

To slash two trillion from cancerous Big Government and Save the Country, Musk/Ramaswamy/Trump must destroy the Perverted Triangle, eliminate unconstitutional programs and agencies, leverage the National Guard for homeland defense and collapse recovery, reform budgeting and abandon the unaffordable and increasingly infeasible quest for conventional military technological superiority, and use private associations to replace most government regulations

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Elon Musk, Vivek Ramaswamy, and their “Department of Government Efficiency” task to cut \$2 trillion in federal government spending is vital and doable—but only if they pursue a broader mission of destroying the Perverted Triangle and getting the United States back to Constitutional limits on spending and activity, stopping the rape of our Natural Rights that we fought a Revolution for and founded Constitutional government to protect.

In public history textbooks, written by taxpayer funded professors, Big Government elected officials are generally the good guys, fighting against evil, greedy businessmen (i.e. Musk, Ramaswamy, Trump). The “Iron Triangle” is the bad alliance of government bureaucrats, elected career politicians, and special interest groups (big business lobbyists) working to promote their profits and interests. Big businesses and campaign donations to politicians can be horrible in a government without limits as we have today in the uUS, but there is a far worse alliance that has destroyed good American government and personal liberty: the “Perverted Triangle” of government bureaucrats, career politicians, and lawyers. The latter two are often the same person—attorneys in legislatures that pass laws and regulations that generate more business and income for fellow lawyers, more jobs for government bureaucrats, more campaign donations and power for the politicians. And many Perverted Triangle members become lobbyists.

Unaffordable, irresponsible, unconstitutional government spending is the result of illegal government removal of Constitutional protections that until Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s (FDR) Administration, limited the federal government and protected our basic Natural Rights to personal property, privacy and “to be left alone.” Constitutional limits to federal government interference in social matters and personal economic affairs were illegally eliminated in 1937 when a majority of Supreme Court Justices surrendered to pressure and threats from FDR. Later Democratic Administrations, along with Republicans, let the Perverted Triangle surge in power with massive increases in unconstitutional social and welfare programs, an explosion of laws and regulations, undermining families and personal responsibility, dividing the nation. The cancerous growth of welfare and entitlement programs of the unconstitutional United States (uUS) has created an increasingly dependent citizenry. This is exactly what the Democratic Party and Perverted Triangle want—subservient, poor, dependent citizens who vote for them to receive welfare payments and social programs they have been trained to need. Our Country is bitterly split today, falling apart, because the two dominant political parties and uUS/State government social programs have divided our nation.

Our legal system has also been ruined by the Perverted Triangle, with thousands of laws, millions of regulations, enriching lawyers who are allowed to lie in Court, with rules requiring use of expensive lawyers and banning others from offering legal advice. Worse, Judges (former lawyers), ignore our retained Natural Rights and the 9th Amendment, favoring past case citations at the expense of truth, justice, and our Constitution. Victory in court depends on how much you can spend on attorneys rather than what is just, with natural rights not even considered.

The state of our un-constitutional, un-American government and legal system is unbearable, and now also un-survivable. With growing threats from new technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the growing likelihood of a collapse that could kill most of us, fixing our government and getting federal and state governments focused on homeland defense and collapse recovery is especially vital now.

Efficiency improvements and eliminating the obvious waste likely will not yield a trillion dollars in savings.ⁱ To achieve more savings and, more importantly, stop the divisions that threaten our country and distract government from its correct role of providing security from external threats we can't handle on our own, DOGE and the Trump Administration must destroy the Perverted Triangle and restore the U.S. Constitution's limits to government and protection of our Natural Rights.

It is not just the rise in federal government spending as a percentage of GDP, from less than 5% a century ago to 30% today; but the mix of that spending that is grossly wrong. Defense spending as a percent of GDP has fallen from 10% in peacetime in the 1950s to about 3% today, now matched by spending on interest on the cancerous national debt the Perverted Triangle has built up. Spending on social welfare programs is a staggering 20% of GDP. And this does not count the huge state and local government spending and debt. Government debt is larger than, about 125% of our GDP! In 2024, for the first time, the uUS reached the point where we are spending more on our national debt than we are on defense spending!ⁱⁱ The Perverted Triangle and the elimination of Natural Rights and limits to Government have yielded a socialist state and a dependent population that will largely not survive a collapse.

DOGE cannot be limited to recommending budget cuts if it wants real spending cuts and success in fixing our detested, unconstitutional Big Government. They must recommend policy, program, process changes, and Constitutional amendments.ⁱⁱⁱ

To cut two trillion dollars in spending, Musk, Ramaswamy, Trump Et Al must destroy the Perverted Triangle. Otherwise, their spending spree and unlimited government that is bankrupting the country and destroying national unit, families and personal responsibility, will continue. Unless we can get our Government and Courts to obey the 9th and 10th Amendments to the Constitution, significantly cutting spending and saving the country is not possible.

