which I am asked to sign my name. These statements or petitions are supposedly intended to convince George W. Bush and/or members of Congress to vote on an issue in a manner contrary to their current inclinations.

I could be wrong, and I would be happy to get other input on this, but in my experience I see no evidence that this kind of activity is very effective. I won't say that it is useless, but what I do believe is that the effort it takes to get these signatures could be put to much better use by citizens who are interested in real change. Mostly they just give people the feel good illusion that they are doing something real when they are, in fact, doing nothing particularly useful.

It should be obvious by now that our elected officials are not very interested in taking advice from ordinary citizens. Naturally, your

representatives will tell you nothing could be further from the truth. If they can keep you believing that, they can be sure you will not consider what I am about to say.

Of course if you happen to be the president of a sizeable PAC, correspondence from you might be taken seriously.

My view is that our government now is almost totally dysfunctional and illegitimate (here I'm talking about our elected officials). I believe the only way to have government work again is to actually hold these people accountable... for their lack of action, their fake and pretended action, and/or for their inappropriate action. The way you do this is by voting them out of office.

Now I'm going to say something that you are likely to judge, at first glance, as entirely heretical and stupid, but I'm going to say it anyway. If you would only vote for people you truly believe in, you wouldn't have to do a great deal more than that. It would be a lot more powerful, at least, than signing petitions. Of course, you would have to be willing to lose elections. And you would have to have steadfast courage.

I'm not saying if you do this that you would necessarily lose elections. I'm just saying that you would have to be willing to lose them... that is, you would have to be more interested in voting

your conscience than in having your candidate or a particular party win.

If you were willing to do this, this is what will happen in my view: Some people will just ignore you. But those who love and/or respect you will engage you in an effort to have you change your vote. But by not being willing to change your vote —by being steadfast—they might begin to understand your strategy and join you.

If not enough people see the wisdom of your strategy, your candidate would either win anyway or simply lose. If they lose, everyone will blame you and others like you, maybe even hate you for awhile like they did when Nader ran in 2000 and got blamed for a Democratic defeat. But if you stuck to your guns in the next election, and the one after that, eventually they would have to join you if they wanted to win. In the end, we would eventually end up with a legitimate government.

Now you might think we can't afford another 4, 8, 12, or 16 years of Republican rule. I contend that without fundamental reform, nothing substantial will change no matter which party is elected. And that change has to come from ordinary citizens who vote.

If we had a government consisting of people who really loved our country and our democracy, they would allow third party candidates into the process. Allowing more voices to be heard is what

democracy is all about. They would finally install a system such as Instant Runoff Voting that would give citizens the ability to vote for third party candidates without having to suffer through the agony of thinking they could be wasting their vote.

Nothing will change if third party candidates don't have a real chance to challenge the status quo. This is a long-term project. It needs to begin now by people who have the passion and the vision.

This strategy, in my view, is the only way we will effect real change given the environment we are in. But it will take a revolution to do it. Not a revolution in the ordinary sense, but a revolution in you... in your thinking.

You would have to respect yourself enough not to settle for anything less than real change. You would have to write off members of Congress who have betrayed the trust you put in them. You would have to give up on them. And you should. If they have not done their jobs honorably, they should be replaced. Until ordinary citizens have this kind of courage nothing will change except incidentals around the margins.

To do this you would need to give up your fear of losing and your fear of social pressure. You would have to give up worrying what other people think and how other people might vote.

What is that kind of behavior called? Some people will say, "stupidity." I say it's called making a difference.

We will not have real change without real sacrifice, courage, strength, and leadership. We've tried everything else. Nothing else works. If we don't do this, the people who will run for and hold office after the next election will be the same people who are there now. Sad but true.

We can't change the world without first changing ourselves. We can't win without real heart. We won't have change without real courage.

When asked to sign a petition, I say... don't do it. Tell them you intend to vote for someone in the next election who won't need to be petitioned. Tell them you will find someone to vote for who knows what is needed and will do their job with honor, courage, and distinction.

What Does It Mean To Win An Illegal War?

3/24/08

I hear members of Congress talking about how concerned they are and how wrong it would be if our troops had to experience defeat in Iraq. They want our troops to experience a win. But how can soldiers engaged in an illegal war experience a win?

What does winning an illegal war mean? Does it mean that we will not give up until we are able to extricate ourselves without having to pay a price for our war crimes? Is that victory?

If Bush had not already done everything in his power to destroy what used to be our Constitution and International law, not only would he and his immediate cronies be tried for war crimes, so would every member of Congress.

Every member of Congress should have and could have done more than they did do to stop those crimes from continuing. Under Article VI of our Constitution which includes the Nuremberg Principles, that was their duty and responsibility. Tell me, who under the terms of Nuremberg, in this administration or this Congress, is innocent?

Every member of the House should have offered up articles of impeachment when they saw that crimes were committed, particularly when they couldn't get their party to speak with one voice to stop the carnage. Instead they surrendered their allegiance to party leaders in an attempt to protect their own careers at the expense of the Constitution, their oath of office, and also the homes, lives, and limbs of hundreds of thousands of innocent people. And when asked why they didn't speak out, the only excuse any of them give is that it would have been a useless exercise because they ultimately would not be able to get enough votes to succeed, as if that should matter.

We send our kids into battle and expect them to fight even if it means their death or dismemberment. When told to fight, they fight. We tell them they're being sent to defend the Constitution. If we expect our soldiers—our children—to fight without knowing ahead of time if they will win or lose, isn't it reasonable shouldn't we expect our elected officials to fight to preserve and protect the Constitution at home... even if they're not sure they can win? Didn't they take the same oath our soldiers took? Shouldn't we expect some semblance of courage? Members of Congress are not going to die in battle or lose their arms or legs. Apparently moral courage is a lot more rare in the halls of government than physical courage is on the battlefield. Why is that?

And by now every member of the Senate should have spoken out in defense of the Constitution, too, asking members of the House to submit those articles. Why didn't they? Didn't they think torture was a crime? Didn't they think the loss of habeas corpus was a scurrilous attack on the Constitution? What about signing statements, renditions, indefinite detentions, the loss of privacy, the misuse of the FBI, criminal negligence, no more fair trials, no right to know what crime you are being tried for, or what the evidence is against you? No right to be represented by an attorney? What about dropping depleted uranium weapons and cluster bombs in populated areas, bombing hospitals, lying to Congress, lying to the American people, lying to the United Nations? In all of these things our so-called commander-in-chief is saying, "I am not only above the law; now I am the law; and the Constitution is just a goddamn piece of paper."

For US Representatives and Senators to remain silent in the face of all these egregious crimes is nothing less than treason, a national disgrace beyond anything we have experienced in our history before.

So what are we to do now that we see our government has betrayed us? I believe anyone who failed to live up to his or her oath of office ought to be removed from government.

Both major parties have betrayed their country. But nothing in the Constitution requires that elected officials belong to a political party. Can't we find at least 535+2 honorable citizens among 300 million of us who can be trusted to keep their oath of office?

I understand how some citizens might be so completely oblivious to what's been going on, that they are prepared to vote for these people again come next election. But that would be a travesty. In fact, not only are many citizens prepared to vote them into office again, they intend to promote two of them to the high office of President and Vice-President. What a disgrace.

In very real terms, we are no longer living under the rule of law that our Founding Fathers intended. Both national and international law is in tatters. The Great Experiment is in shambles.

We need to take back our government. If elected officials won't defend our Republic, isn't it up to us? There is no one else. If we don't act now, how will we explain to our children how their freedom was lost on our watch?

What we need now is a revolution... not a revolution where you shoot people or make a ruckus, but a revolution of the spirit; a revolution of courage and determination where you fight for your country and your freedom and your dignity. How do you do that? Above all else, you do it by

refusing to vote for people who have betrayed you.

But can we win? I say, that's not the operative question. We don't have to know who will win before the battle is even begun any more than our soldiers need to know if they will win before they take up arms. All we need to know is that if we want to live in freedom; if we want our children to live in peace; if we want to preserve our republic, and if we want our republic to be administered by public servants who can be counted on to keep their word of honor, then we have no choice. We must do what needs to be done. We need to start over. We need to find people who will truly be honorable guardians of the public trust. It's time to fight the good fight; for freedom and for our posterity. And yes... I believe we can win.

We can win if we can stand together with a common purpose.

I'm asking you...

Will you stand with me so that I can stand with you?

Mark A. Goldman

Citizen and Candidate for President of the United States

How Bush Gets Jews To Give Up Judaism And Destroy Israel

3/13/07

Someone got the brilliant idea that if they could capture the hearts and minds of the evangelicals and other religious groups that they could rise to power in America. A corollary to this view is that if they could capture the hearts and minds of the Jewish political elite, it probably would be the tipping point.

That probably was the tipping point.

Bush's interest in Jews is three fold:

First, by supporting Israel, he and his minions are guaranteed to get a lot of Jewish votes and a lot of Jewish money for himself and other politicians who support his agenda.

Second, by befriending Israel, Bush has a regional power base from which to control Mid East oil in his quest for world domination.

Third, with Jewish support, Bush is given a pass on whatever policies he pursues regardless of the consequences or the morality.

I use the word Bush here not only to mean Bush the individual, but to identify the consciousness of his group.

Bush's tactics are not subtle. He has the consciousness of a brutal dictator. He will lie, cheat, steal, murder, torture... whatever it takes... to accomplish his ends. I don't have to prove this. I am only describing strategies Bush has used consistently in accumulating power and in pursuing his wars.

Bush has the same consciousness that Hitler had and ironically, a great many Jews have aligned themselves with him. By aligning with Bush, these Jews have acquired the power they needed to 'defend' Israel. The problem is that the power that was acquired was a political payoff. It was a payoff that said, "I will give you the power you are asking for as long as you do not get in my way as I pursue my own goals." It is what you might call an unholy alliance. Such unholy alliances are the essence of Bush's grand strategy and can be seen in everything he does.

That is why I say that a lot of Jews have agreed to give up Judaism in exchange for power. When you stop living your ideals—which is to say, the values your religion teaches—you are no longer practicing your religion, no matter what you call yourself.

Many Jews are sacrificing their moral authority and their dignity to acquire this undeserved power. Not only do they look the other way as Bush goes about making war on innocent people

in his quest for world dominance, but they are content to look the other way even if, in order to achieve that world dominance, he is willing to destroy America and its democracy along the way.

Bush has given Jews what they think they want. His methods are brutal and some Jews have torn a page from Bush's book and adopted his brutal consciousness as their own.

In the end, Bush and his minions will fall and be swept away by history like all the other despots who have tried to accumulate power that does not belong to them. And in this case, many Jews are among his minions and they too will be swept away, and maybe Israel with them. Of course it is not only Jews who have gone for the ride.

God loves people. In his love for people he is the ultimate teacher. And we will all learn what we need to know. And what we need to know is how to love, how to live in freedom, how to live in peace, how to forgive, and how to be a human being in the image of God. How long will that take? A better question is, how long will it take you?

Mark A. Goldman

Citizen and Candidate for President of the United States

Treason - are you giving it a pass?

3/11/07

Are you doing for the Democrats, the same thing that the Democrats are doing for Bush and his Republicans.... giving them a pass? Is that what all this talk is.... gestures that pretend to do something when in fact it does little or nothing at all.

Probably the reason that it is so difficult to take action is that things are so bad we don't even see what is right in front of us. What we have is the overthrow of the legitimate government of the United States. If George Bush and his minions are above the law with impunity, then this is not the country of our fathers. Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Lincoln, and all the rest are rolling over in their graves contemplating the loss of habeas corpus, privacy rights, separation of powers, an acknowledgment of the basic dignity of human beings and all the rest. This is treason. The only reason we don't see it is because they are all in on it.

Any member of the House could offer articles of impeachment, but no one will. Any member of the Senate could say on camera that Bush and Cheney are criminals and criminals ought not to hold public office but no one will. They are all

more loyal to their party, their careers, or their party leadership than they are to the Constitution.

Since they are all in on it, no one in high office is left to defend the Republic but us. And we spend our time talking about policy or begging them to please listen to us. Do we send in more troops or not? Do we end the war or not? Who should be the next President, Hillary or Obama? I say, they're fired!

Absent the willingness and the courage to see the truth and react to it, all that is left are meaningless talk and words on a page. I offer you a plan of action if you have the courage to implement it. The time to start is... Now!

What is the strategy? It won't be easy to do but it's simple to understand: Look at your willingness to honor your own pledge of allegiance which is the same as a lawmaker's oath of office. Stand up and defend the Constitution. How? Do not support, vote or work for any candidate who hasn't been willing to independently tell the truth and act in the defense of the Constitution. That they didn't think they could win if they acted is not an excuse. You don't always know you're going to win when you stand up to fight the good fight.

Instead of supporting those who are timid, we must use our energy to support honorable independent people who have the courage to run

for office and won't need to be pressured and cajoled into honoring their oath of office once they are elected.

How do you find such people? That's not as hard as it sounds. See what they've been saying and doing these last 6 years. Who was able to stand on their own two feet and tell the truth. If you are such a person, run for office or find someone else who you think is qualified and ask them to run.

Unfortunately, in my view, every member of congress fails the test I'm suggesting you use. You say, I'm being too hard on them. No way. What has happened to basic honor and decency? Torture? Rendition? Indefinite detentions? The right to be legitimately represented by an attorney? Fraudulent elections? Depleted Uranium? Cluster bombs in populated areas? Dead citizens floating in the street? No-bid contracts? Secrecy? Signing statements? Criminal incompetence and negligence? Is it responsible to sign a bill before reading it? Too many excuses. I say enough!

If you won't be true to your own honor, do not expect anyone else to be true to theirs either. If you can't stand on your own two feet and be counted, then who else will? I'm sorry, but Democrats are not any better than Republicans. They feed from the same corporate trough and their loyalty is to their careers and not to us.

Most of the country is asleep. If you won't help me wake them up, our country will be lost. Maybe we don't deserve to be free.

Wake up and come into alignment with your own knowledge, honor, and consciousness. Or be prepared to kiss your freedom goodbye.

Mark A. Goldman

Citizen and Candidate for President of the United States

Does Reform Come From the Top or From the Bottom?

3/7/07

Well this is a common question. How do you change things? Do you work to change the leadership at the national level or do you work to change things in your community? Do you change things at the top or at the bottom? Yes.

It is very difficult to bring reform if people who don't want reform are standing in the way. And who doesn't want reform? Generally, it's people who already hold the reigns of power. And yet right now, who is standing in the way of reform? We all are. Most of us don't know it. Most of us just can't see it.

One reason we don't see it is because people at the top are standing in the way and they don't want us to see it. The problem is that we and the people at the top have the same consciousness, generally speaking. We elect people who are very much like ourselves. And so the people at the top behave just as we would behave if we were there. You might not like me saying that, because it's not always easy to look in the mirror. But once we do it's hard to deny the truth.

To break the cycle, something has to change. One thing that can bring about change is

responsible leadership. Leadership can come from anybody and, in a manner of speaking, from everybody.

People who have power want to hold onto it. Generally, they will not give it up voluntarily... even if we are nice to them... unless by being nice we mean we are willing to be subservient. If we are willing to be subservient then they will be nice and let us play in their game.

Electing people to office who have the same consciousness we have is probably the main difficulty with democracy. Who, after all, is smart enough to vote for someone who has more integrity than they do or at least not less?

Most people want to be in positions of leadership because they think that if they were only there, they could set things up so that everyone would do things their way, and if everybody would just do things their way, then everything would be just great.

The problem is, when they get there, things don't work out great. Too often those who get the positions they seek find they have been striving for an illusion. Being in high office is not what they thought it would be. They find that the only way they can persuade others to do things their way is to lie, hide the truth, misinform, or cheat. After all that's what they did to get there. That's

the only strategy they know that works. What they don't realize is that it doesn't work forever.

Everybody makes mistakes. When people make mistakes there are consequences. When people in high places make mistakes there are big consequences. That's why if you don't have an enlightened, well-educated, well-informed electorate, things can go very wrong and democratic institutions are bound to fail.

I have, in my writings, done my best to reduce things to their lowest common denominator so that anyone can understand if they want to. In announcing my candidacy, I am offering to serve in a leadership capacity if people are really looking for leadership. But let me tell you something about leadership.

Leaders can only be leaders when they are wanted and needed. If you look carefully at the lives of Martin Luther King and Gandhi, for example, history makes them out to be extraordinary individuals. Well of course they were. But what also made them extraordinary were the circumstances in which they lived. What propelled them to leadership was the fact that they were asked to serve by people who knew enough to know that they needed and wanted help. They were at the end of their rope. Nothing else was working. They were ready to follow someone who had a different vision. And in the

case of MLK and Gandhi, the people made very wise choices. Not everyone wanted to lead. It was a risky business.

When they were asked to lead, these people were not famous, politically powerful, or wealthy. But people wanted leadership. After all, what did they have to lose? In reality, it takes as much truth and courage to follow as it does to lead. If you can't recognize the truth then you won't know who or what to follow. And if you try to overhaul the status quo, you can be sure that you will have to face some difficult circumstances. You will wither under the pressure if you don't have courage. In other words, if you want change, you have to be the change. And you can be. If you are reading this, then change is not that big a leap for you. But you have to want it and until you do, these are just words on a page.

I don't know if I can make it any plainer than I already have. If you want things to get better, you have to get better. If you want justice, you have to be prepared to be justice, choose justice, stand for justice. And when you stand for justice you will have to stand against a strong wind because that wind is coming at you to blow you away.

Others pander for your vote by saying what you want to hear. I'm simply telling you the truth. If you want the truth, you need to be willing to live

in the truth. I'm sixty-three years old. I'm not as young as I used to be and I'm beginning to feel my age. As far as I am concerned, time is of the essence.

But let's be fair. You don't really need me. You could instead... be me. Or you can find someone else to lead who will likely tell you the same thing I'm telling you, but maybe say it better.

But no matter who says it, when you are ready, you are not going to get to where you want to go unless you are willing to stand up for what you want. And if you want justice you will have to stand up for it. If you choose less, you will get less.

People who are willing to say anything to get elected will do and say anything to stay elected. If you compromise your integrity hoping that it will all work out in the end, it will not work out in the end. Not if in the end what you want is a government operating out of integrity.

So where does reform come from... top or bottom? It doesn't come from top or bottom. It comes from within. There is only honorable citizenship. Whether you are President of the United States or a citizen who works a simple job to earn a small wage, you have a real opportunity to make a difference in life.