The Perverted Triangle will attack this proposal and me personally, so let me outline my extensive qualifications in an endnote.^{iv}

DOGE can identify plenty of government waste because the Supreme Court fails to enforce any Constitutional limits to Government or violations of citizen's natural rights—empowering the Perverted Triangle to pander and buy votes

Rather than fighting unconstitutional socialist welfare programs, after Goldwater's defeat in 1960 the GOP joined in, competing with offers of welfare benefits and pork for their constituents to buy votes. By the time Nixon took office, the Republican Party had given up real opposition to Big Government, perverted by the political power of unlimited big government spending that virtually guarantees election for Congressmen since more seniority means more "free" federal spending and pork for their district. The Nixon Administration created several new, unconstitutional regulatory agencies, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the

Environmental Protection Agency. We certainly need environmental regulations, but the proper way to add them is by amending the Constitution to allow a new area of federal involvement. Nixon tried to beat Democrats by outmaneuvering them in political vote pandering. “In 1972, an election year, Nixon raised social security benefits by 20 percent, with the new payments starting the month before the November election, but with the tax increase not payable until after the election was over. Such a ploy was reminiscent of Roosevelt and the WPA in 1936.....forces set in motion by Franklin Roosevelt and the New Deal have changed U.S. political and economic life forever....”^v

With the federal government now able to spend on anything at all they want, incumbents had incredible power to deliver federally funded pork for their supporters, collect campaign donations with ease, and retain office by steering federal projects and dollars into their district. Many books are written listing outrageous abuse. Nothing in the Constitution could possibly justify \$500,000 in federal funds for a Teapot Museum in Sparta North Carolina, \$273,000 to combat goth culture in Blue Springs, Missouri, or \$14 billion (correct: billion, not million) federal taxpayers contributed for a local tunnel to Boston’s airport.^{vi} Fortunately for our nation, there are hundreds of great groups trying to fight the Perverted Triangle like “Citizens Against Government Waste” that researches, tracks and annually publishes an annual “Congressional Pig Book.” In 2023, they identified 7,396 earmarks, waste of \$26.1 billion. Since 1991, they have identified 124,212 pork earmarks costing \$437.5 billion.^{vii}

The 2024 Citizens Against Government Waste’s “Congressional Pig Book” listed over 8,000 earmarks in the last budget, costing \$22.7 billion.^{viii} This pork spending is not just wasteful but largely spending that is absolutely unconstitutional—clear violations of the 10th Amendment to the Constitution that is crystal clear in its wording and legislative intent (published in the Federalist Papers to convince Americans to support the Constitution) that unless the federal government is empowered via specific wording in the Constitution (like raising an Army, running the Post Office) they are not allowed to pursue as a program. So when a Senate Appropriations Committee member (Patty Murray, D-Washington) adds millions of dollars in earmarks for the University of Washington it is not just blatant waste and using taxpayer funds to buy her reelection votes—it is a grotesque violation of the Constitution, robbing 49 states to drive donations and votes for Senator Murray’s re-election campaign. Quoting from Senator Murray’s government funded webpage:^{ix}

- “Today, U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee . . . released the following statement . . . announcing that University of Washington would receive \$21.1 million . . . “
- “I am so proud to see Washington state continuing to lead the way with lifesaving cancer research, and to see that leadership recognized with federal dollars from the new ARPA-H agency I created to help us push the bounds of biomedical research,” said Senator Murray.”
- “Senator Murray has been a staunch advocate for investments in America’s leadership in biomedical research. Over her years as a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, she has secured billions of dollars in increases for biomedical research . . .”

Senator Murray, like most career politicians, violates our Constitution and Natural Rights, stealing from taxpayers to buy votes. As her government funded website proudly proclaims, she

exploited her seniority on the Appropriations Committee to steal \$21.1 million from taxpayers to reward her state and buy reelection votes.

Lobbyists (usually lawyers, often former politicians and government bureaucrats) make donations to get preferential federal tax breaks or program spending for their clients. The career politicians award federal largess to get the donations and support that guarantees re-election for most, the government bureaucrats get more jobs and budget, and the lawyers get more regulations and laws, business and profit—all at the expense of our Natural Rights to be left alone and use our private property and funds for our welfare---not what a majority votes for unrestricted by violations of our Natural Rights or the Constitution.

There is nothing in the Constitution allowing the federal government to promote education or donate to a specific state university. It is also a gross violation of your Natural Right to use your personal property and earnings (protected in the 9th Amendment), not be robbed by government to have your funds used for whatever some politician wants to do, in clear violation of the Constitution. But the Supreme Court has long ceased enforcing the Constitution—they are also part of the Perverted Triangle, approved by Congressmen who ensure they will obey the Perverted Triangle and let them spend and do whatever they want to buy their reelection victory at our expense. Both parties, most career politicians, violate the Constitution and American taxpayers to win pork for their district and donations and votes for their campaigns.

Reagan's government reform effort, the Grace Commission, estimated that one third of federal spending was wasted.^x There are some easy measures, like order the U.S. mint to stop producing pennies at a cost of 3 cents each, but big savings and government improvements require revolutionary changes in strategy, restoration of Constitutional individual rights and government limits. The Reagan Administration not only failed to cut government back—federal spending and the budget deficit grew by 69% during Reagan's eight years in office!^{xi}

The DOGE needs to outlaw earmarks, but that's a drop in the bucket of government theft from taxpayers, violation of our Natural Rights, and rape of the Constitution.

An analyst writing in *Reason Magazine* recently argued for eliminating federal grants-in-aid to the states which “assault federalism, create perverse incentives, and reduce state and local government efficiency and accountability.”^{xii} She cites as an example federal transportation grants bribing states to build costly mass transit systems to get federal matching funds. The United States is covered in rarely used tiny municipal airports with cracked runways and weeds because the federal government financed 90-95% of the cost to build them so local governments took the “free money” but didn't bother continued spending to maintain them. There are multitudes of similar abuse and waste of our money by the Perverted Triangle and unlimited Big Government.

Subsidizing private sector firms is another blatantly unconstitutional, wasteful, and unethical big pot of federal spending that should be completely eliminated. As the *Reason Magazine* analyst argued, it is “unfair to force taxpayers to invest in private companies against their will, especially when the arrangement typically privatizes profits while socializing losses (think bank bailouts during the Great Recession). It also undermines support for a market economy, creating the impression that capitalism rewards politically connected companies at the expense of regular Americans.”^{xiii}

Hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars are spent subsidizing private firms, violating the 9th and 10th amendments and the fundamental principles of American government. Only a few billion might be termed waste, but all the hundreds of billions of dollars thus spent are unconstitutional and wrong.

Many years ago, the Air Force Logistics Command developed a system to reward individuals for not fully spending their budgets, something considered impossible.^{xiv} DOGE should promote such practices across government.

Privatization would lower costs of some government programs while improving performance—but it is best to cease doing all federal and state government social programs, leaving it up to local governments to pursue them if and only if their local population votes to offer and fund them.

Even President Reagan who vowed to cut spending could not stop growth in Big Government. The federal budget rose 65% and federal debt tripled from \$738 billion to \$2.1 trillion, with the U.S. becoming the world's largest debtor nation while Reagan served as POTUS.^{xv} It was not Democrats, but President George H.W. Bush who expanded the Department of Education, and the George W. Bush Administration that initiated a prescription drug discount for senior citizens. With Obamacare, the Democrats brought in another clearly unconstitutional federal program (no mention of government providing healthcare or insurance in Constitution), but both big political parties treat the Constitution like toilet paper.^{xvi}

The Perverted Triangle for decades has grown American's welfare/entitlement dependence, stealing your money via taxes and fees to then buy votes with completely unconstitutional, gross violations of Natural Rights (which are to protect your freedom, not force you to participate in government income redistribution and vote purchase deals). You have a Natural Right to privacy, use of your personal property as you choose, believe and do what you want as long as you do not harm others. There is no Natural Right to demand money from other people or force them to fund or support your social views.

Achieve the benefits of standardization and safety without violating Natural Rights or wasting billions by eliminating most government regulations and regulatory agencies, replacing them with Citizen Advisory Associations and Voluntary Standards developed and monitored by Private Groups like Underwriter's Laboratories

Government overspending is just part of the Perverted Triangle's destruction of the United States of America. Economist Thomas D. Hopkins of the Rochester Institute of Technology concluded that in 1995 the American people had to spend \$668 billion just to comply with the regulatory burden, about \$7,000 per household.^{xvii}

We can obtain the benefits of regulating without most of the costs and loss of Natural Rights by replacing most regulations with industry standards and best practices that are not set by industries, but by private standards groups enforced by them and Citizen's Advisory Associations.

The Nanny State doesn't even believe citizens have enough intelligence to go shopping. The federal "Bureau of Consumer Protection" tells us what to buy, with hundreds of federal

government agencies and thousands of state and city government departments to regulate our decisions.

The purpose of regulation is "to make regular," to standardize and promote best practices, improve product/service quality-- not to pass laws and make more opportunity for lobbyists, campaign donations for career politicians, government jobs, and profitable work for lawyers.

The best way to accomplish the goals of regulations is not Government mandates and a system run by the Perverted Triangle to benefit them, but voluntary, private standards and regulations. The best standards and safety promoting practices come from voluntary associations that have successfully operated for centuries. There is no need for government laws or government regulations to achieve standards and best practices and safety for the vast majority of products, services, and personal actions—and such government rules violate our Natural Rights.

Private associations and industry standards have a huge history of success without government rules, bureaucrats or lawsuits, via setting standards, certification, monitoring, brand approval, warranties, product evaluations, recommending best practices, and arbitration.

For over a century, hugely successful and beneficial Underwriters Laboratories (UL),^{xviii} which is not a government agency and operates with no government support or legislation, has achieved the benefits of safety and standardization with strictly voluntary compliance. Companies, customers, insurance agencies look for UL approval on products, knowing that UL enforces high, reasonable standards for product safety. Companies voluntarily comply with UL standards and pay UL to get their stamp of approval. No government, no Perverted Triangle needed.

Green Seal, an independent organization, certifies "environmentally sound" products. Kosher food products, The Good Housekeeping Seal of approval, Consumers Union's fantastic "Consumer Reports," the Better Business Bureau, hundreds of industry associations like the American Dental Association developing and promoting standards.

Industry standards and voluntary compliance leverages the huge power of free market competition, with companies competing to win consumers by offering the best products at the best price. Unlike Underwriters Laboratory reasonable standards, a government agency in charge results in abominations like the Occupational Safety and Health Administration 1987 final ruling on the use of formaldehyde that could save one person's life every hundred years by spending \$72 billion (in 1984 dollars).

We do not need Big Government national or state regulations on consumer products, businesses, personal affairs, personal property—let people choose when their decisions have no big negative externality^{xix} on others and let the Courts handle charges of violating our Natural Right to be left alone, not harmed by others (people, businesses, or government bureaucrats). For guidance, replace government regulations with consumer/citizen association groups that advise on product safety and quality, good or bad business conduct. Let citizens choose what "Consumer Advisory Association" (CAA) they trust and want to follow. Those that offer great advice will be rewarded with more members. When a recommendation proves bad it can immediately be changed—unlike government laws and regulations that once passed, almost never go away. Rather than government bureaucrats that can't be fired, use associations that can be rewarded or rejected for their good or bad advice. The tax savings from firing millions^{xx} of government bureaucrats and eliminating hundreds of government agencies can fund not just better

replacement consumer/citizen associations, but new companies, productive jobs, and a much happier populace. With less domestic laws and regulations to deal with, federal and state officials can focus on security, the most important service we need from government. The savings from less laws will also help get rid of more shyster lawyers and lawsuits, less expenses for consumers buying products/services with higher costs due to our perverted legal system.