You make that difference by being the best 'you' you can be... being honorable, telling the truth.

I didn't ask you to follow me. I asked you to stand with me, so that I might stand with you. If you stand with me you are a leader every bit as much as I am... but only if you stand firm.

In fact, I can't be a leader alone. Someone standing alone is just someone standing alone. He's not a leader until there's participation.

Vote for what you believe in. Continue to learn with an open mind so that you continually refine the quality of what you do believe in. If you are honest with yourself and others... if you have compassion for other people... if you are willing to forgive... if you believe in justice. Don't move. Stand where you are, for where you stand is on solid ground. Stand there, not alone, but with me. And the center of gravity of the universe will shift to be aligned with us... If you stand with me.

Mark A. Goldman

Citizen and Candidate for President of the United States

Mark A. Goldman announced his candidacy for President on March 5, 2007. This commentary is in response to questions from readers at opednews.com where the announcement was posted.

Simple Strategy for Citizens Who Want to Renew our Democracy

2/28/07

If you have been paying attention to what is happening to our country, particularly during the last 6 years, you know that our Democracy is in deep trouble. In many ways, elected representatives are no longer being held accountable to the people who put them in office. Our Constitution and the rule of law is being attacked on many fronts. I have written extensively about all of this.

In this commentary, I am going to suggest one strategy that could reverse this trend, although it will require a great deal of courage on the part of those who accept my thesis.

We have often been told that to effect political change we need to organize and band together otherwise we won't be heard. I am going to suggest that to make the kinds of changes we need to preserve our Democracy requires something more personal than that.

What is needed now, in my view, are not citizens banding together to identify themselves with a particular group, party, or organization, but rather individual citizens having the courage to exercise their own best judgment independently and

responsibly without regard to what everyone or anyone else might be doing.

In other words, we need citizens who have the courage to stand alone, if need be, in coming into alignment with their own clear values. Specifically, I propose that there is one clear value to which each of us must align if we're to save our country: we all must, as individuals, be willing to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution against all its enemies foreign and domestic.

And here's how we do it:

I suggest that when voting for any elected official, regardless of the office they hold or want to hold (whether it be local, state, or national), that the primary criteria for selecting the person who will ultimately get our vote, comes in asking this question: which candidate running for this office can we trust with confidence to honor his or her oath of office. Bear in mind, that the only oath any elected official takes before assuming the responsibilities of the office to which they were elected, is their sacred promise to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution against all its enemies foreign or domestic. If they can't be trusted to do that above all else, they don't deserve to hold public office... any public office.

Framers of the Constitution and their successors had great wisdom when they made that oath a

prerequisite for holding office. They knew that the only security we really have as a people is our ability to trust one another. It is our ability to trust the word of our elected representatives that allows us to go about our daily lives and concentrate on our jobs and other responsibilities with confidence; we can't do that unless we are sure that our children's freedom are in the sure hands of people we can trust.

Certainly, we face difficult choices when it comes to solving our political differences, meeting challenges, or taking advantage of opportunities. But no matter what lies ahead, surely we will only succeed if we and our elected representatives share one sacred value that is common to all of us: The preservation of rights and freedoms that our forebears gave their lives and limbs to secure for all of us. The preservation of those rights and freedoms are spelled out in our country's founding document, The Constitution.

So I am not suggesting that you vote for any particular ideology. Nor am I suggesting that every citizen will interpret every clause of the Constitution in the same way. But there are some aspects of the Constitution that are inviolable: the right to a fair trial, the right to defend yourself and be represented by counsel, the right to face your accusers, the right to be considered innocent until proved guilty, the right not to be mistreated, the right to your privacy, the right to speak your

mind, the right to pray or not pray as you see fit, the right to vote and have your vote properly counted, the right to expect that your government will operate at all levels with integrity and transparency, the right to expect that no person in the land will be allowed to hold him or herself above the law, and the right not to be lied to or cheated by those who took an oath to defend these principles with their lives...

What I am suggesting is that before you consider any candidate for public office that you satisfy yourself that that person in question can be counted on to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution. If in your best judgment you don't think they understand what is required of them or if you think they don't consider that oath as the single most important job they have, then I suggest you not consider them eligible to hold public office... any public office. Do not vote for anyone no matter what their stated agenda or policies are if you are not convinced they understand what their primary job is and have the character to do that job... which is to say, keep their word by honoring their oath of office.

It is my personal belief that if a critical mass of citizens were to vote only for qualified citizens as I have suggested, it would transform our government from what it is today to one that would be competent to find realistic solutions to problems that currently threaten our way of life.

It is not terrorists who threaten our way of life; what threatens our way of life are persons who haven't the character, vision, or integrity to tell the truth or keep their word of honor.

If we are honorable about voting as I have suggested, we will choose representatives who are honorable... and our Democracy will endure. If we do not, I don't believe our Democracy will endure.

What I have suggested above doesn't require anything of you other than that you vote with integrity. Easier said than done.

If you find candidates in the next election who measure up to this standard, then by all means vote for them. If they do not measure up, don't vote for them. If you don't believe that any of the candidates running are qualified under this criteria then you might consider running for office yourself. If you don't want to run, then work to find qualified people who are willing to run. But never vote for any person who you do not believe has enough character to keep their oath of office.

If we fail at this task, the great experiment of which we are all a part will also fail. The character of the country you live in will be a reflection of your own character. How much courage do you have? How honorable are you to your own pledge of allegiance?

I will leave you with one ancillary reading (see link below) that is part of the argument I am making. Near the bottom of that reading are additional links. Follow each of those links.

They explain and expand my thesis and its implications. If you care about your freedom and can understand what I have written here and there, I think we have a chance. If we fail to elect representatives who will honorably defend our freedoms, we will, through negligence or ignorance, elect representatives who will not honorably defend our freedoms... and in my opinion, if we do that, those freedoms will be lost.

www.gpln.com/simplenoteasy.htm

<http://www.counterpunch.org/-cohn05062008.htm>
|

Talking with Jesus... again

2/18/07

Mark: Hi. It's good to see you again.

Jesus: It's good to see you again too. Thanks for taking time for this.

Mark: Well. I'm not sure what to say. Forgive me for saying this but you look a little troubled or something.

Jesus: Maybe. I am a little concerned. I do have some things that I'd like to get off my chest, so to speak.

Mark: Why don't you start wherever you want.

Jesus: I want to clear something up. I'm not God. The last time we talked, I thought I'd made that clear, but maybe not. Some say I was a messenger for God. I can live with that. Actually, that's a good description. There's a lot of misunderstanding... a lot of myth that has been created about my life. I'm going to explain some things to you, to your readers.

When I said, "Thanks for taking time out to talk with me," I really meant it. The reason I'm saying that, is that by participating with me like this... well... that kind of makes you a messenger too. I

don't know if you or other people realize what that means. It sounds romantic, but it's not.

When people like the message the messenger brings, they make him a hero. When they don't like it, they string him up. Either way, he's only responsible for telling the truth, not for the truth itself.

Mark: I know.

Jesus: I know you know. I know all about you. But I don't think your readers know... well... there's a lot of confusion about me. That my life still has meaning for so many people long after I left this plane... well... there's a lot of good that's come from that.

But in many ways, it's been very unfortunate. The misunderstandings, the lies, the manipulation of my words... to suit people who never knew me, and never understood what I tried to do here... I want to clear some of that up. It's very disturbing to me and quite frankly... well... I try to be understanding. I am understanding. I understand, but still I want to do something about it. Do you know what I'm saying.

Mark: Yes. I think I do.

Jesus: Yeah. Well first, let's get this out of the way: Am I the messiah? Am I? Well, I think so, I hope so. How can that be if the world is still as

screwed up as it ever was? You know what I'm going to say, don't you?

Mark: Yeah. I think so.

Jesus: Yeah. It has nothing to do with time. I am the messiah because the message I shared was what I thought people needed to hear to transform their world from a place of great sorrow to a place of true brotherhood. Did I fail? No. Would I say some things differently now, if I had it to do over? Probably.

But I became what I wanted to become... I loved you. You know what I mean when I say I loved you? I mean I love you. Not just you. But every you.

Did that make me the messiah? No. Well, yes, actually. It was because of my love for you... what I shared with you... what I had been taught, what I came to know and understand. I gave you the chance... I did my best. I was not the messiah because of the things I did. I was the messiah because I became who I am. The things I did were great enough to get your attention, but not good enough to make people understand. Do you know what I'm saying? I think you do.

Mark: I think so.

Jesus: You think so! You know I read your book. You said, "Paul Revere was not the hero... anyone

could have run through the streets making a ruckus just like he did. It's not just the guy who rings the bell who is the hero, it's the people who answer the call, who are the real heroes." It was Paul Revere, 'the messenger,' who we remember. That's just public relations. But you know what? You were right. If you answer the call because of me, then I am the messiah as far as you are concerned. Or maybe I should say, when someone answers the call because of me, to them I will be the messiah. But you know what else? Personally I think there have been many messiahs... many of my brothers who became enlightened beings, who knew what I know, who spoke their truth. If people answered the call when they rang the bell—then why aren't they the messiah, too? Well, they are.

Like I said, the things I did got peoples' attention, but it didn't make them understand. I can't make anybody understand anything. It's impossible.

Mark: Why impossible?

Jesus: You know why. Because I cannot make you experience what I experience. I can only tell you about my experience. I can only point you in direction where I think you will find what you are looking for. I can only tell you about God from my own experience, but I cannot make you understand what it feels like to me to be in the presence of God.

Until you know what it feels like to you to be in the presence of God you can only believe what I tell you it is like for me to be in the presence of God. Until you know, you can only believe. And you know what—the truth believed is a lie. It's a lie because you will pretend to know what I am talking about when in fact, you only believe or have faith that I am telling you the truth.

You know what? God is with you every moment of every day. But if you don't experience it, you can't honestly tell anyone else, that what I just said is true. If you pretend that you know it's true, then you're a liar. You may have the best of intentions, but I told you not to lie. And you know what, you don't have to be a liar. Why? Because I told everyone how to become what I am. At least I told you what I think you needed to know. And if they had become what I am, they would have known who I was. Do you have enough courage to tell the truth? Maybe my path is not your path. I didn't follow anyone. Maybe you can't become what I am by following anyone either. But you can become what you strive to become. I think so. What do you want to be? You know Mark, I'm not a Christian. I never was.

Mark: Wow. I think this will confuse a lot of people... what you just said.

Jesus: But it doesn't confuse you, does it?

Mark: No.

Jesus: No.

Mark: Well, so what do you want from me?

Jesus: I want you to tell them who you are?

Mark: How do I know what it means? I've failed at everything.

Jesus: So did I.

Mark: But you told the truth. Many listened. A few minutes ago, you just said you didn't fail.

Jesus: No. I told the truth and very few listened. People think the bible is a window into the mind of God. In fact, it is more like a mirror to their own soul. I asked people to believe what I was telling them..."Tell the truth," I said. But instead they told my truth as if it was theirs and made it into a lie. I didn't fail because they didn't believe me, or understand me, or trust me. It took me a long time to understand this. I am not responsible for what everyone else does or doesn't do.

Mark: Yeah.

Jesus: And so now we have how many different religions all based on my so-called teachings. And then there are all these different versions of the bible. And each person who calls him or herself a Christian, decides what passages are the truth as far as they are concerned. Some say the entire bible is true... but of course, those same people

pick and choose which passages they want to read and quote to others.

Mark: Yeah, I know. Anias Nin said, “We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are. “

Jesus: Exactly! Exactly right! That's what makes the bible such a holy book. It is a window into your own soul. It doesn't tell you what I thought or what God thinks... it tells you what you think, how you think, what you want to believe, what you are ready to believe. And what the authors wanted to believe or wanted you to believe.

But it doesn't necessarily tell you what I believe, what I know, what I have become, what my relationship with God is like, or what I tried to share. Listen: they did the best they could. Everyone does, in a way.

Let me tell you something else: if practicing religion helps you to forgive, to love, to tell the truth, then it's worthwhile participating. If that's not what's happening, then it's not my teaching. What I see today is just so much confusion. So many people telling other people what to think. A lot of foolishness. It's a mess.

Mark: Yeah, well. I see messes everywhere I look.

Jesus: Well, let's not get too maudlin. There are a lot of interesting and good things that are happening even though it's hard to see them.

Mark: What do you mean?

Jesus: I mean, for example, this war in Iraq. You know what I think? Well, first of all, I know how you feel... it's been a great horror, a great tragedy. So much pain, destruction, and sorrow. And yet you know something... I feel that too. But it also offers a great revelation.

Mark: And what's that?

Jesus: Take a look at all the effort, all the money, all the human and psychic energy that has been devoted to pursuing and executing this war... the lives lost, the tears, the sorrow, the news reports, the email and letters written, the books written, the interviews, the discussions, the courage that has been demonstrated-the political courage, the physical courage, the moral courage, the sacrifice, the tears, the transformation, the lies told, the truth revealed, the disappointment, the fear. All of it. And for what?

Just think... now listen to me and listen carefully... if you or I would have suggested that there was enough resources or passion in the world to end hunger and starvation on the planet, or to end the suffering from all of the curable diseases in the world, to improve the education of all children, to

give everyone a place to live, food to eat, hope for the future... do you know... that if I said that there could be peace on earth... do you know what I would have been told?

I would have been told that it's impossible, a pipe dream. We don't have the money or the resources, no matter how you define them, to do any of these things. But you know what... your country just demonstrated that you do have the resources to do all of these things...RIGHT NOW. Ask any of your true experts what it would take to end hunger and starvation of the planet... ask them how much money it would take. I mean to end hunger forever. If they tell the truth you will see that it would take only a fraction of what has already been spent in Iraq. Remember you don't have to buy fish for everyone forever with the money and the expended effort. "You only have to help them... show them how to fish... from a place in your heart that really and truly wants them to succeed." All you have to do is find that place... that place in your heart... that loves, that forgives, that strives.

Why is this good news and not reason to shed your tears? Well maybe it is a reason for both. For both. Now you know. Now everyone knows, that if you wanted to have this world be the kind of place I had in mind—the world I spoke about—you now know that you have all the resources and tools that it takes...

The only thing missing is the will of people to make it their personal goal in life to have it happen. But no longer can you hide the fact that there are enough resources to do it. The truth is so blatant that you can almost see it written on the sky.

There could be peace on earth and goodwill towards all if people who say they believe in me would only pay attention and think about what I have just said. What if they really cared, spent some real psychic energy on that? Do you realize what a great opportunity this is... Am I the messiah? Yes. But a messiah, I am sorry to inform you, is not someone who will make you do anything. That's one of the greatest and perhaps one of the most pernicious myths or lies about me. I'm not coming back to judge anyone or make anyone do anything. You have free will.

Do you really think I would take your free will away from you? Do you really think, if I could, that I would send you away to someplace horrible forever? If you think so, you don't know me at all. And you don't know our Father either. I love you. I wouldn't do that. God wouldn't do that.

If you want to transform the world into the place I came to tell you about, it is up to you. I told you all about God from my first hand experience. I told the truth. All that's missing is your will to make it so. And you know... when I use the word

you, I am using it in the broadest sense. But I am talking to you. I look into the deep tragedy of war and I see hope. I'm sorry that it takes war and such anguish before people will open their eyes to see the truth, but I just told you the truth.

Mark: Well you know, our Congress right now is being asked to spend another \$100 Billion dollars on more war. Now that we've spent all this money maybe what you say is no longer true. Maybe, it's only possible for most people to believe that... well, NOW we really don't have enough money and resources to do what you say. We've already squandered what we had. We had to spend it to see that we always had it, but now that we've spent it, it's gone.

Jesus: No! I'm telling you that you do have all the resources. You spent some to open the eyes of people everywhere on the planet. Everybody can see how much money is available to accomplish the fruits of greed and other human deficiencies.

But consider, what might be accomplished if the money and all those resources (on both sides of the fence) were used to make the world a better place to live? Do people believe in me or not? Do people believe in God or not? Mark, tell them. Be a messenger. Be my messenger, if it helps.

Mark: Yeah. But why don't you tell them yourself? Why me?

Jesus: You know why?

Mark: Yeah.

Jesus: Yeah. I see the sadness in your eyes. But I am your brother and your friend. You don't need to cry.

Mark: I know. Ok.

Iran's Revenge

2/2/07

I don't believe that the pending war in Iran has anything to do with nuclear energy or nuclear weapons.

Sometimes US foreign policy is conducted using hidden messages (in order to make sure US citizens have no idea what's going on) but I believe Iran knows what the message is: the United States will rain down death and destruction on Iran (just as we did in Iraq) if Iran moves ahead aggressively with its effort to open an oil exchange where contracts will be paid for in euros rather than dollars.

On the other hand, Iran is telling the US that if you make war on us, we might choose to sell our oil only for euros; dollars will no longer be accepted.

So what we have here is a game of chicken.

If the US and/or Israel goes ahead and bombs Iran under the pretext of stopping their atomic energy program, Iran might refuse to sell its oil for dollars. This probably would precipitate a world-wide economic recession with the US economy being among the primary losers. That might be an understatement. Of course we have our fleet now in the gulf to place an embargo on

Iranian oil if they were to do that, but how do we know that Venezuela would not follow Iran's lead?

Of course, Iran doesn't want to be bombed back to the Stone Age as we have now done to Iraq, and its leaders are not much interested in regime change, an activity in which the US has some expertise and a history of success.

This would not be the first time that the US government set out to overthrow the Iranian government. The US was successful in overthrowing Iran's legitimate and democratically elected prime minister, Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh in 1953, replacing his government with a repressive puppet regime that was favorable to British and US interests. The reason we took it upon ourselves to destroy their emerging democracy in 1953 was that Mossadegh had decided to nationalize the oil industry rather than continue to allow what was then Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (today known as British Petroleum) to rape the country of its oil resources. In any event, the dictator Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi (The Shah of Iran), who we put into power to protect our source of cheap oil, was eventually overthrown by Islamic radicals, who were able to gain public support due to the Shah's excessive repression. It's their successors who we are dealing with today. A great many Iranian citizens probably remember or know what we did

to them and their country in 1953 when we killed their chance to live in a democracy.