With standards developed and enforced by voluntary groups like UL and endorsed by Consumer Advisory Associations rather than government regulations, we can shift to decentralized, secure blockchain databases that do not require a government middleman. Top CAAs can run nodes in permissioned, private blockchains using platforms like Hyperledger, or public blockchains like Ethereum.

Consumer Reports, environmental groups like Greenpeace, the Grange, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Small Business Association, the American Association of Retired Persons, USAA (current/former military), American Legion, the Salvation Army, Churches, lots of groups and associations could offer ratings and recommendations on regulations and rate companies. CAAs can consider inputs from companies, individuals, other associations in developing their guidelines and recommendations. Coalitions of groups might band together to form/back a CAA. Many like Consumer Reports, USAA, Costco, already have regular publications with advice on not just what to buy, but how to promote environmental sustainability, avoid being a victim of crime, improve your health and wealth—without taxing people or forcing them to do things. While industry associations can be very effective in developing common standards and promoting good conduct, they would best serve by giving inputs to Consumer Advisory Agencies—not be a CAA given their inherent bias.

In advising on regulations and public policy, a CAA Congress would be ideal. Associations could send citizens (not lawyers or career politicians) to a group that meets full time to discuss and debate the merits of regulations and public policies being proposed at national and state levels (perhaps some city/regional groups) to see if a CAA consensus can be achieved. If so, all CAAs could recommend the same guidance—providing the good aspect of laws and regulations without the overwhelmingly bad disadvantages of our current Big Government regulatory morass. If not, they can disagree, ideally explaining why they disagree so citizens who care about a particular issue can make their own call.

Associations can also amass consumer power to leverage against monopolies. For example, a Facebook competitor that protects or pays for citizens' data and does not rip off small business advertisers badly could be promoted by associations—encouraging members to dump Facebook and switch to the better start up. It is virtually impossible for a small start up to gain awareness and grow against a Facebook, Google or Apple monopolist/oligopolist. But if Consumer Associations agree it's better for their members—consumer power can be leveraged against the business giants. Associations should collaborate and when facing powerful monopolies that are exploiting their market power, act collectively to promote alternatives, encourage members to boycott some firms.

Regulations undermine, and ultimately ruin personal and family responsibility. Why inspect a house, consider the safety and reliability of products when there are so many thousands of government regulations and inspections? Why bother working hard, or making big investments in education when government can provide you income and health care? You don't need a parent or the advice of extended family members when the Nanny State is guiding you in

everything you do: what you can eat and drink, the design and construction of your house, your health and medical care, your income if you need financial help, etc. For FDR and top strategists and leaders of the Perverted Triangle this is no accident; it's part of the grand design to yield a dependent, docile population that is beholding to them for guidance and survival, eager to vote to keep them in power so their government benefits keep flowing.

The perversion of laws and regulations and welfare programs by the Perverted Triangle is far more damaging and evil than Boss Tweed's Tammany Hall because it is so more sophisticated and hidden. A citizen could figure out he'd been bribed with free food or a job, but most Americans today are on welfare programs and don't know it due to deliberate government lies and deception like misleading people to think that their social security number is for an individual retirement account with their contributions and interest earnings in it—not the Congressionally set benefits and hidden welfare payments that Social Security and Medicare provide.

When Big Government decides to regulate your home and adds building codes they don't just violate your Natural Rights of privacy, use of private property, and right to be left alone, they drive housing costs up. This is particularly hard on poor Americans and small businesses. Code requirements drive up the costs of new houses by tens of thousands of dollars. Moreover, government routinely tears down poor people's houses that are not "up to code" for defects as minor as peeling paint. For example, Dallas city government demolished over a thousand private homes between 1992 and 1995, most of them in low-income and minority areas, sending previous residents onto the welfare rolls or into the streets as homeless.^{xxi}

The standard lie of building code officials is that community safety drives them. However the majority of such regulations deal with strictly personal preferences and trivial (or nonexistent) personal safety. Colorado Springs building codes dictate how much glass you can have on a patio (and it's not a limit on the percent of glass for a stronger building—it's a requirement for lots of glass because a window manufacturer in town lobbied for the requirement).^{xxii} A neighbor can't be harmed from your lack of tamper proof outlets or stair tread width or building size. Democratic Party takeover of state governments in Nevada and Colorado has led to expansion of big city building codes and zoning restrictions, forcing them into rural counties where there are no neighbors and no demand for building codes. These codes and regulations largely benefit politicians, government workers and lawyers—not safety. Where safety might be improved by adding some item, it is the individual's right to decide if they want to pay the price to add it—not Government.

The Democratic Party loves to have more jobs for government bureaucrats, more regulations and laws to generate business for lawyers (who vote Democratic Party). Poor people having to spend more for housing also is great for the Democratic Party which champions Government welfare programs for the poor, buying their votes. A 2023 Pew Charitable Trust Poll found that 82% of Americans were concerned about the high cost of housing, 86% wanted faster permit processing, 65% wanted more personal freedom over use of their property.^{xxiii} Government regulations are primarily for the benefit of the Perverted Triangle, not American citizens.

A great path to wealth is to start your own business, not just work for others at low wages. As Albert Einstein observed, "Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom."^{xxiv} With the explosion of laws, fees, permits, licenses, codes, regulations, and fines the Perverted Triangle has dumped on us for their benefit, it is no

longer possible to labor in freedom today. The poor are far more likely to get stuck in poverty because of the barriers to running a business erected by the self-serving Perverted Triangle and Big Government.