I suppose it's sort of a stalemate at this point. Until the US or Iran backs off or escalates, we are held in suspense. If it comes to war, I don't see how either side can win. If Bush really believes the US is as powerful and invulnerable as his rhetoric implies and he acts on his illusions, it will be very interesting to watch.

I will leave it to other experts to explain why trading oil for Euros would be so devastating to the US economy. The truth is we have no moral right to the exclusive monopoly on how oil transactions are executed, just as we have no legal or moral claim on the oil that lies beneath the sands of the Middle East.

Our vulnerability is due to our own greed, negligence, and malfeasance, which is, in turn, reflected in the people we elect to public office, or promote to the upper echelons of many of our corporations.

State of the Union: a defeated nation

1/26/07

There is a lot of discussion about whether or not we can win the war if we send more troops. The war is already over. We lost. We are a defeated nation. No amount of troops can secure a victory now. In fact, the more troops we send, the more we lose. What was at stake in this war? Everything.

If you listen to the pundits and the news, it is all about the war in Iraq. They will even tell you that the last election was about the war. But the war I have been fighting has nothing to do with Iraq. The war I have been fighting has nothing to do with terrorists. In the war I have been fighting, who wins—the people who continue to honor and hold sacred the Constitution and the rule of law, or those who do not— is a lot more important than who wins in Iraq. As far as I can tell, those who do not honor the Constitution have already won. The war I have been fighting has been going on long before I entered the fray. That war is lost.

This is not to say that I am surrendering. After all, I'm not dead yet. I'm only telling the truth as I see it... only taking stock of the battlefield, counting the dead, the dying, and the wounded; counting the hours before the sun sets, and seeing what is left of my candle.

Even if we kill every al-Qaeda "terrorist" in the Middle East, the war will still be lost. Al-Qaeda is not our mortal enemy. It never was. There never was an external enemy who could transform our government from a constitutional representative democracy into something else. I have no name for what it is today, but what we have now is not that. Too bad for our children.

The only reason that it still might look like a working constitutional democracy is that many of our people believe and act as if there still is one. The only thing that will convince them that they are living an illusion is when the reality hits them where it hurts, as it did and continues to do for many of our citizens who used to live in New Orleans. They now know, that what they have lost is more than just their homes, their jobs, their money, and their stuff. They were betrayed by their own government, their own countrymen. What they lost were their illusions and the dream it represented.

To win back our constitution and reinstate the rule of law we will have to fight another war, a different war. To win that war will require a critical mass of citizens who have the vision to see, the heart to fight, and the will to win. Maybe that war will be fought by our great-grandchildren or great-great-grandchildren. I'm guessing it will take that long for our children and grandchildren

to unlearn what we have been teaching them by our example. Maybe I'm being too optimistic.

Sometimes silence is golden. Sometimes silence is discretion and the better part of valor. Sometimes it's fear. Sometimes neglect. And sometimes silence is treason.

About a hundred years ago there was famine in China. I predict that one day there will be famine right here in the United States. When they read in China what is happening to us, they will care as much about us as we cared about them when we read what was happening there. The bread that will be consumed in many nations will be baked with wheat that was grown here, even as America's children go hungry... it will be called the great hunger in the midst of plenty... and we will weep in our graves.

Does Israel Have A Right To Exist?

12/2/06

The simple answer to this question is "No." Israel does not have a right to exist. But then again neither does the United States have a right to exist. At least not a moral right. In fact, no country has a "right to exist" except to the extent to which you can identify some universal value that gives a nation the right to exist, and even then only to the extent that you can verify that that nation qualifies as having such a right under your universal value system.

(See www.counterpunch.org/cook11302006.html)

So let me suggest such a value system:

"No government or nation has a right to exist unless that government and its people are striving to adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights... and that includes:

1). a willingness to announce to the world and to their own people that that's what their goal is, and

2). substantial evidence, according to some reasonable standard, that that's what they are, in fact, striving to do."

(See www.gpln.com/legitimategovernment.pdf)

Israel became a nation with the support of many countries, but in becoming a country Israel acquired land that was already occupied by people living there — people who had been living there for a very long time... people who had no say in whether or not they wanted to give up their homes, their livelihood and their land so that Jews might start a new country at their expense. The only right Israel had in taking over the land was the right of force or power... power granted them by the United States and others for the sake of expediency.

And if you review history you will see that the borders of all nations evolved in roughly the same way. Each nation had to fight (and in Israel's case the fight was aided by powerful allies) to occupy the land until they could establish for themselves over time that this was their land; and since no one could take it away from them, that was that. Then tradition became the right. And then nations formally agreed on paper to abide by those traditions. The victors in war almost always became land owners and the vanquished became the underclass. If this is what you mean when you say that Israel has a right to exist, then Israel has a right to exist. But there is no moral right that can legitimately be claimed here.

And what of the United States? By what moral right does our country exist? By right of genocide through the extermination of the indigenous

people who were already living here when our ancestors arrived?

The difference between the United States and Israel is that much of the world sympathizes with the plight of the Palestinian people. Many identify with them because they share a common ethnic background and/or religion, so many people around the world are not disinterested. This makes victory or genocide not so easy to accomplish. Here you have a significant fight on your hands.

It was easier for our country to exterminate the people who occupied what is now the continental United States because the indigenous natives who lived here had no powerful allies, and they, without support, lacked sufficient technology to defend themselves. Our ancestors justified their behavior by calling American Indians "savages." But American Indians were not savages. We were the savages. We broke every agreement we ever made with them. We did every dishonorable thing one group of people could do to another. We had no moral right to do what we did.

So... will there be peace in the Middle East in our lifetime? It depends on what you call peace. But in terms of what I call peace, there will be none until the truth is acknowledged and told by all the parties who were and are responsible, and surely not until some honorable arrangements, including

reparations, are made to those who were cheated.

As for us and our children, and as for them and their children, we have all been cheated. And as for those of us who call ourselves citizens, most of us are cheaters as well as having been cheated. For we fail in our obligation as human beings to acknowledge the truth, because we don't like what the truth sounds like or what the implications might be if we did tell the truth.

Many of us are simply uninformed, uneducated, brainwashed, and/or oblivious, and for that we have ourselves, our government, and each other to blame. No one is absolved. There is no honor in silence, ignorance, or cowardice... and no peace either.

On God and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

6/02/06

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the revealed true word of God. But the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not a religion. God does not want to be worshipped. God wants to be loved. And the way you love God is by loving one another.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not God's Law. It is God's hope. It is not a law; it is a goal... 'a common standard of achievement'... something to strive for. When all people have read it, understand it, and come into alignment with its teaching and wisdom, there will be peace on earth, goodwill towards others, and people will act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

When you love God you are fearless, but you do not practice war; you are fearless in your love for others. You are not afraid of ideas and you are not afraid of the truth or your own ignorance. You want to know how to improve as a human being so you are humble in your beliefs, knowing that you are not perfect, that you sometimes make mistakes, that you do not always understand.

When you and the nation you live in come into alignment with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all citizens in your country will be free to think and speak and learn and grow according to the truth of their own experience, and do so without denying others the freedom to do the same. And it is in that freedom that people will learn to live together in peace and justice.

All things are possible where there is freedom being expressed in a spirit of brotherhood.

In all nations there will be freedom of religion and that means there will be no such thing as a Christian nation or a Muslim nation or a Jewish nation. All peoples must be free to think and to change and to grow and to love. Practicing religion does not give you permission to rule anyone but yourself.

God loves you no matter what religion you practice and God loves you if you don't practice religion. God is not small. God is great. God is present and closer to you than your own breath.

God is real and not a myth.

I dedicate what I've written here to three of my friends who died in May 2006... Esther Robbins Hutton, Ruth Dasche, and Barbara J. Wood... in loving memory.

There is only one issue

5/18/06

Leadership does not come from government, business, mainstream media, religious centers, colleges or universities. Leadership does not come from institutions; it only comes from individual human beings who take personal responsibility.

The Bush administration has betrayed us a thousand ways. Attempting to address so many issues dissipates our energy and leads to distractions, confusion, disillusionment, and lost hope.

Yet when all is said and done what emerges is clarity and only one issue: We must restore integrity to the rule of law.

That one issue is the only issue where any of us can actually make a lasting difference. We have no say in any issue if the loss of the Constitution and our basic rights and freedoms become acceptable in the hearts and minds of our countrymen.

We must confront and bring to justice the charlatans and their accomplices who fraudulently took the reigns of power, committed unconscionable crimes, and have taken it upon

themselves to dismantle the rule of law, thinking they have done so with impunity.

If this issue is not resolved, no other issue can ever be resolved... if this issue is not resolved, citizenship is irrelevant... our heritage and our children's birthright is lost.

This administration must be removed and the rule of law must be restored.

The following are links to two commentaries which, with their supporting links, are a road map for turning things around:

www.gpln.com/simplenoteasy.htm

www.gpln.com

I'm asking that you stand with me, so that I might stand with you.

And I also invite you to click this link, which every citizen should read:

[The Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

Nancy Pelosi Forfeits the Constitution

5/16/06

With House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi telling us that Democrats will not try to impeach Bush now or later, we have an admission that the rule of law is now dead in America. At least it's dead with Nancy Pelosi. She wants to appease us with legislative perks. Her strategy: It doesn't matter that we've lost the Constitution, we'll make it up to you with a better drug prescription plan. (She smiles... Applause!)

I don't see any real signs of life anywhere else in Congress either. Apparently we are to accept and believe that...

1. Bush and his cabal did not commit impeachable offenses, or
2. We have entered a new chapter in America where some people are now above the law. In fact, what she is telling us is that the Constitution doesn't matter any more, that administrations rule rather than serve, and from now on some government officials will be accountable to no one... ever.

Bush's impeachment should have been well under way by now. The problem is that there has been a political coup, and the government of the United States has been overthrown.

This is not hyperbole. If you think such a pronouncement is over the top, it's only because you are uninformed and not paying attention.

How come no Congress person has stated publicly that Bush and Co. have committed impeachable offenses and why have no Representatives filed articles of impeachment? Is it too late now that they are all complicit? Allowing Bush to trample the Constitution is treason.

Individual members of Congress have given up their autonomy and instead of honoring their oath of office, they've subordinated themselves to party leaders. By sticking together either as Democrats or Republicans, they no longer represent the people they took an oath to serve. They are afraid to tell the truth or do their jobs for fear of something... fear of losing committee appointments, the next election, a bright career, blackmail, worse. Are they afraid of being "Swift boated" or "Wellstoned?" Maybe all of the above.

They have succumbed to a political apparatus that now operates outside the framework of the Constitution itself. House and Senate rules give some representatives more power than others... so much so that most representatives have lost their autonomy and sense of self. That was never the intention of the Framers.

There is nothing in the Constitution that suggests that newly elected representatives should have

less ability to represent their constituents or defend the Constitution than more senior or better politically connected members.

Every member has a duty, an obligation, and a right to know what he or she needs to know to represent the people and defend the Constitution. They've neglected their duty, defied their obligations, and utterly failed to protect the Constitution.

The institution itself... in fact, national government at nearly all departments... is failing, corrupt, disintegrating, and ineffectual absolutely. The result is treason by default through negligence, cowardice and moral turpitude. Congress now is too dysfunctional to fix itself. They need to be swept away and replaced. The loss is catastrophic.

Unfortunately, these people are no more negligent than their constituents... so it's unlikely that very many will be replaced.

<http://www.gpln.com/citizen.htm>

<http://www.gpln.com/simplenoteasy.htm>

<http://www.gpln.com/impeacharticles.htm>

<http://www.gpln.com/constitutionincrisis.htm>

For those of you who pray, I suggest you change your prayers from "God bless America," to "God help us." And I suggest you start today.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

On NSA Data Collection

5/13/06

If the NSA data accumulation project is allowed to stand, even if it has no other effect, it will tend to limit dissent and the effectiveness of opposition politics. This will be true even if the government never actually uses the data. The fact that they could make use of it is what is intimidating and that intimidation infringes on our privacy and our well being.

If citizens believe that dissenters might someday become political targets or scapegoats for the convenience of criminal administrations like the one we now have, more citizens may very well, (consciously or unconsciously), limit their exposure to dissenters, knowing that the government could—if it ever wanted to—trace the links and intimidate anyone who ever associated with them.

This administration, and others before it, have already demonstrated a propensity to pursue and punish innocent people after "establishing their guilt" by association. And of course those established associations could be in the form of telephone calls, email, or visits to web sites where a dissenter's commentaries might be displayed.

How many people are anxious to have a secret service team come to their home for a little interview? Can't you anticipate the fun? "We see that you had a relationship with this Mark Goldman person back in 2006..."

Citizens might just psychologically tune out and/or avoid contact with potentially controversial figures without even being aware of why they're doing it. Isn't it reasonable to assume that the temerity we currently observe among many citizens might be attributed to just this phenomenon?

For example, isn't it possible that some citizens remain silent in the face of unconscionable behavior on the part of government for fear of the financial or social consequences that might result? Aren't we all just a little afraid sometimes to speak our mind for fear of losing customers or the goodwill of those in our social circle? Well maybe that fear is well founded, but where does it come from?

I suggest it is purposely manufactured by those who want us to be compliant. Employees are afraid to talk openly about starting a union. Religion and politics are taboo subjects in polite company. Members of congress are afraid to speak out because they are afraid of being "swift boated." ¹

Power brokers are always "sending messages" and all too often the messages they send are intended to produce fear in the minds and hearts of recipients. This is intimidation and this intimidation permeates the space in which we live. That's not freedom. You can't be free and afraid at the same time. Fear is more dangerous to democracy than Al Qaeda is.

As a society we have been continuously intimidated since 9/11 and the NSA program is simply a ratcheting up of that intimidation. It wouldn't surprise me if the leak of the program's existence was anticipated. The response from government will likely make it more difficult for whistle-blowers, and if the program is not dismantled, the program's existence will become embedded in the reality—consciously or unconsciously— of every American.

Every citizen is affected because every citizen has to live in the evolving social consciousness. Fear is a preferred tool of tyrants and miscreants. And our current administration of miscreants are expert at promoting lies, instilling fear, and generally undermining civilized behavior.

Those who came before us lost a great deal of blood trying to put in place the civilized behavior that is now being dismantled. To the extent we look the other way, we extend the time we and our families will have to live our lives in a

consciousness of fear and intimidation even if no one we know is actually being physically intimidated.

So now the question is, how do we return to a society that is not run on a culture of fear? Well first off we have to become aware of what is being done to the space in which we live. Then we have to consciously confront, face down and/or purposely ignore the fears that others intend for us to experience in their attempt to modify our behavior.

With every act of courage a little bit of fear evaporates and when a critical mass of citizens accept their responsibilities of citizenship we will then begin to erase the remaining vestiges of fear so that our children and grandchildren will have the opportunity to once again pursue the dream that most of us have: the dream of living in a world of peace, freedom, justice, and true brotherhood.

¹ The term “swiftboating” (also spelled swift-boating or swift boating) is an American neologism used pejoratively to describe an unfair or untrue political attack. The term is derived from the name of the organization “Swift Boat Veterans for Truth” because of their widely publicized-and then discredited-campaign against 2004 U.S. Presidential candidate John Kerry. (from Wikipedia)

Mary McCarthy and the Bush League Players

4/26/06

The government was/is engaged in ongoing criminal behavior. It was Bush who approved the crimes and instructed others to carry them out. He then tried to hide the crimes by classifying the behavior as a secret. That's what every criminal would like to do.

Mary McCarthy, a mid level CIA agent, allegedly told the press that the CIA was running secret and illegal prisons in Eastern Europe, where people were being disappeared and tortured. It was a story that earned one reporter a Pulitzer Prize. If the accusation is true, Mary did what she had to do—what national and international law required her to do. It was the honorable, courageous, and patriotic thing to do. What is even more exemplary is that apparently she did it only 10 days before she could have retired. She was fired.

When Mary McCarthy exposed the crimes, she was punished for ignoring the fact that the criminals had classified their crimes as secrets. Of course that's what any Mafia boss would do if one of his operatives exposed his organization's crimes. It's just not what one would expect a legitimate government to do. Since the crimes

were perpetrated and initiated at the Presidential level, and since Congress was not exercising its oversight responsibilities, she had no recourse but to go outside of government to alert the citizenry. The government was/is out to lunch.

If Mary McCarthy actually did what she has been accused of doing then she is a hero. It's the mob boss who needs to lose his job. If her punishment stands, and Bush's criminal behavior goes unpunished, then what does that say about us?

One other point: Bush has a long record now of criminal behavior since coming to office. The press has been focusing on whether or not recent White House shuffling of staff is cosmetic or represents some kind of real change in the Executive Branch. I would simply say that the question is really irrelevant. The crimes Bush and his Bush league players have perpetrated on so many innocent victims are among the most violent and unconscionable acts that human beings can inflict on other human beings, and no shuffling of staff, or future change in attitude or policy, can exonerate him for what has already been done in our name.

Who has time for such naïveté?

4/26/06

All this talk about bombing Iran might not be about nuclear weapons at all. Notice that Iraq, Iran, and Venezuela all have/had one thing in common: none of them wants/wanted to trade oil for dollars anymore. In the case of Venezuela, they've partly gone to a barter system... bypassing dollars by trading oil directly for goods and services.

If more countries begin trading oil in euros or other currencies, this will have serious repercussions for the US economy... perhaps more serious than anything you've seen in your lifetime. Some have suggested that this is the main reason we went into Iraq in the first place. I don't argue the point. It's always been about oil... but how oil trades might be the most important issue. We might be able to delay it for a little while, but the trading of oil in euros on a major exchange is probably inevitable.

The truth is, we have convinced ourselves that because we are now so dependent on oil, even the oil under other people's soil should belong to us. And because we can get away with it, we choose war and terrorism to secure our supplies. Our strategic terrorism is not something we talk about. In the reality of the Bush league, anyone

who seeks to challenge American supremacy—economic or otherwise—is evil and must be destroyed. It's a deadly dead end road, with too many dead already piled up along the curb.

The central issue is not complicated. The American strategy now is centered on trying to RULE the world through fear and intimidation. LEADING the world towards a reality of true brotherhood and sustainability is what we need. But that sounds like idealism. Who has time for such naïveté? Right?

So we focus instead on policy issues rather than on the forgotten critical issue, which is: who are we and what do we stand for, as individuals and as a people?

What we need is a fundamental paradigm shift.

If Americans no longer care about or understand why it's important to defend the rule of law, then we might as well just keep on doing what we're doing: and that means, we might as well do nothing, which is the preferred strategy of the Democratic party.