The Perverted Triangle makes running a small business or family farm orders of magnitude harder and less likely to succeed because of wretched, outrageous regulations and a tax code that is impossible to comply with (deliberately so) unless you employ accountants and lawyers. The tax code is many times the length of the *King James Bible*, littered with special provisions that politicians passed as pork benefits to buy votes. It is a nightmare for small businesses and citizens, but windfall profits for our million plus lawyers (many of them voting as elected officials when the laws were passed), plus jobs for the bureaucrats that enforce the rules (and donate, campaign for the politicians). The tax code is not a system designed to efficiently provide revenue for Government, it is a cancerous perversion shaped over decades in lobbying, buying votes, and creating jobs and wealth for the Perverted Triangle.^{xxv}

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act on business financial disclosure is 810 pages long, Obamacare over 1,000 pages, and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act is 2,300 pages long. A huge company can employ lobbyists to tailor the laws passed for their benefit and afford the overhead staff to comply with all this nonsense. Smaller companies are disadvantaged by this regulatory morass, and every citizen loses with the added costs for products and services. The Perverted Triangle is the beneficiary.

Building codes and government inspections can be used to shut down and destroy a business. Health and safety concerns are overblown and often absolute lies—these regulations are largely about jobs for more government workers, lawsuits for more lawyer income, and votes from the government workers and lawyers, donations from the providers of the services/products that you must buy to comply. One fire disaster occurs and the Perverted Triangle rushes in with laws, regulations and new government jobs that last forever. America had no crisis of fires or safety or food poisoning in the 1950s to justify the explosion of laws and regulations and business fees—they were not justified, they are for the benefit of the Perverted Triangle. Environmental and occupational regulations were piled on in the 1960s and 70s. Today there are 260 federal agencies that issue business regulations, hundreds of thousands of pages of regulations, 3,000 new regulations added each year, at an annual direct cost of accumulated federal regulations on the economy estimated at \$2 trillion per year!!^{xxvi} Add state and local government rules and regulations and permits and you see how the Perverted Triangle is destroying everything that has been good about America. Freedom to work, build a business, make a living, support a family, be left alone are all, like the 9th and 10th Amendments, the personal liberty that used to define America, largely erased by the Perverted Triangle and relentless, unchecked growth of Big Government.^{xxvii}

Especially in private residences and privately owned buildings not open to the general public, building codes should be completely optional or limited to a very few, absolutely vital codes for neighbor's safety (reasonable fire protection). The government property records can record whether or not owners decided to comply with a particular building code and get inspected. Future buyers and the general market can value that or not. Having built many homes and buildings, dealt with lots of building codes and inspectors, I confidently reject many of their code requirements as a huge waste, irrelevant to safety risks to neighbors, and gross violation of our most basic Natural Right—freedom in our own home. Most of the 143,000 government building

code and permit positions in the uUS, paying a median salary of \$67,700 could be eliminated.^{xxviii}

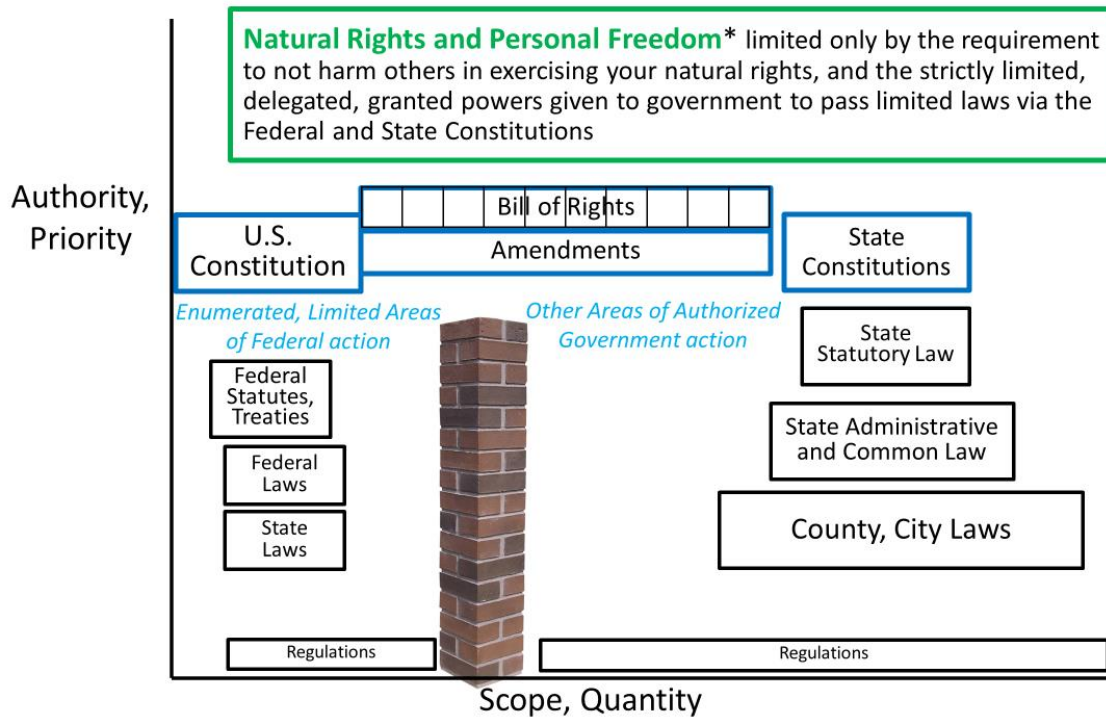
As explained later, with new technologies and AI we have entered “The Age of Collapse.” The rapidly growing threats from bioengineering, AI and other new technologies, that small countries and even individuals can leverage to generate Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) surpassing nuclear weapons in lethality, are another vital reason why we must get rid of inflexible government regulations and get AI and other deadly technologies controlled now before it is too late. The government regulatory process moves slowly, taking years, to yield regulations that are usually ineffective and full of costly unintended bad effects, that take even longer to try to change and almost never get repealed.