The leadership of both parties have given us a precedent: criminals in business and in government can get away with murder, treason, and other high crimes if they are powerful enough and if their crimes are big enough.

So far, our response as citizens tends toward one of two attitudes: 1) "as long as it doesn't effect me personally, I just don't have time for this." or 2) "You're right. I'm going to vote for the other party next time." (In my view, the second attitude is simply a more subtle version of the first.)

The American Experiment, which is an experiment in social justice and personal responsibility, is on the brink.

If we don't change course, even if the Democrats win both houses next election, we still won't leave Iraq and it's doubtful that anyone will be impeached, even though there will be a lot of noise on both fronts. Why? Neither party will decide to leave Iraq in the end, because in the end it's all about oil, money, and domination... and once they are on top, money and power will look as interesting to Democrats as they now do to Republicans.

Do you think Democrats or Republicans are going to just pack up and leave the oil fields to the Iraqis—to nationalize them all over again—now that we've reorganized them to suit our own needs?

We can't move into a hopeful future until we begin taking responsibility for our tarnished past, which is something NO elected representative, NO political party, and few Americans appear willing to do.

If you are interested in living in a nation with other enlightened, freedom loving people; if you are interested in world peace; in a sustainable strategy for living on planet Earth; if you want to give your children a fighting chance, we're surely going to have to do a lot better than this.

It's no longer a matter of not knowing how...

The Big Lie Persists

4/4/06

*You can fool all the people some of the time,
and some of the people all the time,
but you cannot fool all the people all the time.*

— Abraham Lincoln

The Big Lie Persists. I am talking here about the first lie out of Bush's mouth immediately following 911 when he said that the reason we were attacked was because the terrorists hate our freedoms and our democracy. This was a big lie and it persists, and he hasn't stopped lying since.

In fact, the reason we were attacked was explained very clearly by Osama bin Laden in an interview that he had with Peter Arnett of CNN news in March of 1997.

http://www.robert-fisk.com/usama_interview_cnn.htm

The aggression and war crimes committed by the US to which bin Laden refers in that interview is confirmed by many reporters, historians, and commentators but the list of crimes committed by the US goes far beyond those to which bin Laden alludes. 911 was what Chalmers Johnson refers to as "Blowback." "Blowback" is the response of other nations or organizations to the crimes that the US 'secretly' commits against citizens of those

other countries. I call these crimes 'secret' because they are routinely obfuscated from public view by propaganda, lies, and disinformation perpetrated by our government with help from mainstream media.

Of course the crimes can't be hidden from the people who are its victims or from foreign media sources, so the truth eventually comes out, although sometimes it can take years before it becomes common knowledge in America.

"Blowback" specifically refers to attacks against the US for which citizens have no reference point or logical framework for understanding them. Citizens are therefore easily misled by US propaganda and nonsensical reasoning like that offered by Bush immediately after the attack on the twin towers.

We were not attacked because we are a free, wonderful and loving people as Bush would have us believe. We were attacked because the United States is addicted to war, addicted to committing crimes of international terror against peoples of other lands in order to get them to hand over to US interests, their resources, their cheap labor, or their sovereignty.

And now that someone decided to strike back against US treachery on behalf of some of the victims... we are told that the evil doers are at our doorstep. Well my goodness, what a surprise.

It is a sad commentary on the state of American statesmanship that none of our elected officials or mainstream news agencies has the courage, or the integrity, to name this great lie for what it is. We would have nothing to fear from so called 'terrorists' if We the People, acting through our elected officials, would conduct ourselves—which is to say, conduct our foreign affairs—as decent human beings.

The truth is, our foreign policy, contrary to popular belief, probably has never been the pursuit of world peace; and today our purpose clearly appears to be US domination over the world's key resources no matter what the cost in human carnage might be.

It is simply wrong to say that the United States is a free country if its leaders believe the truth is too unseemly to be consumed by ordinary citizens. In my view, you are only really free if it is safe for you to tell the truth and hear the truth... all the time... in whatever company you are with. This administration considers telling the truth to be an act of treason. Someone should explain to members of Congress that just the opposite is true. If you are happy to live in a box of lies and never seek to venture outside its perimeter, you can, of course, blindly claim that you are free, but that kind of freedom is really an unhappy illusion.

If you want to know why the treatment of depression is such a major industry in this country, perhaps it's because it's our society that is sick, and not so much the people who exhibit the symptoms. Maybe it's the hypocrisy, the systemic infidelity, and the lies that we hear and live with every day that makes people sick.

Our kids are coming home from Iraq with severe mental illness. It's not the people of Iraqi who made them sick. It's the folks who sent them there with their lies and their treason that made them sick.

If five years after 911, Americans still believe that we were attacked or are in danger because we love freedom and democracy, then Americans are living in a dream world... or should I say an unfolding nightmare. We need to start telling the truth. If we want to be safe, we will need to do our homework. We will need to learn and then tell the truth about our own history. We need to identify the lies and myths we blindly accept and help propagate. And we will have to ask ourselves if we have the courage to face the truth and deal with it honorably and decently for the good of our country, our community, and our immediate and extended human family.

So far, these lies have put our dignity, our wealth, and our honor on the line. We are living on borrowed capital and borrowed time. Many of our

children have paid the price with their lives, their limbs and their mental well-being. And it is not even our own children who have suffered the most. Look around... outside your little box... what do we look like to all those people in far off places who have been cheated, murdered, tortured, and defiled in our name?

Now the future of all children hangs in the balance.

“We have seen the enemy and he is us.” We need to make peace with ourselves and the rest of the world. The only way to do that is to start telling the truth.

The Rice Blackburn Lecture

4/1/06

Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, admitted yesterday that the US made thousands of "mistakes" in prosecuting the Iraq war. She actually gave a very nice lecture, eloquently speaking about liberty, democracy and justice. What she failed to do was talk about the difference between a "mistake" and lies, torture, murder, criminal negligence, corruption and treason.

Surely one can argue that lies, torture, murder, criminal negligence, corruption and treason are "mistakes" but usually one does not talk about them as casually as she did. And she never quite got to the point of admitting that the "mistakes" she mentioned were the ones to which I am referring...

www.gpln.com/constitutionincrisis.htm

Simple, Not Easy

3/27/06

I think many self proclaimed patriots will actually end up voting for spineless incumbents rather than for lesser known candidates who, unlike the incumbents, would actually use their offices to protect and defend the Constitution if they had the chance.

To get out of the mess we're in, ordinary citizens will have to have as much character, vision, and courage as we wish our representatives had. It's every citizen's responsibility to do the hard work of developing his or her own character, vision, and courage. There is no honor in expecting the people we put in office to have more integrity than we do.

There are no easy answers, but there are simple ones... If we really want a government of, by and for the People, we will need to have enough integrity and strength of character to actually stand for and vote for what we say we believe in. If we don't want our representatives to compromise their integrity when they get in office, then we shouldn't compromise ours when we go about putting them there. And the truth is, if we compromise our integrity in our daily lives, no doubt our political inclinations will lack integrity as well.

If we really want to make a difference, we might try doing the hard personal work of realigning our attitudes and behavior in such a way that they are fully consistent with our stated values.

When most people ask, "But what can I do?" All too often what they are really asking is, "What can I do that won't require me to be uncomfortable or take a risk?" And so they satisfy themselves with making gestures... like writing letters to representatives who have already demonstrated quite clearly that they have neither the courage nor the vision to honor the offices they hold. If they need your letter for advice or courage when it comes to defending the Constitution, then they really don't belong there. Why not use your energy to find and support someone who is really qualified to replace them instead.

It's no wonder that so much political activity and effort makes so little difference to the folks who hold the reigns of power. They are so smug, having absolute faith in our perpetual timidity. The power they hold would belong to us if we had the courage to take it back. All we need to do is believe in the power of the truth... and then live it.

If we would only believe in ourselves...

Sorry, but like I said: The answers are simple; they just aren't easy.

Simple...

[On Citizenship](#)

[How to protect the Constitution](#)

[My Basic Strategy](#)

[Win by Losing](#)

[Following Orders](#)

[An Interview with Jesus](#)

[On Work](#)

Not easy.

New Government

2/22/06

The Democratic Party is every bit as illegitimate as the Republican Party. Let me start by defining my terms. When I talk about the Democratic Party in this context, I am talking about elected representatives, not private citizens who simply call themselves Democrats. Let's review these simple facts:

1. Bush was not legally elected president in 2000. His election was a fraud. This is not about the Supreme Court giving Bush the election. The fraud I am speaking about was discovered after the Supreme Court made their decision and gave Bush the election.

Greg Palast has documented this fraud in his book, "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy." I am not an attorney, but it is my understanding that there is no statute of limitations on fraud. This kind of fraud also happens to be treason. Some of the fraud was known when the Black Caucus stood up to challenge the election. When they did, not one Senator was willing to give them the time of day. Cowards and fools... every one.

So not only did the Democrats allow Bush to become President when he was not

legitimately elected, but they did not challenge his presidency when it was demonstrated later that his election was accomplished only through fraud. They didn't want to cause a Constitutional crisis is perhaps what they will tell you. But in reality they didn't have the courage or the moral fiber to defend the Constitution and the legitimacy of American elections. (Who knows now if legitimate elections are even possible anymore. (I wish I were exaggerating.)

Democrats simply folded when they saw they didn't have public sentiment on their side, when they couldn't control the spin.

But this was a legal question. This required and called for a fundamental defense of the Constitution and here they failed in their sacred duty; they failed to stand up and tell the truth when they knew what the truth was.

2. Bush was fraudulently elected again in 2004. Large numbers of American citizens actually conspired to cheat to win. Treason. Again. Not one party whig was held to account for all the fraud and attempted fraud. Could he have won without the fraud? I don't know. The attempts were ignored or covered up but the statistical analysis points to another fraudulent election.

3. If you are able to convince yourself that Bush was not legitimately elected, then it follows that all the major decisions that he made as president were also illegitimate. Nothing he has done should stand. He is and has been a "pretender to the throne." He was only able to maintain his illegitimate power because the Democrats conspired to give him a pass. They allowed a coup, the overthrow of our legitimate government. But what do I mean by "conspire." I mean that every elected official made a decision to accept the decision of the group; not one elected official was willing to stand alone on his or her own cognizance to challenge the illegitimate president. The party stuck together and failed us.

Let me say it again: there is no statute of limitation on fraud and this president has fraudulently held his office now since 2000. He is not and never was the duly elected president of the United States, except by the agreement of his co-conspirators... and of course, that includes we the American people.

Do our elected officials believe Bush was elected fairly? Do you? Do you believe they will admit to you what they really believe? Is there one who will tell the truth in public? No. So far, no.

4. Now let's talk about Bush's decisions and his initiatives, many of which would have been and still are unconstitutional no matter who would have pursued them. This "pretender" has undermined and/or dismantled many principles of the Constitution and of international law. He has in the process committed war crimes, crimes against peace, crimes against humanity, crimes against the American people, and most certainly crimes against the people of Afghanistan and Iraq.

These are impeachable offenses and so far, (as far as I am aware), not one elected Democrat from any state... in fact, not one elected Democrat who holds ANY elective office has publicly called for Bush's impeachment,¹ certainly not one member of the House of Representatives. They all took the same oath of office.

If you are reading this, there is a very high probability that you have been following the issues and you know in your heart that Bush has committed impeachable offenses. And yet not one elected official has the courage to state this simple truth. How can that be? And yet you are probably still treating these conspirators as allies when in fact they have conspired against you and your children and your country. How many of us

still write them letters and appeal to them to act with a conscience? I say they are not worth the effort.

5. They sap your power. They are a waste of time. Why do they need you to tell them what to do? If they don't already know, what good are they?

Why do they conspire against us? I believe it is because they value their jobs, their status, more than they value their honor or their country. They may not be conscious of this but this is how it is. They may not be guilty of any crime... lacking courage and/or wisdom is not a crime. But they have failed to honor their oath of office. They are supposed to lead. But they neither lead nor follow. They just hide. They will not fight... but they will send our children to fight... to kill, to die, to become insane. Betrayed.

6. These people have failed us. I am arguing that these people cannot be counted on to protect our heritage. These people cannot be counted on to lead or inspire us to accomplish what we need to accomplish if we are going to continue as a free people. I am arguing that we need to have the courage to let go of the past, to reclaim the power that belongs to us... us... We the People. This government... this two party corrupt government has failed us. Let go of

the past, let go of them. Recapture the spirit that is still somewhere in your blood. I believe if we do not... we, as a people, are likely to lose our heritage, our dignity, and our freedom, and not get it back for a very long time.

7. There are those who will say that I am a radical. As far as I know, I am only sharing with you the realizations that are obvious to me from my own observations. I believe in your heart you share these same observations. As long as we deny the truth of our own experience we will not be able to reclaim our perspective or hold on to our dignity. We need to tell the truth. I believe we are at a crossroads. I believe that in acknowledging the truth, we can open the door to an advanced civilization where people live in peace and dream with honor.
8. We have a choice. We can either move ahead or fall back. This is not the time to falter. This is the time to trust the best that is in us; this is the time to look ahead.
9. So what am I suggesting? I say there is no mention of political parties in the Constitution. I say our founding fathers hated and feared political parties. I am suggesting that we identify likely candidates for public office... people who are not attached to the old consciousness, but people who have a vision for a new

beginning. I am suggesting that we disown any political party identification... that we in fact, reject the Democratic party and Republican party and every party as failed institutions. I am suggesting that we start anew, use our imagination, find a way to elect people of vision and character. We have the internet, we have each other. We have the tools if we can hold onto them. We don't need to be a majority. We only need to have a better vision, more character, and more determination than the majority.

I say we start here and we start now. Before it's too late. We need to redefine what government of the People, by the People, and for the People means. I say, let's talk.

Mark A. Goldman

www.gpln.com/citizen.htm

¹ As of today, 2/28/07 there are, in fact, some state representatives who are standing up to defend the Constitution.

These people are worthy of our vote. In Washington State, for example, recently elected State Senator Eric Oemig has drafted state

legislation asking for the impeachment of Bush and others.

P.S. If you don't believe the underlying assumptions I've made regarding fraud and crimes, then you haven't done your homework. You need to catch up. It takes time but all the documentation is there. Ask around. Seek knowledge. Become informed. If you don't know where to start, start here, click and read every link you come to... every link you come to: www.gpln.com

Re: 2004 election

<http://www.commondreams.org/views06/0302-20.htm>

Saving America by Losing Elections

2/20/06

Perhaps the greatest irony of our time will become obvious when citizens finally realize that to save our country they will have to be willing to lose elections... maybe quite a few of them.

I can't think of any prior Democratic or Republican candidate who would have been a very good president. All you have to do is observe what kind of citizen they have been since losing their election to see my point. None has really put his ass on the line to defend his country. They've made feeble attempts at best, even though there has never been a greater need for true heroism and patriotism.

Every elected official, prior to taking office, must take an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution. That is the only oath they take. That is their sacred obligation. If they don't have the will or the courage to meet that challenge, they are not what we need or should be looking for in a president. In fact, we should not allow any public official to stay in office if they fail that test. In fact, that's a test every American should be able to pass. In addition to having the courage to live up to their oath of office, we should also be looking for people who have the wisdom and the character to lead the nation out of the abyss

we're in. Where are they? All we see are only shadows of what we really need.

Too many candidates and elected officials have consciously or unconsciously placed or transferred their loyalty to their party or their constituent base. You say, 'well their loyalty should be to their constituent base!' No it should not. Their loyalty should be to the Constitution, and—assuming they have any—to their honor, and their own accumulated wisdom. The way we elect our representatives now teaches us the wrong lessons. It teaches us not to be honorable citizens and it discourages honorable candidates from running for office.

The way democracy is supposed to work is that citizens are supposed to have a choice between the best candidates available. But our system has evolved into one that does not encourage the best candidates to run, nor does it allow them to win if they do run. Our best potential candidates never get a chance to be heard and too many citizens wouldn't vote for them anyway, because they don't believe those people could ever win.

Today the system is fixed. Two political parties conspire to shut out all legitimate opposition. Most of us don't really vote for the person we would like to see be president. We vote against the person we think would be the worst of two choices.

Most people won't vote for a third party candidate because they consider it a wasted vote.

There is a procedure that would fix this malady. It's called Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). But neither political party will support it because that would destroy their two party duonopoly. They don't really believe in democracy... at least not if it threatens their jobs.

That leaves us with only one other option: to be willing to vote for the best candidate even though we know the worst candidate will win. And it means being willing to do that time and again until either the minority party puts up the best candidate, (which inevitably will be the one who will also promise to fight for IRV once they are elected), or until enough citizens (who are truly voting their conscience) muster enough votes to elect the person of their choice.

So saving America is problematic. It requires the transformation of the electorate; and the transformation of the electorate requires the steadfast courage and commitment of a critical mass of true patriots. How many true patriots do we need. Just enough to lose an election... in fact, just enough to lose every election until most citizens begin to see the light and become willing to vote for what they really want.

Just imagine the wrath that will reign down on such patriots before that kind of transformation

will take place... but that's what it's going to take to create the transformation I'm talking about.

Eventually, most citizens will come to realize that if they want to win... if they want to save their country... they will have to adopt the strategy they have long since abandoned... the strategy of voting for the best qualified person for the job... not the second best... not an illusion... not a rationalization... but the best person, the best leader America can produce... no matter what his or her party is, or even if he or she doesn't have a party.

www.gpln.com

www.gpln.com/citizen.htm

www.gpln.com/protect.htm

www.gpln.com/basicstrategy.htm

www.gpln.com/savingamerica.htm

www.gpln.com/godreligioncartoons.htm

Addendum:

Click [here](#) for my answer to George, the responder who took issue with what I wrote above but whose email address came back "undeliverable" when I tried to answer him:

On God, Religion, and Cartoons

2/9/06

God is great, but God is not a religion. For if there were no such thing as Islam, Christianity, or Judaism, there would still be God. You do not need religion to find God and God does not need religion to find you. But that is not what any of these religions teach you. That does not mean that you will not find God through religion, if that's where you are looking, but it does mean that you and others are at risk of suffering more than necessary before you do find what you are looking for.

God loves freedom and God love you. So it is somewhat tragic that some people will take advantage of your good nature and your willingness to trust others, to enslave you. Some do this knowing that this is what they are doing and some do not. If you want to know the truth then you must be willing to love the truth. You must be willing to be free.

What does this mean? It means that you must be humble and honest enough to recognize the difference between what you really do know and what you really don't know. Some people give up too easily: they have more faith in what they were told about God, than they have in their own ability to find the truth about God for themselves.

Why should you trust in your own ability to know God? Because when you love the truth and honor the truth as you know it, God will give you more truth to know. This is what I have discovered; this is the central point of everything I have ever written. What I am telling you is the key to finding what you are looking for.

There is a difference between what you believe and what you know. Sometimes you might actually believe you know something, only to find out you really don't. Others will attempt to share with you what they believe to be true, and thereby challenge you to take a look at something you may not have considered before. Then it will be up to you to discern to the best of your ability if this new information is "true" or not, if it offers you insight you did not have before. That might lead you to the conclusion that there is a greater truth than that which you once held. That is when you must be humble enough to admit to yourself that you have been in a state less enlightened than the one you are in RIGHT NOW... and perhaps there is even more enlightenment waiting for you.

Perhaps I have already lost you. Perhaps you have no idea what I am talking about.

When I say, that to find the truth, you must love the truth, it means that you must always be willing to discover a deeper truth than the one

you now hold onto. It means that you must be willing to be confused sometimes because some things are more difficult to understand than others... and after all, you are always learning and you don't yet know everything. You cannot love the truth and be afraid of new ideas. You never know when a new idea will lead you to a deeper truth than the one you now hold onto. And you never know when, where, or how an idea that holds the key to a deeper truth will reach you... or inspire you... or set you off in a direction leading to a new discovery.

This is what freedom is for: to find the truth, to live the truth as you know it. It also means that you should respect and honor other people. After all, we are all searching for deeper understanding, and we are all still imperfect in our understanding. So to love the truth means to love freedom too, because only in freedom can you discover and live the truth as you come to understand it. And to love freedom means that you acknowledge that everyone deserves to live in freedom. Everyone deserves to discover, explore and express ideas that come to them. To love freedom is to respect other people's right to their own processes and that implies tolerance and respect for others. Live your own truth, allow others to live theirs. Find a way to live, that allows others their freedom and their dignity.

Truth, Honor, Dignity, Compassion, Courage,
Love... these lead to freedom... and to God.

Our Late Republic

1/29/06

A couple of days ago I spoke about the fact that Noel L. Hillman, chief prosecutor in the Jack Abramoff case was stepping down. The Abramoff case is probably the biggest US political scandal that ever made its way to the light of day.

After thinking about this and reviewing news reports, or the lack thereof from various news agencies, I doubt very much that Hillman stepped down voluntarily. I don't believe he would have voluntarily accepted a judgeship from Bush, as was reported. I personally think he was given "an offer he couldn't refuse."

In a working democracy, his leaving his post would have been front page news. If he were stepping down voluntarily it would not have been the Justice Department that made the announcement; it would have been Hillman himself. I don't even know if he is alive or dead.

In the absence of other evidence I will believe that Hillman is an honorable public servant who has succumbed to forces he could not control. His removal from office might very well be the smoking gun that marks the last nail in the coffin of our late Republic.

[On Citizenship](#)

“Liberty lies in the hearts and minds of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it...”

—Judge Learned Hand

Note: This just in... Apparently, this is not the first time Bush removed a prosecutor who was hot on Abramoff's tail:

http://bellaciao.org/en/article.php3?id_article=9951>Bellaciao

My Fantastic Dream

1/28/06

Sometimes I wonder if I am living in a dreamworld... too bizarre to even be called a nightmare. How else can you explain how it could happen that the chief prosecutor in the Abramoff case, Noel L. Hillman, could be stepping down? Why is the prosecutor stepping down? Now this is really funny. You're going to love this. Because he has been offered a federal judgeship by... yup...George W. Bush.

But wait... Guess what title the prosecutor holds at his job? Chief of the department's public integrity division. I'm not making this up. Here's the original link:

Prosecutor Will Step Down from Lobbyist Case

By Philip Shenon and Elisabeth Bumiller

The New York Times

Friday 27 January 2006

http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/27/politics/27judge.html?_r=1

I almost have to admire Bush for how blatantly honest he is about being willing to be so publicly corrupt.

How confident... in front of an entire nation.... confident that no matter what he does he will be

able to get away with it. Such hubris is beyond anything I've ever seen before.

And then there's the prosecutor who would actually accept such an offer and then expect to actually serve as a judge. Well, if this all happens as Bush envisions it, I really have to hand it to him. This is a dream... right?

Who is writing this screenplay being played out as I sleep? What an imagination I must have to create a dream as fantastic as this. I can't wait to see what I come up with next. I almost don't want to wake up.

I wrote these words yesterday and then watched the 6 O'Clock news to see if this would be mentioned on the News Hour with Jim Lehrer. It didn't come up. Why isn't this front page news? Maybe it is me that's dreaming... maybe that's why I can't seem to wake anybody else up.

The Noose Tightens

1/21/06

The government's request for Google search data is not about pornography. It's about control. It should run a shiver down the back of every American. Shame on those who already have given in. With search data, the government can not only see if you have tried to find pornography on the internet; it can also see if you tried to get the truth about the expanding list of Bush's illegal and immoral acts; it can find out if you tried to organize with like minded people to oppose the loss of your own freedom.

This information would allow them to secure their power so that all they would have to do is interrupt communication to or from those who might be effective in organizing against Bush's growing unjust power. Maybe they are already doing this, but now only want to cover all bases.

Privacy supports one's right to seek and/or protect one's own freedom and this is a direct attack on that right. The Bush government lies about everything and this lie is deadly.

How long is it going to take for Bush to decide that anyone who is against him belongs in prison. He already said you are either with him or with the terrorists. He has already claimed the

exclusive right to say who a "terrorist" is, and who is subject to torture or imprisonment without any due process or check on his power. If he thinks you're a "terrorist" then you are at risk of being permanently disappeared, tortured, or incarcerated.

The noose is being tightened and most Americans are still fast asleep. Look closely and you will see that your own government is already the world's greatest terrorist and peddler of obscenities. What is more obscene than the term "collateral damage?"

On Citizenship
www.gpln.com/citizen.htm

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
www.gpln.com/udhr.html

Other nominations for US obscenities:

Renditions
Military Justice
White Phosphorous
Depleted Uranium
Ghost Detainees
The Patriot Act
Cluster Bombs
War on Terror
No Child Left Behind
The Unitary Executive
Unlawful or Enemy Combatant

I Will Show You What Power Is

1/19/06

If you want the Bush administration to be removed from office then sell all of your stocks and move the money into a money market fund. Do not take it out of the money market fund until Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Rice, and Gonzales are out of office.

Where are your stocks? In your personal accounts, your IRAs, your 401K plans, your 403b plans, and all other accounts where you have the right to choose how your funds are invested. Tell your employer and your stockbroker to move the money now. If you can't buy a money market fund in your plan, at least take it out of stocks.

Cowards or Pigs

1/9/06

It is clear that the Democrats are conspiring to sit on their hands until and unless they are able to regain majorities in the House and/or Senate... a total abdication of responsibility and the height of cowardice.

They are unwilling to fight unless they know they can win. If they had any guts they would file articles of impeachment and if they can't prevail they should shut the government down completely until these criminals are removed from office either by way of impeachment or by running out the clock.

The Bush Cabal should have been shown the door a long time ago. These people are criminals. Anyone who is paying any attention at all can see that they are destroying the Constitution and the fabric of our society. They are guilty of national and international crimes not to say anything about their absolute incompetence in every aspect of governance except one: their ability to hold onto power. All they know how to do is fan the flames of fear, claiming that they alone can eliminate its source. The only problem is... they are the source.

In all likelihood, Bush was never legitimately elected to office and never had the right to make any of the appointments or decisions he's made so far. And the Democratic clowns in DC want to give him another 11 months to continue the carnage. Not one member of Congress even has the courage to say that Bush deserves to be impeached.

This government should be shut down. Every day it is in session it does more harm than good. Every day innocent people at home and abroad are being impoverished, maimed, tortured, humiliated or killed because of the treasonous criminals who occupy the White House, the Senate, and the House.

Bush is a despot and our only strategy so far has been appeasement. We tried that with Hitler. It doesn't work. And a Human Rights award won't make a hero out of a politician. All it will do is give him something to hide behind. He'll point to it to prove how worthy he is.

We are our own undoing. The Democrats and Republicans all know that we are afraid of voting for anyone who is not a Democrat or a Republican. All Democrats have to do is nothing, or maybe look like they're doing something, since doing nothing or pretending to do something will always appear to be better than the degenerate alternative. And Republicans know that

Democrats are cowards. Cowards or Pigs... take your choice. What a choice!

Bush and his "base" are at war with America, its Constitution, and every sovereign nation on Earth. They're not going to succeed. But every day we allow them to try, they pollute our consciousness with more injustice, deface our dignity, and mock our humanity.

Doesn't make you proud to salute the flag; and it's a disgrace that we still ask our children to.

www.gpln.com/citizen.htm

[Draft Impeachment Resolution Against President George W. Bush](#)

by Francis A. Boyle, Professor of Law, University of Illinois School of Law

[Draft Impeachment Resolution Against President George W. Bush](#)

by Ramsey Clark, Former Attorney General of the United States

Additional reference:

A Coup Against the American Constitution
An Interview with Francis A. Boyle

www.gpln.com/constitutionincrisis.htm

<http://www.gpln.com/followingorders.htm>

http://www.citizensforimpeachingbush.com/references_and_links.htm

<http://www.gpln.com/links.htm>

A Formula for Slaughter

www.truthout.org/docs_2006/011106K.shtml

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Questions to ask your Congressional Representative

1/7/06

Today is January 7, 2006... "Out of Iraq" events were scheduled in 136 cities. I showed up at one where two local Democratic Congressional Representatives were invited to speak to the audience, but questions from the audience to the Representatives were not invited—like mine, for example.

Here are three related questions I would have liked to ask. Maybe you can put them to your representative if you ever get the chance:

1. How come there are 435 members of the House of Representatives and I haven't been able to find one, including you, who instead of just talking about defending the Constitution will actually stand up and defend it... by that I mean, how come not one of you is willing to say in public that you believe Bush, Cheney, and other members of his administration should be impeached? How come I know they should be impeached and you don't?
2. Assuming that you actually believe Bush and his cabal ought to be impeached (there's no mention of it on your web site),

how come you haven't entered articles of impeachment?

3. If you did submit articles of impeachment, you could then explain to your constituents why you think Bush and others in his administration deserve to be impeached. That would be a legitimate attempt at preserving and protecting the Constitution, something you should have done a long time ago. Had you done your job, perhaps some of Bush's most egregious decisions would have been prevented. While you surely would be attacked for doing this, you would not have to put your life on the line like our soldiers do every day, fighting an illegal war, erroneously believing that they are defending the Constitution. If you did your job, you might save lives. So my questions is... instead of looking out for yourself, why don't you do what you're supposed to do... what we're paying you to do... the job you promised you would do?

www.gpln.com/citizen.htm

[Draft Impeachment Resolution Against President George W. Bush](#)

by Francis A. Boyle, Professor of Law, University of Illinois School of Law

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Memo to the House Judiciary Committee Democratic Staff

1/01/06

My Memo to the House Judiciary Committee Democratic Staff Regarding...

A Constitution in Crisis
Issued by The House Judiciary Committee
Democratic Staff

12/20/05

Dear Staff:

First, let me commend you for the work you have done so far in creating this report. It is long overdue, and it is welcome.

Regarding this report I would like to make the following observations:

You recommend that... "the House should establish a bipartisan select committee with subpoena power authority to investigate the Bush Administration's abuses detailed in this Report and report to the Committee on the Judiciary on possible impeachable offenses."

It appears to me that your language can be interpreted as to suggest that the investigation to be undertaken should be limited to the abuses

detailed in your report. This I find totally inadequate. This administration in the conduct of the war has, in my view, committed crimes against the people of Iraq that are not mentioned in your report which are also unmistakably impeachable offenses. They are also so egregious as to be considered unspeakable international crimes, including the crime against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Let me offer you the following list in no particular order. I offer this list as a starting point perhaps to be added to by others. It would, in my view, be unconscionable and a disgrace to have the select committee investigate the abuses detailed in your report and not have them investigate the abuses on my list at the same time. It would simply be unacceptable:

1. The strategy that opened the war, which at the time was called "Shock and Awe," resulted in the death or dismemberment of hundreds, if not thousands, of innocent Iraqi citizens, including many children. Remember that it was widely known before the war that over 50% of the Iraqi population were children under the age of 15. The war began with this act of sheer cowardice.
2. Under international law and as a matter of basic human decency, the United States had a fiduciary responsibility to conduct the

war in such a manner as to protect and defend innocent Iraqi citizens—their lives, their homes, their records, their assets, and the infrastructure that supported them. In these matters Bush has been supremely negligent.

3. Bush allowed the destruction or theft of priceless artifacts, historical documents and irreplaceable treasures... including antiquities from the dawn of civilization.
4. Bush used Depleted Uranium weapons all across Iraq, poisoning the land, Iraqi children, and even many American soldiers — with no offers to take responsibility for what was done. The use of these weapons are international crimes. Our returning soldiers are even denied the tests and treatment they need to detect and treat DU poisoning. And what about the needs of Iraqi children, their families, their friends?
5. Bush dropped cluster bomb weapons in populated areas that are designed to leave behind thousands of unexploded bomblets that to children look like toys or food packages. Many children were subsequently killed or dismembered when they picked one up or kicked one in the street. Sometimes children would pick these up and bring them to their parents who were then killed or injured by them. Who

would use such a weapon in a populated area?

6. Bush had soldiers set up automobile checkpoints where Iraqi citizens were supposed to stop. But the instructions citizens were given were often delivered so haphazardly that many were killed when troops opened fire before these people could figure out what was expected of them. This did not happen once or twice. It happened over and over and over and over again. Entire families were killed. Sometimes the children who were in the back seat of cars were splattered with their parent's brains. How many times must the same irresponsible brutal act take place before it is reclassified from "accident" to "criminal negligence" or simply cold blooded murder?
7. What happened to Iraqi oil fields and other state assets? Who owns them now? Who gave Bush authority to do anything but keep Iraqi assets safe until a legitimate government could decide what it wanted to do with them? Who benefited from the reorganization that was carried out? Did Bush take assets that belong to the Iraqi people and distribute them to foreign corporations or otherwise change their ownership? What is his fiduciary

- responsibility and how responsible was Bush in administering his duties?
8. How were the contracts for rebuilding Iraq negotiated? How did \$8.8 Billion become totally lost and unaccounted for? How much incompetence does it take before gross incompetence becomes a High Crime and Misdemeanor?
 9. What happened in Fallujah? Is it true that some soldiers were instructed to shoot anything that moved? How many innocent people lost their lives in Fallujah, in Iraq? Did the Bush Administration have a duty to count and account for the deaths of innocent Iraqi citizens? Did he have a duty to care for the sick and wounded. The homeless and the hungry? Were Iraqi citizens the enemy of the United States? If not, why were they treated like enemies, like non-persons? How many were killed by American weapons? How can we justify even one death when the war itself was illegal? Who told Bush he had permission to incur "collateral damage" on behalf of Iraqi citizens? At what point does "collateral damage" — the disrespect for life — become a war crime?
 10. Were hospitals bombed on purpose? Over and over again?
 11. Were Ambulances fired upon? Over and over again?

12. Were hospitals denied needed supplies to treat sick and injured citizens? How many innocent people died because Bush denied hospitals the supplies and services they needed?
13. When there were not enough beds, is it true that sick and injured patients were thrown out of Iraqi hospitals so that US soldiers could be treated there instead? Is it true that in one case a father sat by his injured daughter who was removed from her bed to make room for a US soldier, and had to watch as his child slowly died there... on the ground, in the middle of the night, outside the hospital?
14. Is it true that the homes of innocent citizens were violated, their inhabitants humiliated, some beaten, robbed, some murdered on the spot by American forces? Is it true that husbands, sons and brothers were carted away and never heard from again without any reasonable suspicion that they committed a crime? Just because of their age? Is it true some were later tortured, some killed? Is it true some are still being held without cause?
15. Is it true that bombs were 'mistakenly' dropped on innocent civilians and their homes? How many times did a 'mistake' like this take place? How many times does it

take for a 'mistake' to become criminal negligence or murder?

16. Is it true that adequate food and water were not provided for citizens, a clear violation of international law? Is it true that children got dysentery and other diseases for lack of clean water, and others got sick and died of malnutrition? How many are sick and dying now of cancer due to DU poisoning? What is our responsibility for this carnage?
17. Has Bush now recently increased the bombing of populated areas in order to protect US troops even though the result will be the indiscriminate deaths of innocent civilians? Would this be an impeachable offense do you think?
18. Is it true that the callous manner in which this war was conducted has resulted in Americans now having to face many more enemies than we otherwise would have had to face, putting our homeland and our children at risk for decades to come, and forcing us into what might turn out to be a perpetual war? Is it possible that such negligence and incompetence is a great threat to our nation's security and that the danger Bush has put our citizens in is an impeachable offense?

These alleged High Crimes and Misdemeanors should be investigated. Who is responsible for these crimes, this inhumanity? How much inhumanity does it take for incompetence and negligence to equate to an impeachable offense? Who was the Commander in Chief when these things were going on? Where was he when this was going on? What do the words "Commander in Chief" mean?

Do not forget these people. We will not let you forget these people. No one can sweep these crimes under the rug and then take their seat in the White House, the House of Representatives, or the Senate and pretend they do not have a responsibility in these matters... that it's not their job.

The report you put together is very good. It's just not good enough... it's incomplete; it needs to be amended. "The truth... the whole truth... nothing but the truth." Isn't that the oath people testifying before the committee will take?

Is that the oath George Bush will take when he testifies before your committee?

Democracy, whether it be in the United States, Afghanistan, or Iraq, is just another word for tyranny if in practice it denies any citizen the essential attributes of liberty and justice. Liberty and justice must be guaranteed to every person for a Democracy to offer the true blessings of

freedom. Expressing the will of the majority is not enough. In freedom each citizen can tell the truth as they know it without fear. They can change their mind, their beliefs, their religion without judgment as long as they do not hurt others or deny them the right to do the same. Each citizen is protected by an equal and just application of the rule of law. Putting a ballot into a box is not freedom or true Democracy unless and until all the rights and freedoms enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is valued and acknowledged by a government elected of, by, and for, the People. The path to achieving such a Democracy depends on each citizen's intention to strive for it's attainment.