“Aaron Wildavsky, a president of the American Political Science Association and author of many books on public policy analysis, argued for adaptiveness and resilience over excessive regulations and restrictions on new technologies. He believed that enhancing the capacity to cope with and adapt to surprises rather than trying to prevent all catastrophes in advance was the best course of action.”^{xxix}

Property records and most government records might be better collected, protected, and accessed via permissioned blockchains run by CAAs, phasing out more cost ineffective, politician controlled, government workers. Hyperledger, run by the non-profit Linux Foundation, has outstanding blockchain technology for public record databases.^{xxx}

Very few Americans today understand how our priority Natural Rights, supreme even to the Constitution, and far above all government written laws, have been violated by the Perverted Triangle and the current state of our horrible American government and judicial system.^{xxxi} We have lost the most basic, vital “American” right to be left alone, not bothered by government bureaucrats, abused by lawyers, robbed by politicians who want to steal from us to buy votes from others. Thanks to the 9th Amendment, which like the 10th is ignored by our perverted system of government and courts, these rights are still there—and protected by the Constitution. But with Congress and Governments at all levels ignoring Natural Rights and the Supreme Court and judicial system refusing to enforce them in Courts, Natural Rights are, like limits to Federal Government via the 10th Amendment, effectively gone in the United States.

The Hierarchy, primacy of Rights and laws



* universal, inalienable (cannot be repealed or violated by government law), top priority personal rights. Some would include God, religion, moral laws. © Dr/Col Drew Miller, 2023

If you think only Libertarians have interpreted the Declaration of Independence and Constitution to guarantee retained Natural Rights that override legislative laws, the Editorial Board of the nation’s largest newspaper would disagree with you. In a January 2024 *Wall Street Journal* editorial they lambasted unconstitutional regulatory abuse of the Administrative State, violation of “the Constitution’s Due Process Clause ‘by requiring courts to systematically place a thumb on the scale against citizenry’,” the Supreme Court following “doctrine that has constitutional basis,” and misuse of *stare decisis*, blindly following the dictates of bad court decisions.^{xxxii} The Perverted Triangle since FDR has deliberately shaped a system of law and government that eliminates Natural Rights that were absolutely retained, top priority of limited American Government—guaranteed by the Constitution in the 9th Amendment. The Perverted Triangle has erased the most important parts of the Constitution and the Natural Rights we fought our American Revolution and founded the United States for. Lawyers and past Judicial rulings that raped the Constitution and our retained Natural Rights rule in this perverted system of justice, not The People.^{xxxiii}

The best book explaining how we failed the U.S. Constitution and let politicians, lawyers and bureaucrats screw us, is Charles Murray’s *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*. His summary is accurate and depressing: “The founder’s Constitution has been discarded. . . . Aspects of America’s legal system have become lawless, for reasons that are inextricably embedded in the use of the law for social agendas. Congress and the administrative state have become systemically corrupt, for reasons that are inextricably embedded in the market

for government favors.”^{xxxiv} As noted earlier, the Perverted Triangle has produced a deluge of thousands of laws, an uncountable number of regulations, written to promote more government bureaucrats and require hiring lawyers, even outside of the Courts.^{xxxv}

The explosion of laws and regulations pushed by the Perverted Triangle and lawyers violates freedom and Natural Rights to be left alone and steals from citizens at all levels of government. Hundreds of thousands of examples have been written about, just a few cited here to illustrate the costs. In New York City an “inspector recently told the YMCA, after it had virtually completed a renovation, that the fire code had changed and a different kind of fire alarm system, costing another \$200,000, would have to be installed.”^{xxxvi} That’s money that can’t be spent on providing programs to youth—though the Perverted Triangle would prefer that government agencies, not private charities like the YMCA, provide them. As Howard summarized the horrible state of government regulatory abuse, “Coercion by government, the main fear of our founding fathers, is now its common attribute.... We now have a government of laws against men.”^{xxxvii} Natural Rights to personal freedom, the goal of the American founding and new nation, have been lost to the Perverted Triangle and Big Government and its enforcing arm: the legal system and lawyers. As Roger Pilon lamented, “Today there seems to be almost no subject too personal or too trivial for federal regulatory attention.”^{xxxviii}

As a result of Perverted Triangle promotion of laws, regulations and business for lawyers, the uUS ranks at the top of countries with the highest per capita rate of imprisonment. The nation founded as the land of the free, the champion of liberty has been corrupted and perverted into a land of government and lawyer theft and abuse. America is no longer the land of the free. The Perverted Triangle has turned the United States into the biggest police state^{xxxix} in the world.

Top 10 Countries with the highest rate of incarceration				
629	United States			
580	Rwanda			
576	Turkmenistan			
564	El Salvador			
510	Cuba			
478	Palau			
477	British Virgin Islands (U.K. territory)			
445	Thailand			
423	Panama			
423	Saint Kitts and Nevis			

Source: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/incarceration-rates-by-country>

With Big Government and our perverted legal system, you can be fined or imprisoned for failing to obey an arbitrary government regulation you may never have heard of or even understand if you read it, violating your retained Natural Right to be left alone with unconstitutional, statutory, legislative laws promoted by lobbyists for their benefit, passed by politicians who accepted their campaign donations, and written by lawyers to generate legal work for their profit. The regulations on latching devices for storage bins in bakeries, how to run your workplace are

hundreds of pages long. Charles Murray is right: “Punishment for failure to observe an arbitrary and capricious regulation is indistinguishable from punishment for failing to obey the arbitrary and capricious demands of an absolute ruler. It is a form of lawlessness.”^{xl} Our Founding Fathers understood that there can’t be too many laws if we want to have liberty and pursue happiness. James Madison in Federalist #62: “It will be of little avail to the people, that the laws are made by men of their own choice, if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood . . .” We are long past the point of too many incoherent, un-understandable laws, light years beyond the level of government abuse that led Colonial Americans to revolt against the British.

Strict, inefficient, often dead wrong government regulations also destroy U.S. jobs. Businesses with fewer than 20 employees had to spend \$5,500 per employee in 1992 just to comply with the regulations. In the same year, the per-employee cost of regulations for businesses with 500 or more employees was \$3,000.^{xli} A Cato Institute study cited estimates of at least 3 million U.S. jobs lost due to regulatory burdens increasing costs of employees, mandated burdens like health insurance and paid family leave that force firms to reduce their workforces, regulatory burdens costs that force some firms out of business and prevents new businesses from launching, and government regulations that force businesses to close in the uS while the product shifts to overseas production where the U.S. government regulations can be avoided.^{xliii}

Government regulations don’t just impose huge costs on Americans, they kill people. Quoting a Cato Institute study:

“The slowness in drug approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prevents Americans from accessing drugs that might save their lives. Even by a conservative estimate, FDA delays in allowing drugs used safely and effectively abroad to be marketed in the United States have cost the lives of at least 200,000 Americans over the past 30 years. Today, it takes an average of 15 years to get a drug reviewed by the FDA.³⁵ For example, the FDA final review process takes around 28 months as opposed to the 180 days mandated by U.S. law. Many drugs that are common in Europe become available to the American people only years later. This delay causes unnecessary pain, suffering, and deaths.”^{xliii}

It is impossible to calculate the rate, but there is no doubt that every time the government imposes a tax or regulation that takes money from people or imposes extra costs on them it is unavoidably sentencing some people to death. A leading cause of marital strife and divorce is stress from inadequate money.^{xliv} It is not just the direct financial damage of taxes that harms individual happiness and destroys marriages, but the added costs of everything that is impacted by costly regulations, hours of your life wasted to comply with tax return paperwork and filings, endless government permits, fees, tickets and fines. In weighing the costs and benefits of regulations and other government costs, DOGE should estimate a reasonable “death cost” that they impose, and insist that this very real, unavoidable cost be publicly acknowledged and weighed in the decision. When citizens in Court fight against government regulations and taxes that violate our Natural Right to use our property as we see fit (as long as not harming others), citizens should also demand consideration of this death cost on them—adding to the burden that government must justify before regulating, taxing, taking and violating our rights.

Even in cases where government regulatory oversight is warranted, like nuclear power plants, the appalling record of government ineptitude and career politician interference/sabotage calls for limiting the government role. For example, powerful Senator Harry Reid blocked nuclear waste storage in NV where we've got the ideal place to store it. Tens of billions of dollars were wasted, progress blocked on safe storage because the Perverted Triangle always leverages government regulation and action for their benefit.^{xlv} So even when there is a need for the power of government to regulate, we should limit the scope of government oversight, relying as much as possible on industry associations, CAAs and privatization of as much "government" work as possible.

The phenomenal surge in U.S. defense production during WWII that won the war did not occur because government bureaucrats ran it, but because 1. Private companies ran thousands of new plants, and 2. Laws and regulations that stood in the way were ignored as government bureaucrats stood down to let American companies and private workers produce.

If we could destroy the power of the Perverted Triangle and abolish most government regulatory agencies, we would have far better, voluntary, legal, institutes and associations promoting regulations and standards without the horrible waste, costs, and destruction of government dictates passed by lobbyists bribing career politicians, enforced by bureaucrats and lawyers. We can achieve the benefits of regulation and safety and secure records without the huge taxes and forced compliance, without the illegal, unconstitutional, un-American rape of our Natural Rights.

The Manhattan Institute's *City Journal* recently reported on the unintended bad consequences and stupidity of banning plastic bags that in reality offer environmental benefits over the alternatives, as well as better service.^{xlvi} If governments regulates, then Big Business lobbyists, lawyers, professional politicians and government bureaucrats make the decision based on their self-interest and reelection benefits, and the public is screwed and stuck with it. It is difficult to impossible to fix government mistakes. The half century, still running War on Drugs is typical of government failure—some part of the Perverted Triangle benefits so it continues forever. If CAAs decide, we get better initial decisions (associations competing to provide the best advice, avoid the asinine, bribed decisions we so often get from governments), no tax or regulatory penalties are involved, and it's easy to change, adjust and improve as we discover what works or not. If someone is polluting with discarded plastic bags a law to punish them is appropriate. But governments dictating how private companies can or cannot use them are probably wrong—let citizens, consumers decide on these issues, advised by CAAs.

Government action is inherently costly and bureaucratic, the enemy of personal choice and freedom. George Washington condemned government involvement unless there was a national emergency, pointing out that "Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action."^{xlvii}

We can use the Internet and empower citizens to fight back and recover our Constitutional, Natural Rights by leveraging CAAs. Fight against Google and Evil Corp and Big Government with the combined citizen power of CAAs that can lead its members to refuse to buy from a company, back a start-up competitor, boycott a law firm, support a political candidate, disobey an unconstitutional law. As Air BnB and Uber proved, government regulations can be ignored and defeated when large numbers of citizens refuse to obey them.