If anyone wants to add to my list, please send me an email: mark@gpln.com

Somebody please forward this to the people who are conducting this investigation and let me know who you sent it to. Thank you.

Mark A. Goldman

<http://www.gpln.com/citizen.htm>

References:

Articles of Impeachment Prepared by Ramsey Clark, Former Attorney General of the United States

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The Real Face of the Occupation

www.truthout.org/docs_2005/121905Q.shtml

A Formula for Slaughter

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http://www.citizensforimpeachingbush.com/references_and_links.htm

<http://www.gpln.com/followingorders.htm>

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Following Orders

12/19/05

If I have my facts straight, Hitler killed only one person in his lifetime: himself. All the other atrocities that are attributed to him were carried out by people who were only following orders.

If it is true that the war in Iraq is illegal, as I and others believe it is—including the Secretary General of the United Nations—then all the deaths and atrocities that have occurred to date, inflicted by our coalition forces, are the acts of individuals who, knowingly or unknowingly, with good intentions or not, have been willing to break the law in order to follow the orders of superiors.

Each member of the US military took an oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. Each also took a pledge to follow the legal orders of the Commander in Chief. Under the Constitution, no soldier is required to follow an illegal order. But that's what many Americans have been doing now for quite some time. And this is not confined to our military personnel, but also to members of the FBI, the CIA, the NSA (the folks who have been carrying out those illegal wire taps), outsourced contractors, the media, and perhaps most egregious of all—elected members of Congress, who for all intents and purposes, put their

conscience and oversight responsibilities on hold as they get their marching orders from the Oval Office or from party leaders.

I believe the reason that many of those who do follow illegal orders, or otherwise fall into line under pressure, is that if they refused, they would be subject to severe ridicule and/or punishment. They know that if they subjected themselves to this ridicule or punishment, that we would not do anything to protect them from that injustice.

And so, in pursuit of this war, we have suspended the Constitution. Many members of Congress have supported the administration in carrying out illegal acts, rationalizing that such behavior is in the name of national security. That was Hitler's rationale too. Innocent people have been killed, wounded, tortured, rendered, humiliated, had their privacy invaded, and their lives dismantled all in the name of national security. Anyone who objects can now be put under suspicion and may be targeted for future intimidation or worse. According to members of Congress, nothing this administration does is egregious enough to qualify them for impeachment.

The stories of individuals who have been damaged by the illegal acts of our government and their agents are beginning to filter through. But the damage that's been done is far greater than the stories yet told. Damage done to our

Constitution and to our self respect will likely take a heavy toll for generations to come.

And yet for most Americans their sensibilities are not disturbed by what's been happening... many do not want to hear about it. Those who do hear about it, make up their own rationalization of why it's ok. Many simply don't know what to think or do.

This all leads me to believe that with every victory this administration experiences, the light of liberty and freedom will dim a little more. If we were to achieve the victory that Bush talks about in Iraq, it would not help the cause of freedom, it would help to kill it. It would only encourage his hubris, his arrogance. He doesn't want democracy, he only wants stability. He wants the oil. He doesn't believe in the Constitution or the rule of law. He has the sensibilities of a despot.

Since the atrocities and illegalities for which his administration is responsible have not been repudiated by Congress or the American people, he and his conspirators will continue to conclude that there is no limit to their power... all they have to do is take however much they want... but do it just a little bit at a time. And there is no reason to suspect that they will not do just that and use that power for their own purposes, whatever that might be.

I say to you: the ends do not justify the means. If we do not identify, explore, and repudiate the illegal acts of this government, soon the fist of injustice will come knocking at every door... if history teaches us anything at all, it surely teaches us that.

There is good reason for secrecy in the Bush administration. The reason they don't want to conduct or discuss their activities in the light of day is because eventually the American people would figure it out: they would come to the conclusion that the reason the so called terrorists are out to kill Americans is because secretly the American government has been responsible for murder and the disenfranchisement of decent people all over the world. The United States has been active in destroying democratic institutions for a long time. We have done this to satisfy American greed for resources that don't belong to us, oil being supreme among them. We have caused people in middle eastern countries to suffer tyrants like Saddam Hussein and the Saudi family.

American leaders favor tyrants. We help install them. We work very hard to keep them in place. We like tyrants because we can buy them off in a protection racket. We use our money and our military power to support their illegitimate regimes in exchange for cheap oil, or whatever the resource happens to be. In all countries it

works pretty much the same. And in these countries it is ordinary people who suffer because of our policies.

When some of these people finally decide to strike out, fight back, to get us to stop, our leaders call it terrorism and then they ask us to send our children to die in battle fighting these 'bad' guys. They tell us that we are being attacked for no other reason than that they hate our freedom and our democracy. And we believe them; and we send our children to die and to kill because we don't have the knowledge or courage not to believe them. We are so afraid, we are even willing to send our beautiful children to die and to kill. What a price to pay for ignorance and blind faith.

No one in Congress has been willing to stand up and say what I just said. It is only the truth that will save us. Nothing less will do. The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Stand up. Speak out. Remove the traitors from their perches or they will take our children and turn them into criminals like themselves.

<http://www.gpln.com/therealterrorists.htm>
<http://www.commondreams.org/views05/1208-28.htm>
http://www.truthout.org/docs_2005/121905H.shtml
<http://www.gpln.com/constitutionincrisis.htm>
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http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/011106K.shtml

My Christmas/Chanukah List

12/8/05

1. The government in power came to power by way of election fraud.
2. All of the top officials in this administration have demonstrated disrespect for the Constitution and they all lie through their teeth every day in public.
3. Apparently, to become a spokesperson for this administration, the most important qualification is the willingness and the ability to lie with a straight face without any sense of shame.
4. During this administration's tenure, wealthy individuals have been given a boost up while the middle class and the working poor have been given the shaft.
5. True Congressional oversight is essentially non-existent; government processes no longer work legitimately, nor with transparency.
6. A few government officials are under investigation, a few have been identified as crooks, but the cabal of White House criminals are currently above and beyond the law... any law... national or international.
7. The mainstream media has been corrupted by economic and political forces and

- instead of helping to protect our democracy, it is now helping to destroy it.
8. The war in Iraq was and is illegal under national and international law; innocent people have—as a matter of policy—been incarcerated, tortured and killed on a regular and continuing basis without benefit of any legitimate due process. Many thousands of innocent men, women, and children have been killed and injured through criminal negligence, and many have been killed in cold blood.
 9. Respect for the United States on the world stage and the credibility of its officials are probably the lowest they've ever been... and rightfully so.
 10. The United States, having lost its moral compass, and its moral authority, has become the world's most feared and dangerous rogue nation.
 11. From what I've observed, and in keeping with our civilian leadership, official military spokespersons appear not to be able to tell the simple truth on any subject at any time.
 12. The one segment of the population that appears to be awakening to the realities listed above are the relatives and friends of returning dead and wounded soldiers.

13. Of course the top priority in most American households now are holiday cards, Christmas/Chanukah shopping lists, and then it will be on to the Rose Bowl.
14. The enemy are not the so called terrorists. The enemy is the unbridled lust for power and wealth, and our steady slide into complacency, cowardice, irresponsibility and fear, all of which we nurture right here at home. The terrorists are just feedback from the Universe.

Treason Timeline

Happy Birthday Jesus. Happy Festival of Lights.

For certain we have a lot to be thankful for, and this holiday season would be a good time to say so... and we also have a lot of work to do.

My new book, is now available in PDF format...

Broke and Broken:

*How We're Failing and How
to Turn Things Around*

The cost is \$10 per copy.
To purchase, click [here](#).

Fiduciary Responsibility

12/2/05

I understand Bush is requesting another \$x Billion for Iraq.

Assuming this dollar amount might actually be needed, I would postulate that it makes a difference whether the money will be administered by a cabal of criminal liars and cheats rather than by honorable guardians of the public trust.

Knowing Congress as we do, we can expect that once they make a determination as to the need for the sum requested, they will then turn it over to the criminals rather than first replace them with honorable public servants.

One good thing though, if you want to call it that, is that we can predict with uncanny accuracy what the results of Bush's administrative efforts will be well in advance, having observed how they administered the funds we already gave them for Afghanistan, Iraq, and Louisiana. Would it be rude to ask them first to find the \$9 Billion that seems to be completely missing and unaccounted for in the last Iraq allocation before we give them more? I mean how is it possible to forget what you did with \$9 Billion? Anyway, I propose that in the future we ask them to write stuff down and/or maybe ask for receipts.

Treason Timeline

by Mark A. Goldman et. al.

11/30/05

I thought it might be useful to have an overall list of actual and even suspected crimes and irregularities promulgated by the Bush administration, along with links to supporting documents. I started to brainstorm this myself and decided that I surely could use some help. Below marks the beginning of this effort. Already I have received some additions and corrections from readers. I will continue to update the list and expand it as I receive more input.

Soon a lot more Americans will begin to wake up to the fact that we're in trouble and they'll want to catch up on what's been happening to their country. I welcome your input in helping me put this together and make it useful. If you know of some group or individual who is in a better position to host and manage this project, I would be happy to let go of it. I will keep this on my web site at this address and update it if you want to send me your contributions or share the opportunity to do so with others. Thanks for your help:

www.gpln.com/treasontimeline.htm

Treason Timeline

Free Speech Zones - First amendment [clue](#) of [things](#) to [come](#)

[Fraudulent election 2000](#)

Not one Senator would stand with Black Caucus

Enron, WorldCom, etc.

Tax cuts for the rich

Systemic [corruption](#) in [government](#), and government [corruption](#) of the media

Seals prior Presidential [papers](#) (and their crimes) from public view

[Allowed 9/11 to happen - www.gpln.com/whatsthis.htm](#)

Bush gives Saudi aircraft permission to escape US airspace after 911 and avoid being questioned by the CIA

Bush lies, telling citizens that we were attacked because we are a democracy not because of [our criminal foreign policy](#) - e.g., 600,000 [Iraqi children](#) dead because of US sponsored UN sanctions.

Bogus investigations into 911 and other crimes.

Military [consistently obfuscates/lies every time](#) it [gets caught in a crime](#). [It adopts policy that in war, words are weapons and honor and truth can be suspended.](#)

bin Laden escapes

Administration lies to US citizens, UN, World on WMD threat
Collapse of 4th Estate now largely [intimidated](#) by government/corporate power.

[Congress ducks responsibility](#), little debate, gives Bush blank check

Paul Wellstone - [untimely](#) and [suspicious](#) death

Wellstone's death results in transfer of senate majority to Republicans

Administration lies - tells citizens that Hussein and bin Laden are linked, does not mention that there is/was no connection between Iraq and 911

Illegal war starts

Iraq's treasures lost, infrastructure demolished, records lost, [oil privatized](#), commerce restructured and opened to foreign investors

No bid contracts

[Plamegate](#)

Troops not properly supplied

Establishing [fake security procedures](#) to condition the public to gov't control.

Republicans break House and Senate rules to get legislation through

Imbedded journalism

[Hospitals and ambulances attacked, supplies withheld](#), children starving, DU poisoning

Books Published- "[The Best Democracy Money Can Buy](#)", "[Destroying World Order](#)", "[War on Freedom](#)", "[Challenging US Human Rights Violations Since 911](#)", etc.

Patriot Act undermines Constitution, Congress goes along

Katrina - [promises made](#) and [not](#) kept

Govt. can't account for [\\$9 Billion missing](#) in Iraq

War crimes inflame Muslims and others, insurgency grows, [crimes do too](#).

Abu Ghraib/Guantanamo, Etc. - [torture by America](#), [Congress is complicit](#).

Killing at checkpoints, [indiscriminate killing](#), [indiscriminate arrests](#), [renditions](#).

Cover up of crimes - election, [war](#), [corporate](#), etc.

Fallujah war crimes - 600+ civilians killed, [white phosphorus used](#)

Bush hires mercenaries [to kill and torture](#) to [avoid](#) Geneva conventions

Returning troop's - [DU poisoning](#), benefit cuts, multiple tours of duty

Purging of [honest government officials and whistle-blowers](#)

Depts of Govt [mismanaged](#), underfunded and brought down

Treaties/protocols [trashed Geneva](#), [Kyoto](#), [Nuremberg](#), [UN](#), [ICC](#), Nuclear Proliferation. Bush administration [undermines international law](#), [destroys US credibility](#) and reputation on human rights.

[Fraudulent election 2004](#) - [Diebold voting machines](#), [future looks](#) bleak, e.g. [Ohio](#).

Attempts to undermine social security

Medicare/Medicaid cuts

PBS - Bill Moyers' show "NOW" cut to 30 min. Who is [NPR](#) now?

Education, student loans cut, education [disrespected](#), [weakened](#), undermined.

Govt [ignores/circumvents Supreme Court rulings](#) giving rights to detainees

[Congress ignores](#) and fails to legitimately [investigate crimes](#), [fails to provide](#) legitimate [oversight](#), no impeachment articles offered, is essentially a corrupt institution.

Bush says he will be guided by commanders on the ground, a veiled attempt to distance himself from culpability for war crimes being committed in Iraq.

[War profiteering](#) - no legitimate investigations

Cheney advocates torture, [Bush](#) promises veto if [torture](#) is banned in budget bill.

[US secret prisons in Europe](#)

Bush [propaganda machine exported to Iraq](#). Bush wanted to bomb [al-Jazeera](#).

Bush addresses nation: continues to lie about why we were attacked on 9/11, continues to falsely link 9/11 to Afghanistan and Iraq, does not address illegal detentions, renditions, eaves dropping, and other presidential abuses of power.

Bush threatens war with Iran. Congress refuses to require that Bush seek approval from Congress before waging new war.

Bush, Congress [conspire](#) to enact legislation that would cover-up and prevent those guilty of war crimes from ever being prosecuted.

Bush, Congress conspire to strip main pillar of western jurisprudence from

Constitution by now allowing foreigners [and US citizens](#) to be permanently disappeared without trial or recourse.

[On Citizenship](#)

Motion on which the Vashon-Maury Island Community Council was not willing to consider regarding the Impeachment of George W. Bush, et. al. for Committing High Crimes and Misdemeanors

Motion offered on: 6/20/05

Motion blocked from consideration on: 7/18/05

I offer the following resolution to the Vashon-Maury Island Community Council and to citizens everywhere:

Be it resolved, that We the People of Vashon-Maury Island in the State of Washington, do hereby demand the Impeachment of the President of the United States and others in his administration. We take this action with great sorrow, but with steadfast resolve, for we no longer recognize our own government as one whose policies are consistent with the basic principles for which We stand... which is to say, We, The People of Vashon-Maury Island.

Our loyalty is to justice, honor, courage, compassion and long standing principles of national and international law. We believe that the President and others in his Administration have betrayed our values, our Constitution, and many of its embodied principles. We therefore demand

that he, and all who are complicit, be removed from office and immediately thereafter, be prosecuted for any and all High Crimes and Misdemeanors they are found to have committed.

We offer the following reasons for taking this action:

1. This administration started a war illegally... illegal with respect to both national and international law, offering in its place, lies, fabrications, and deceit.
2. The war in Afghanistan and Iraq which this administration undertook unnecessarily, sacrificed the lives of innocent citizens, including those of future generations... and this includes the citizens of the US, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other nations— through gross negligence, malfeasance, and cowardice.

We did not take appropriate measures to insure the safety of innocent men, women, and children, and we did not offer them reasonable measures of food, water, medical care, comfort and support when we destroyed their homes, their economy and its infrastructure, their institutions, and killed and injured their family members and fellow citizens.

3. We illegally detained and continue to detain innocent people, denying them the most fundamental of basic rights and freedoms...

rights that are guaranteed them under national and international law and long standing standards of civilized behavior. This administration has even ignored instructions from our own Supreme Court to adhere to basic standards of decency; and in its contempt for the rule of law, fails to this day to adhere to these standards.

4. In addition to denying people basic fundamental rights under our own Constitution and international law, (including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and various conventions to which the United States has been a party for decades), we systematically engaged in policies that fall well outside the limits of civilized behavior, including many forms of torture and intimidation, so grievous that some are unable to be mentioned in the mainstream media and are even deemed now by our government to be national secrets, unable to stand the light of day, even in our so-called open and free society.
5. In order to circumvent the law, this administration illegally arranges for "outsourced" contractors to take our prisoners to despotic governments that are known to systematically torture their own people so that they can do the same to our own uncharged and unrepresented prisoners.

6. This administration engaged in criminal summary executions of suspected terrorists often killing innocent bystanders in the process. All of these people and their families are left without recourse of any kind... This is our poor example to the rest of the world of how America administers justice.
7. George Bush in his official capacity as President of the United States has toured the country to give speeches and hold rallies, allowing the organizers of these rallies to exclude any citizen who might be known to disagree with his policies. This is un-American by any measure of reason, tradition, or logic and it is a direct attack on our Constitution.
8. When the president has traveled, he has arranged for protesters to be excluded from audiences, forcing them to stand far away from his events where they can't be seen by TV cameras in violation of long standing traditions of allowed free speech, undermining our first amendment rights.
9. This administration has sought and passed legislation that removes long standing rights and freedoms that are the hallmark of any open and free society and in doing so endangers all of our rights and freedoms under the guise of saving us from terrorists.

10. George Bush has arranged to keep from public scrutiny, the Presidential papers of prior administrations in order to keep hidden, information about the prior illegal and/or criminal acts of previous presidents. These records, which belong to us... which is to say, We, The People, have now been converted to government secrets for decades to come. This administration conducts less of its business in the light of day, than other administrations, despite grandiose words to the contrary that Bush and others in his administration offer in speeches here and abroad.
11. George Bush has ignored the Constitutional requirement to keep separate, church and state, and has reneged on his own oath of office by, (in addition to the nefarious acts heretofore mentioned), replacing his loyalty to our Constitution with loyalty to his own interpretation of his own religious sect.
12. Many tens of thousands of innocent people have lost their lives, their livelihood, their health, and their well-being because of the infidelity, criminal behavior, negligence, and arrogance of this president and his administration. The acts of this administration have been detrimental to our country, its people, and potentially, to human beings everywhere.

13. George Bush, and his accomplices have engaged in these nefarious and criminal acts, which include unconscionable atrocities... and under national and international law should be brought to justice. Only by an accurate accounting and recording of crimes and atrocities committed, and the pursuit of justice in the names of those who were grievously harmed by them, can we begin to return dignity to our flag and to the people and the republic it represents.
14. These few enumerated items are but a fraction of those that might be offered... but the pain and suffering that they allude to is enough to warrant the action that we now take. We invite our fellow citizens all across this country to join with us to protest the illegitimate practices of the President and his Administration, and demand the removal from office of those who practice them. We do this so that in time justice might prevail and our government and our flag might once again be worthy of our allegiance and support.
15. Furthermore, we take this action because we see it as our duty and sacred obligation to do so, lest we as citizens, through cowardice or neglect, fail to do everything within our power to prevent our government from committing further war

crimes and/or crimes against humanity; or lest we fail in our duty to bring those who have committed such crimes to justice.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark A. Goldman

Related statement/documents (not submitted to VMICC):

[On Citizenship](#)

[Read The Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

[Read a Draft Impeachment Resolution Against President George W. Bush](#)

by Francis A. Boyle, Professor of Law, University of Illinois School of Law

[Read a Draft Impeachment Resolution Against President George W. Bush](#)

by Ramsey Clark, Former Attorney General of the United States

[International Criminal Tribunal For Afghanistan at Tokyo](#)

Additional references:

[A Coup Against the American Constitution](#)

An Interview with Francis A. Boyle

On Detentions

[Annotation for Master Plan](#)

[John Roberts and the Federalist Society](#)

[The Federalist Society and the Challenge to a Democratic Jurisprudence](#)

[Declaration of the Jury of Conscience-World Tribunal on Iraq - Istanbul](#)

[Conspiracy](#)

[My Response](#) (to the VMICC)

Mission Accomplished

5/2/04

"Mission Accomplished" is the one thing George W. Bush said during his presidency that was true. Because the real mission was to secure Iraqi oil for the West and that has been done. No matter how many American or Iraqi citizens have died or will die to secure this victory—no matter what the Iraqi or American people will have to endure from this point forward—there's probably nothing that will turn back the clock on that now.

The price of oil, if free markets actually worked and/or if the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was really the law of the land, would be higher than you or I have ever paid for it, and the people who live in countries that own the oil would probably live as well or better than you or I do. All you need to do to understand the main thrust of US foreign policy is see where in the world the US has stationed troops and, if you have enough insight to connect the dots, you will understand what their purpose is.

As Americans, we might think we should give thanks that we live in the most powerful country in the world—a country that can obtain for us resources that support our standard of living. I'm glad I live here but not because of that... because one price I now discover that I will have to pay for

this wealth and security is the realization that my government is engaged in an illegitimate scheme to defraud people in every corner of the globe. And if I ever turn my back on the truth and simply accept this reality, I will then have to live with the fact that as an American, the most sacred principles that I hold dear... principles that make up the foundation of my consciousness... basic principles of justice... will be defiled.

I realize that there are those who might say, as Madeline Albright once said... "I think this is a very hard choice, but the price... we think the price is worth it," but, I am not, and do not intend to be, one of them.

The Real Terrorists

3/20/04

It has lately become the favorite propaganda of our government to proclaim that the greatest threat to freedom and democracy in the world is terrorism, where terrorism is defined as the kind of activities in which Osama Bin Laden is engaged. This notion is entirely false.

The fact is, those who make this claim are a much greater threat. And this lie is now being promulgated by people who I might describe as belonging to one of two distinct groups: those who know that what they are saying is false, and those who do not. Both groups are grossly irresponsible and both are extremely destructive to the expansion of freedom and democracy in the world.

The propaganda I speak of is able to take root only because our educational system is failing. We educate our children to not have a proper respect for intellectual integrity. We are asleep at the wheel, and we are also drunk with wealth, power, fear, and success.

I recently heard a lecture¹ by Michael Parenti on National Public Radio. He's a distinguished professor, author, lecturer and human rights activist, and he mentioned various countries

where American intervention over the last 50 years systematically and intentionally overthrew reformist, democratic governments, replacing them with tyrants and dictators of our own government's choosing.

Of course American Presidents never tell us that this is what they are doing. (Most of the facts and words in this and the next paragraph are his, or my paraphrasing of them.) Off the top of his head he named these places: Guatemala, Guyana, The Dominican Republic, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Syria, Indonesia, Greece, Argentina, Haiti, Bolivia, and other countries. A very incomplete list. In each case we replaced these governments with pro-capitalist military regimes that opened up their markets, resources, and cheap labor (i.e., labor that is underpaid, and under-organized... labor that was beaten into submission by various kinds of intimidation such as death squads and goon squads). The purpose of these incursions generally was to open up these countries to American corporate interests or investors on terms that were completely favorable to the investors. In addition, we've been active in covert actions and mercenary wars against popular revolutionary governments in Cuba, Angola, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Portugal, South Yemen, Nicaragua, Cambodia, East Timor, Western Sahara. Another incomplete list.

We took action against reformist governments in Egypt, Lebanon, Peru, Iran (e.g., replacing Mossadegh with the Shah), Syria, Zaire, Jamaica, the Fiji Islands, Afghanistan. And just in the last few decades exercised our will in places without regard for the people living there... such as in Vietnam, the Dominican Republic, North Korea, Laos, Cambodia, Yugoslavia, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Libya, Iraq, and Somalia.

And during this time if you heard anything at all about these places, maybe you heard about how many US troops were killed there (troops who had no business being there), but you never heard about the tens of thousands, the hundreds of thousands, the millions who were not Americans who were killed, whose lives were torn apart, whose livelihood was destroyed, whose family and friends and freedom and culture were taken from them. These are just some of the repressive regimes installed, paid for, supplied, and trained by the CIA and/or other agencies of your government. And at what cost to the people who lived there...? 80,000 killed in El Salvador, 205,000 killed in Guatemala, 500,000 dead in Laos. 600 Mayan Villages — every man, woman, and child killed by Ríos Montt, ('born again' Christian), protégé of the CIA and graduate of the US Army's School of the Americas. Over one million people killed in Mozambique, 3 million in Vietnam (300,000 Vietnamese still missing in action), over 300,000 dead in East Timor killed by

the Indonesian army—trained, equipped and advised by the Pentagon and the CIA, 2 million killed in Angola, 10,000 killed in Samalia, hundreds of thousands killed in Iraq over the last 12 years, including an estimated 600,000 children who died as a direct or indirect result of the sanctions, bombings, and purposeful destruction of water and sanitation systems, the embargo of drugs and medicines, not including the cancers and deformities that resulted from our use of depleted uranium weapons². And if you listen to our government talk about these places, they don't even talk about them as if real people actually lived there. You hear about American casualties, but apparently Americans are the only people who count as real people.

Tell me something... if it was your country that was destroyed or betrayed by American Imperialism, how would you fight back? After all, say you did vote for someone who you believed in but he was overthrown and killed. You did vote to join a union but your co-workers and friends were intimidated... beaten up, or killed. And now you are poor, without rights... laboring for your daily crumbs while the elite of your country, (in cahoots with American corporate interests), prosper, swimming in oil, or whatever the resource happens to be... You pray to God... but where is God?

Well friends, this is our country in action, and all we can say is... I don't believe this, or I didn't know. The truth is, we don't want to believe this, and many of us don't want to know. Up until now we have benefited from our ignorance. But tell me... can you say that all the men, women and children who suffered in all these places were not innocent? Were they less innocent than the 3,000 who went to work that day in September 2001 thinking it was just another day? Are you innocent? According to Osama Bin Laden you are not. He said in a 1997 interview with CNN reporter, Peter Arnett³ that you elected these people who did this and you let them do it. After all, who is America? Is it not you? He said you were the ones who let them cheat and destroy the rights of others; you were the ones who allowed 600,000 Iraqi children die for lack of food and medicine. Then he said, that one day there will be a reaction to this American treachery (or rather, he promised that there would be a reaction).

You did know about this interview, didn't you? If not, how come? And now we hear every day on TV that he and all the other terrorists are people who have no conscience, that they are the ones who hate freedom and democracy? And no one stands up to disagree.

If you stop for a moment and listen quietly to that inner voice of humanity within you responding to

such a statement ... Can't you just hear the laughter through the tears... Can't you? We call them terrorists, but the truth is, we do have enemies now... people who do hate us. We call them terrorists only because they are not a country... they have no real army, no navy, no air force. All they have is the memory of what we did to them... to their families, to their culture, and to the families and the culture of others ... and now they have the will to fight back, to take revenge or get us to stop.

Am I saying that setting off bombs in public places is a legitimate form of political expression? I am not. What I am saying is that terrorism begets terrorism and we need to stop it.

Do you want to know how to end this kind of terrorism? I have an answer. It's very simple but it requires great courage and humility. All this war is not necessary. As a people all we have to do is this: Become informed, gain some historical perspective, acquire some understanding and compassion, tell the truth, and then take responsibility for all the injustice that we discover was done in our name... and do it in public. It could and should be a very straightforward process for any truly honorable, freedom loving people.

The real question is... is that who we are?

References:

¹Michael Parenti, “Arrogance of Empire” Tape can be purchased at

<http://www.alternativeradio.org/programs/PARM024.shtml>

²Squeezed to death - about the embargo and the children of Iraq

<http://johnpilger.com/articles/squeezed-to-death>

³Osama Bin Laden interview in 1977 with Peter Arnett

Other references: (send me more)

[protégé of the CIA](#)

[Chile](#) and [CIA in Chile](#)

[Michael Parenti quotes](#)

Interview with Jesus

2/23/04

Below is Mark Goldman's fantasy interview with Jesus after Jesus attends a showing of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ."

Mark: My goodness, well I do appreciate your taking the time to do this interview. I imagine a lot of people will be interested in what you have to say, and if I may say so, it is a real honor to meet you.

Jesus: No problem. I'm glad to do this. In fact, I appreciate the opportunity.

Mark: You know, it's kind of strange. You don't sound like I thought you would. I mean you speak excellent English and you don't even have an accent. Can you explain why you sound like... well... I mean, like anyone else... that is to say, in your manner of speech?

Jesus: Well, you know, I haven't been entirely idle since I left this plane. I've learned a few things and have had time to reflect and observe. I want to be understood when I speak and not be too unconventional in my demeanor. You might say I don't want my presentation to get in the way of my message.

Mark: Well, ok then. I just think it might be a surprise to some of my readers to hear you expressing this way. I just hope they'll understand and believe this is really you.

Jesus: Don't worry. I think they'll understand. I hope so anyway. But then again, I don't think I've ever been very well understood. There are still a lot of lingering misconceptions. But I keep trying. Why don't you just get right into it... I don't mean to rush you, but my schedule is...

Mark: Sure... I'm sorry... you bet. Ok. Well, you just sat through more than 2 hours watching a movie of your life here on Earth. What did you think? What's your first impression?

Jesus: Well first of all, let me say that the movie was not a movie about my life. It was about my death. I mean, you need to understand that it was not my intention when I set out on what you might call my journey here on Earth, to make the manner of my death the most important aspect of my life. It sure is true that I did experience a pretty horrible death, (if you want to call it that) to be sure, but I'd hate to think that that was the whole point of my life. So, the movie was not about my life. To tell you the truth it is kind of irksome to me that people so often choose to focus more on that than on the rest.

But on the other hand, I think the movie, while it was not an exact reenactment of what happened,

does capture the essence of what it was like for me. It was pretty bad. What happened to me happened to a lot of other people at that time too, you know. It was a pretty common event in those days, I'm sorry to say. Very cruel and barbaric. I'm glad that's not done anymore. You do a lot of other things on this plane, though, that I'd like to see changed but at least you aren't doing that. But did I die because of other people's sins? I would say... I was killed because of ignorance and hate. Unfortunately, those attributes of human expression have not disappeared on this plane. I see plenty of that when I look around, even today. If a closer look at my life can help change that... well, that's all to the good.

Mark: Well, what do you think the main point of the movie was, and are you pleased with it?

Jesus: I think the point of the movie was that I experienced a very painful and excruciating death with the implication being that somehow my death was perhaps more awful and more significant than others who died the same way. Of course that's not something I agree with. I was tortured and killed because all of a sudden a lot of people began listening to what I had to say. And what I had to say was very different from the consciousness of the day. I was a threat to the power structure of both the religious and the political order that was in place then. My death

was indeed a horrific injustice, but the injustice done to me was no more significant than similar injustice done to others. What's more painful to me now is not the memory of my death or how I died, but the fact that the meaning of my life has largely been lost and the way a lot of people interpret my death does not please me at all. I imagine I would be a threat to the religious and political order today too if people really wanted to pay attention to what I have to say.

Mark: I'm sorry. I don't understand.

Jesus: Well let me put it this way. It was never my intention to come onto this plane to be worshipped. That's not my consciousness. That was never my intention. That's not what I'm about. It does not please me to be called God and to be worshipped. My main message is very simple. What I wanted to say in my life is simply this: love one another. Which is to say, honor one another, tell the truth, seek justice, have courage. How hard is that to understand. Anyone who wants to honor me, or my life, can do so by simply living their life with that same intention. But somehow things got turned around. And that, I have to say... is something I still find very painful.

Mark: Well don't you think people know that? Isn't that why they go to church? Don't they go to pray for guidance in how to do just that? I

mean... isn't the purpose of religion to gain greater understanding in how we can all love one another?

Jesus: Some people do. What concerns me is that so many go to worship, hoping that worshipping me, worshipping God, will somehow save them from something, or get them something they want. If worship made people more responsible, that would be ok. But it doesn't always work that way. I think loving someone who has dedicated his life to humanity, which is what I did, is a wonderful thing, but I did not dedicate my life to humanity in hopes of being worshipped... or rather I should say, I would hope that in loving me and in being loved by me, people would use that experience to help them understand how to love others. You see, loving me is not that hard. But I want you to love one another. That's not so easy. I know that. It never has been. But I still hope for it. The way I know I am really loved is when people who listen to what I said, take it to heart and try to follow my example. I hope my love comforts you, but I also hope that it inspires you to have courage in seeking justice and goodwill towards all people.

Mark: Well that's not so easy. I mean most people have difficulty loving others all the time. I know I don't always feel loving towards others.

Jesus: The problem is that people think that love is a feeling that they should always feel. When they don't feel that way they think they don't love. But to love other people does not mean that you have to feel any particular way all the time. To love other people has more to do with your commitment to the things you say you believe in. For example, in this country you can express your love for one another by simply being true to your ideals. Treat all people with respect, be a good citizen, try to help one another by supporting legislation that is compassionate and fair, for example. It has nothing to do with religion. It has to do with simply making decisions that are consistent with your values moment to moment. And on a more personal note you can do the same thing... in your own home, in your school, in your job. Treat people you know with as much compassion and understanding as you can... and treat those you know and those you don't know the same. Look, everyone makes mistakes. If you can treat people fairly, particularly when they screw up, that is love, too. I never asked anyone to do the impossible. By making me into someone to be worshipped, I'm sorry to say... is really to reject my message. It isn't an act of love, if you see what I mean.

Mark: Well, to tell you the truth, I'm not sure that I do. Can you give me an example or be more specific.

Jesus: Well listen Mark, the point is this: when you say that only I have the ability to love unconditionally and that you do not, you are already giving yourself an excuse to not follow my example. And besides, it just isn't true. I lived on this plane just like you do. I was not capable of anything that others could not do or be. I wasn't asking you to be more than you could be. I was asking you to be what you could be. But most people didn't believe me, didn't trust me, weren't willing to change, didn't have the courage to... not even my own followers. If they had believed in me and trusted me, they would have become what I was, which I told them they could do. A few understood but most did not. By choosing to worship me, by setting up a church in my name, they eventually ended up playing politics. They wanted to influence others not by being an example, which is very hard to do, but they took the easy road... by setting up rules and levels of authority... by inventing frightening images of how people would be punished if they didn't obey this authority or that rule. That was not my example. They found it too hard to simply love one another like I tried to do and instead made me into much more than even a hero... they lifted my image up so high that no one could hope to be what I was. For many, all they understood was that they were supposed to worship me, pray to me, treat me like an idol.

But that was a distortion of my message. I am not interested in being worshipped. I am interested in being loved. You demonstrate that you love me, by trusting me, by believing me... by doing what you can to love one another. If that's what you are doing, then what I went through was worth it.

Mark: I think I understand. So do you think people should go see the movie?

Jesus: Sure. Why not? As long as they realize that what they are looking at is the pain of injustice that I experienced, that others experience, when injustice is allowed to flourish. Maybe the movie will help them better understand compassion... not only for what I went through, but for what so many go through even today. I cannot explain to you the pain of being nailed onto a cross. But then again I cannot explain to you the pain and suffering that so many of your fellow human beings experience every day because of injustice that is still allowed to flourish.

Mark: Well there seems to be some controversy about who was responsible for your death, for that injustice. Do you want to comment on that?

Jesus: No one living today is responsible for what happened to me. You do not come into this world guilty for what your near or distant relatives believed or might have done. There is hardly

anyone living today who does not have ancestors who at one time or another were brutal and barbaric in how they treated others. But you are not guilty because of what they did. God is not like that. And yet, at the same time, all are responsible for the great amount of suffering that exists in the world today. Because responsibility does not mean that you are guilty for all of this suffering. It means simply that who you are and how you live makes a difference. Who you are and how you live can help heal the suffering or add to it. The difference you make has to do with how willing you are to love ... even when you don't feel like it.

I'm sorry I have to go now. But I have a message for you and your readers: If you ever think you have forgotten or never knew how to love... or if you ever feel so lost and alone that it is you who is suffering, I want you to remember this: this God that is within me, is within you too, He is within everyone. Remember?... closer than your own breath. I love you. Wherever you go, my love goes with you. Take that love and make it your own. Become someone who loves.

Mark: Thank you. I'll try. I love you, too.

Jesus: I know. You're welcome.

How I See It

There is the law and there are principles of justice and sometimes they are not quite in alignment with one another.

For democracy to thrive there needs to be the free exchange of ideas and also the truthful sharing of experience from public servants and also from the media whose job it is to be the eyes and ears and voice of The People.

Every time a lie is told by a public servant in order to influence the public to believe something that he knows isn't true, it is an act of treason. A public servant is the servant and not the master. He is duty bound to be faithful in the execution of his duties and this must necessarily include fidelity to his honor.

If a public servant attempts to corrupt the values of subordinates by having them engage in unlawful acts or dishonorable activities, such as requiring them to lie to others or to put aside their own integrity, that too is treason.

If you are a subordinate and if you are unfaithful to yourself and the truth as you know it, in order to protect yourself or to carry out the agenda of someone who supervises you, then you are a traitor to yourself and to others.

If a military commander orders a soldier to execute an order he knows to be illegal or immoral, that is treason.

If the Commander-in-Chief or the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Defense asks you to lie, or you are purposely misled into reporting a lie or withholding the truth or misleading others, that is treason.

Can I take the Commander-in-Chief and have him prosecuted for treason if he lies to the nation? I don't know. But I know that when the President of the United States or any public servant lies to the public or misrepresents his actions as one thing when he knows they are something else, then that public official is attacking our democracy and the act is one of treason. This is how I see it.

Every lie acts to diminish, tear apart, and unravel the fabric of our society. And so does every lie that justifies a lie and every dishonesty that hides a lie, or hides the truth. This is the truth of how it is.

And if you haven't the courage to tell the truth, or the consciousness to honor the truth, or the love to love the truth, then one day you will not have the truth to tell, and soon thereafter you will not live in a place that will acknowledge the truth when it is told, and not long after that the truth will not be told for it will no longer be allowed.

You cannot be a traitor to life, and then expect to live in a free and just society.

Who says so? I say so. Where is it written? In every blade of grass. In the sparrow's song. In a snowflake. In every sunrise and sunset. In every star that lights the sky. In every child's eyes. Every river that flows and every kiss of a lovers lips... says it's so. Because it IS so.

And what if you are not a public servant or a member of the media? Every intentional dishonesty diminishes the fabric of life for we are all part of the weave.

I do not say this as an invitation to judge others, but rather as a reminder from time to time to look to see if the threads of our own expression are holding life together or allowing it to unravel.

Whoever you are, wherever you are, you are a part of every destiny. Everyone makes a difference, and simply the willingness to hold fast to life, to have faith, compassion and courage is what binds us together and creates the opportunity for us, and our children, and our children's children, to experience the blessings of freedom, happiness, and success.

From *The Answer*
by Mark A. Goldman
Published in 2003

“Liberty lies in the hearts and minds of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it...”

—Judge Learned Hand

The Answer

11/15/02

...AND THEN ONE DAY SOMEONE ASKS, "Well you know, you have some good ideas about what's wrong and even some good ideas about how things should be, but can you tell us... how do we get from here to there?"

Yes:

One Answer: Well perhaps it's time to take stock. If I can't answer this question what does all the rest mean anyway. Do I have an answer? Who would have this answer? I think to myself... What do I know? What do I see? Where am I? Where am I going? Looking out into the world, I say to myself, I was once there where they are and now I'm here. How did I get here? And I review in my mind all of my experiences and where I've been and what I've done and also what I've said and written... mistakes I've made, doors I've opened and doors I've closed. And here I am. I wasn't born this way. Or maybe I was and didn't know it. Maybe they were born this way too and don't know it. I've had many teachers. Who is not my teacher? I learned but I can't go back and wouldn't go back and wouldn't send you to them. Am I what I am because of them... in spite of them...? Yes. And anyway, a true prophet does not want to be followed, except perhaps for a

little while. And a true prophet does not have a religion, nor does he or she want, I don't think, to be the object of one. A true prophet says to himself, I have always changed and here I am. How do I know what I will be tomorrow? My truth — it changes every day. If someone believes my truth, will they live free and change like me, or live in the prison of what I once was? And should I lead them into a fight and have there be a war... or not fight and have them be consumed by the tyranny of an unseen, unexamined culture of fear, greed and mediocrity. It is not war or peace, but war or... degradation. What am I to do, to say? If you were where I am, you would not be where I was, and you would be standing here with me, same as I.... Not asking the question. Trying to answer it. ...Or asking it, but not asking me. What is valuable to a prophet, I think, is not what he has to say but what he is. He would like to give it away, but what is there to give? He wants you only to be you, being what you are, having what he has, for yourself. Not to be a follower or a believer, but to have what is yours when it is yours to have. Same question we started with.... How do you get from here to there? I am not a prophet. If I were a prophet wouldn't I be more than this? But everybody has something to give, and this is what I'm offering. You already know what to do. Didn't someone you've heard of already point the way? Why?

I can tell you this...not to be worshipped. Not to be followed... but to give you the opportunity to know and not have to believe. The answer: truth, honor, dignity, compassion, courage, love.

Another Answer: The people we usually call leaders in our political culture are really followers. They lead by expressing the consciousness of the majority and when the majority identifies with that consciousness, they recognize the “leader” as one of their own, a limited bond of trust occurs, and then they follow. The problem is, the consciousness of the majority doesn't have the vision to know what is needed, and so neither does the “leader.” That is different from the kind leadership that inspires people to become more than what they thought they could be... leadership that has a vision and the ability to awaken in others the desire to learn something new, to take a chance on their highest aspirations. That kind of leadership is quite rare.

Unfortunately, we don't make it easy or pleasant for people with those kinds of skills to get far enough along in the political process to even be heard. Why? Because we don't want to see what it is they have to offer. The system is rigged in a number of ways and our culture worships the status quo; it feeds on itself. Because what they have to offer is the simple truth that to have what we say we want will require responsibility on our

part. You can begin at any point and say it starts there, but it's beyond the starting point now.

But just for argument's sake, we could say it starts in how we run our schools. We are very good at teaching our children not to love others. Just take a look at our priorities as it relates to schools. In many communities, children are able to attend well-designed, well-equipped, well-staffed, well-managed schools. In other neighborhoods the schools are not well funded and the children are not given what they require to succeed. Some children are failing before they even begin. These children often learn not to respect education, not to find it inspiring. This creates a subculture that discourages its members from valuing or excelling in those very activities that could change their lives and allow them to become vital participants in society, thereby transforming their relationship with the future... and transforming society, too.

And so, we have a divided nation now and as far into the future as we can see. And this division insures its own perpetuation. This makes no sense in an enlightened society. It is antithetical to our stated values of democracy — equal rights, and equal protection under the law. Public education ought to be uniformly good and where children are disadvantaged, an even greater effort on the part of government should be made, to bring them up to speed. But that's not how it

works. If it did work that way, life as we know it could be transformed in just a few generations. And there's no good reason why it can't happen... except for the human and political forces at work that won't let it happen.

Who could advance such an idea? Who would run these schools, who would teach these children? We'd have to shift our resources from weaponry to "livingry" and who wants to do that? This would take the extraordinary commitment of individual citizens willing to take personal responsibility for themselves, their families, their neighborhood, their country, and their planet... but most folks don't want to do that or simply won't do that and so everyone goes about scratching their heads and wringing their hands or just tuning out. Same answer: truth, honor, dignity, compassion, courage, love.

Another Answer: The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind...

Same answer: truth, honor, dignity, compassion, courage, love.

Six words that all mean the same thing... which is to say, none is wholly itself without the other five. Be any one — that's how to get from here to there.

Final answer: **love**

Start by learning to love everyone else's children at least almost as much as you love your own. Everything else will follow.

From *The Answer*
a book by Mark A. Goldman

On Work

1989

I am somebody, and I stand for something, and I love who I am and what I have become. I get paid money for what I do, but I do not work for money. Rather I work to contribute my energy, my talent, and my love to those endeavors that express who I am and what it is I stand for. I work at my place of employment because working there gives me the opportunity to be this way.

I do not really work for my employer or my supervisor, and no one works for me. We are all working to achieve the goals, and to forward the purposes for which my company exists. My company's purpose is my purpose—that's why I work here—and my employer is here to help me be of service to you.

I exercise the authority delegated to me in order to achieve our aims and I am responsible for the results. I take pride in what I do and where I work.

I do my job honorably, which is to say, I tell the truth and my word is my bond.

I do not make promises I cannot keep and I do not pretend someone else is responsible for my mistakes. I treat everyone I know with dignity

and honor, and I respect those qualities when I see that they have the courage to express that way too.

I never promise to keep secrets, because I never do anything I need to hide. Everything I do can stand the light of day. And still, I can be counted on to be appropriate in what I say and do.

If I sometimes make mistakes or fall short of my ideals, I take responsibility for what I've said or done and clean up any 'mess' that I created. I am always willing to learn from my experiences and so I am forgiving of myself and others.

I am loyal to my company and those with whom I work by being loyal to truth and honor above all else.

This is how I am and this is how I work and this is how I am with you.

The Children of Iraq

10/01/02

John Pilger, the British journalist, has visited Iraq and reported extensively on what he has seen. Reading his commentary, one begins to understand how brutal lies can be.

Before the Gulf War, Iraq had one of the lowest infant mortality rates in the world. Today it is the highest. The economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council denied Iraq the equipment it needed to clean up the battlefields from the Gulf War. The battlefields needed to be cleaned up because the depleted uranium that was discharged by American and British bombs carried with them a silent death that was far more devastating than the initial blasts would have suggested. There are regions in Iraq where as many as 40% of the children living nearby now have cancer. It is not unusual for several children in one family to have cancer. Those who don't have cancer today are expected to get it later in life.

The death rate for children under 5 was running 4,000 per month in the year 2000 when one of the articles I am referring to was written.¹ The sanctions, which Pilger calls, "the most ruthless embargo in modern history," is killing mostly children. The children of Iraq are dying of hunger

and malnutrition, dysentery and other diseases associated with the lack of sanitation. The children are dying for lack of medicines and medical supplies. The only painkiller doctors can offer their cancer ridden patients is aspirin, because the sanctions preclude the purchase of morphine. It was American bombs that took out public sanitation and the general infrastructure of the country. Apparently anything that might have been of value to someone in uniform was a target even if it was also vital to the general population. The sanctions have been unnecessarily vindictive and cruel.

As far as I can tell, the American strategy as it applies to Iraq has been... "If we destroy life, as these people know it, perhaps they will blame Saddam Hussein and run him out of office." But that is only part of the strategy. It appears to me that the other part is... "If we destroy life as these people know it, we can then come in, control the oil, and no one will be able to do anything about it." I think this is all about oil, not about terrorism. There is no greater terrorism than when it rains US bombs. And after each rain storm, we call the dead—collateral damage. They call the dead— family and friends. This is not about Saddam's evil intentions. When Saddam poisoned the Kurds, the US Government said nothing. Saddam Hussein is a product of the CIA and American policy, but that is another story.

In 1996, when then Secretary of State Madeline Albright was asked during a 60 Minutes interview about the hundreds of thousands of children in Iraq who have died because of the sanctions, and whether she thought the price was worth it... she replied:

"I think this is a very hard choice, but the price... we think the price is worth it."

WE think the price is worth it? Who is this WE and who has a right to think such a thing or to make such decisions about other people's children... in my name, in your name?

So you could argue, "Don't blame us for the death of these children, Saddam Hussein could have stopped the sanctions at any time. Blame him." Well I do blame him. But that doesn't absolve us from the part we played. We knew or should have known that Saddam Hussein would rather let his people suffer than give in to outside pressure. So we knowingly chose to pursue a strategy that guaranteed his people WOULD suffer. And we didn't stop when we saw the results. We used the pain and deaths of these children to try to pressure Saddam Hussein to do what... leave town? It was, and still is, an ignorant, indefensible, cruel policy. A year after Albright's appearance on 60 Minutes: "...in an interview with CNN reporter Peter Arnett, Osama Bin Laden directly stated that,

'A REACTION MIGHT TAKE PLACE as a result of U.S. Government's execution of over 600,000 Iraqi children by preventing food and medicine from reaching them.'" ²

Did George Bush know all this when he said the reason terrorists hate us is because they hate freedom and democracy?.

Of course he did. I'm not saying all terrorists are rational or that they all know what they are fighting for. But Bush was lying and he knew it. And so did the press and every other government official who works within a 50 mile radius of the White House, and this hypocrisy is also known in the halls of every foreign government.

When a plaintiff comes into a United States court, he is expected to come to the court with 'clean hands' or the court will not grant relief. To have 'clean hands' means that the party bringing the action is not engaged in immoral or illegal acts. The United States does not have 'clean hands.' Can you guess why the Bush team does not want to prosecute terrorists in a public court of law? Can you imagine that if these criminals were prosecuted in public view, they might have an opportunity to argue that the plaintiff does not come to this court with 'clean hands'? Is it any wonder that Bush refuses to acknowledge the authority of the World Court to potentially charge a US citizen with crimes against humanity?

If George Bush ends up removing Saddam Hussein from power, maybe the children of Iraq will be better off than they are now. But that's not a certainty. How many innocent civilian lives will be lost in the war? Would you care to guess? If children or other innocent civilians had any currency in the formation of US policy, most of the sanctions would have been lifted a long time ago, and we would not now be worried about terrorism in the first place.

This is about oil. Trading basic human decency for oil. Oil is costing us our humanity, our freedoms, our self respect, and before too long perhaps the lives of more of our own children. And what will our children think of us when they eventually find out what our government has been up to? None of us is innocent, because WE are the government. Remember...? WE THE PEOPLE. Is war the only science we know? The people who represent us, are now, and have been for a long time, out of control and out of touch. Enough is enough. We each need to accept our responsibility as citizens before it's too late. And if we can't come together to find new common ground and formulate a strategy that is based on principles of honor and basic human decency, then perhaps between our apathy and government's negligence, The Great Experiment will, after all of this, have finally come to naught. Start by checking out this story. Here are the referenced links:

¹ <http://www.johnpilger.com/articles/squeezed-to-death>

² [Peter Arnett's Interview with Osama Bin Laden](#)

This article is dedicated to Ruth Wood, who was my homeroom teacher at Pennsauken High School in New Jersey and who loved me as she loved all children, and stayed my friend and had faith in me for over 40 years. Her former students live in every corner of this country. She died in Knoxville, Tennessee, on Sunday

Like a Bull in a China Shop

9/5/02

This administration plays with war like a child plays with matches... like a bull in a china shop chasing a red flag, trampling on civil liberties and human beings like so many glass trinkets and costume jewelry. Bombing a wedding party and denying it, leaving behind grieving parents, and dismembered orphaned children. Promising reparations without apology... and then not following through. Chasing criminals through a country like a car chase in a B movie... destroying everything in its wake, leaving death, fire, and destruction everywhere, with great bravado, pretending to be a hero. So incredibly immature, boorish and irresponsible that one can only think to send them to their room while the rest of us grieve, asking ourselves what did we do so wrong that our own child could do these things. This administration cannot be trusted with war, cannot be trusted period.

On Citizenship

1990

If it is the duty of citizens to be willingly drafted into service by their country; and it is the duty of soldiers to face the heat of battle in defense of liberty and justice even at the peril of losing their lives, then it is no less incumbent for each of us who has freely pledged allegiance to the flag of our country, and/or who has taken an oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States, to do as much, even at the peril of losing our jobs, our standing in the community, our license to practice law, or even a Presidential or Congressional election.

It is because we are each in a distinctive circumstance — due to information that becomes available to us... due to the special trust that the public places in the work that we do... due to expectations that others have, based on how we say we live — namely, that we regularly operate in and for and consistent to the public good — that the public has a right to expect and we each have an obligation to act, in and for the public good, when we have the opportunity to do so, particularly when doing so is aligned with, and appropriate to the work in which we are regularly engaged.

Any United States citizen, who, by his special circumstance of knowledge and position, can benefit his country, (by speaking out or by taking other appropriate measures which are in his general purview or influence, in order to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States), has a duty and an obligation to do so, lest there be citizens who are damaged by his neglect, cowardice, or willful wrong doing.

This country could not have grown and prospered were it not for those who came to this land seeking refuge and hope in the one nation of the world that above all else loves freedom and democracy.

Immigrants to the United States, in order to assume the responsibilities of citizenship first must learn about our history and system of government. They then participate in a ceremony in which they voluntarily pledge allegiance to their adopted country. It is in this pledge that each new citizen promises to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all its enemies, foreign and domestic.

It is unconscionable to think that our founding fathers would have intended, or that we should suppose, that the responsibilities of citizenship in America should be more stringent for those who were not born in this country than for those who were.

Therefore, one can only conclude, that every citizen, (be that citizen foreign or native born), has a duty and an obligation to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States with the same zeal as did those who were the founders of this country, or those who fought and died so that we might remain free.

I can't predict what effect it will have when you suddenly become aware of the existence and content of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. But I believe it will lift the consciousness of this entire nation and I believe it will be to the benefit of all mankind.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

*As adopted by the United Nations General Assembly,
December 10, 1948*

Preamble

Whereas, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas, disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas, it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law.

Whereas, it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas, the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.

Whereas, Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Whereas, a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore, the **General Assembly** *proclaims* this **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Articles

ARTICLE 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

ARTICLE 2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-selfgoverning or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

ARTICLE 3. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

ARTICLE 4. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

ARTICLE 5. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

ARTICLE 6. Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

ARTICLE 7. All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

ARTICLE 8. Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

ARTICLE 9. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

ARTICLE 10. Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and

impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

ARTICLE 11. (1) Everyone charged with a penal offense has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defense.

(2) No one shall be held guilty of any penal offense on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offense, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offense was committed.

ARTICLE 12. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

ARTICLE 13. (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.

(2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and return to his country.

ARTICLE 14. (1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

(2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecution genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

ARTICLE 15. (1) Everyone has the right to a nationality.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

ARTICLE 16. (1) Men and women of full age, without any limitations due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

(2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

ARTICLE 17. (1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

ARTICLE 18. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others,

and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

ARTICLE 19. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

ARTICLE 20. (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

(2) No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

ARTICLE 21. (1) Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

(2) Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

(3) The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

ARTICLE 22. Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

ARTICLE 23. (1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

ARTICLE 24. Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

ARTICLE 25. (1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

ARTICLE 26. (1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

(2) Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

(3) Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

ARTICLE 27. (1) Everyone has the right to freely participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

(2) Everyone has the right to the protection of moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

ARTICLE 28. Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

ARTICLE 29. (1) Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

(2) In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

(3) These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

ARTICLE 30. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, December 10, 1948.

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*It is the duty of every man, as far as his
ability extends, to detect and expose
delusion and error.*

—Thomas Paine



One thing is for sure: Those who refuse to
protect and defend the rights and freedoms of
others, are destined to one day lose their
own.

—Mark A. Goldman