Unconstitutional Federal Social Programs are Bankrupting the Country, undermining families and individual responsibility, creating a dependent class of poor people

Federal welfare and income redistribution programs are all unconstitutional, not mentioned, unenumerated, or written in the Constitution. The taking of one person's money to give to another against their will is a clear violation of both the 10th Amendment and Natural Rights as well. American voters have not authorized the federal government (or most State Governments) to take money from group A and give it to someone else.

Constitutional expert, attorney Roger Pilon, has written many books and articles (many with the Cato Institute) explaining how “individuals have both the right to rule themselves and a right not to be ruled by others.”^{xlvi} Government income redistribution programs are both unconstitutional and violations of our Natural Rights to private property and to be left alone. As Pilon put it, “The redistributive power amounts to theft by government, plain and simple.”^{xlix}

Overwhelming proof that Big Government welfare programs have ruined families and created a poor, dependent class is the data on marriage rates, single-family kids, and out-of-wedlock birth rates. Wealthy Americans continue to have similar marriage rates and overwhelmingly two parent families, but poor Americans were devastated by the surge in socialism and growth of the Nanny State in the 1960s.^l Black American out-of-wedlock births went from 24.5% in 1964 to 70.7% by 1994, roughly where it stands today. In 1964, 7% of American children were born out of wedlock, compared to 40% today.^{li}

Dr. Thomas West, a political scientist who has studied American welfare programs, explains how the Perverted Triangle has undermined marriage and families:

“The most destructive feature of the post-1965 approach has been its unintentional promotion of family breakdown, which is a recipe for the neglect and abuse of children, the widespread crime that such abuse fosters, the impoverishment of women and children, and the loneliness and anguish of everyone involved. Among the reasons that people get married and stay married (or used to) are happiness, mutual usefulness, a sense of moral obligation, and the penalty of shame and the law for those who misbehave. Post-1965 policies and ideas have ravaged all four of these supports of marriage.”^{lii}

When the government provides welfare payments and services, you don't need a family, or a two parent family. But family breakdown fuels poverty. Even high school dropouts who are married have a far lower poverty rate than single parents with several years of college. Boys raised without their father are much more likely to use drugs, engage in violent criminal behavior, go to jail, and drop out of school. Girls are more likely to engage in early sexual activity or have a child out of wedlock. The Perverted Triangle blames their failures on other societal or capitalist problems they must solve, like dangerous neighborhoods or poor schools or evil businesses. But they are wrong--family structure and family & individual responsibility are the decisive factors driving work ethic, good character, and wise decisions.^{liii}

Even if you believed that destroying families and creating a huge government bureaucracy was worth it in order to win LBJ's “War on Poverty,” the undisputable facts are: the effort not only failed, but made poverty worse. In *The Tragedy of American Compassion*, Dr. Martin Olasky explains how successful programs to assist the poor run by private charity groups and churches in the 1800s and early 1900s in the U.S. were replaced by federal programs that were both less

effective and poisonously addictive as entitlements.^{liv} Dr. Lawrence Mead, author of *Beyond Entitlement*, also argues that “the main problem with the welfare state is its permissiveness.” Based on extensive research and service in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Dr. Mead concluded that the failure to obligate recipients of aid to take responsibility for their actions and end dependence on government assistance is the key flaw of Big Government entitlement programs pushed by the Perverted Triangle.^{lv} Political Scientist Charles Murray has documented in his many books how “The perverse incentives of the welfare state have created dependency and human suffering.”^{lvi} The political appeal of “providing opportunity and access to the poor” is strong, but is ultimately a destructive effort. But this dependency and irresponsibility is precisely what the Democratic Party wants to grow a subservient, foolish citizenry that supports and obeys the dictates of Big Government and the Perverted Triangle and votes Democratic.^{lvii} Thomas Sowell, has studied welfare and government programs for decades, concluding that “No government of the left has done as much for the poor as capitalism has. . . . Although the big word on the left is ‘compassion,’ the big agenda on the left is dependency.”^{lviii}

Do an internet search on historical poverty rates and you’ll find many government sources—all starting from 1959, with the rate at 22%, then claim success because of poverty rates falling to 10-15% today. But the poverty rate was 33% at the end of WWII, 1945, and it fell dramatically during the 1950s. In 1964 when LBJ’s War On Poverty launched it was already down to 19% before the host of unconstitutional federal welfare programs started. It was 17% in 1965, but then stopped moving down—as Nanny State socialism institutionalized poverty. In 2014, 15% of Americans qualified as poor, and the rate fluctuates between 10 and 15% today.^{lix} The improvement in poverty rates was driven more by economic growth than the Perverted Triangle—and poverty would be far lower without the destruction of work ethic and families from welfare and the huge regulation barriers and government fees to start a new business. The War on Poverty spent \$22 trillion in a cornucopia of unconstitutional welfare programs and did worse than fail. Not only did poverty remain, it institutionalized poverty, destroyed families, and subverted individual responsibility in favor of Nanny State socialism and Perverted Triangle power.^{lx}

The biggest, root problem with the federal government today, that corrupts and divides our society, is that limits to federal government policy and taxation are ignored; enabling divisive, expensive, unconstitutional, social programs and regulations to proliferate—bankrupting and dividing the country, eliminating Natural Rights, subverting individual responsibility, and destroying families

In reviewing and recommending eliminations of unconstitutional social programs, DOGE should not just reject charges of insensitivity for the poor, but promote the program eliminations as measures to help people escape poverty and the dependency promoted by the self-serving Perverted Triangle.

As a University of Nebraska Regent, I voted against need-based aid in favor of merit scholarships, arguing that we should reward hard working, high achieving students. Despite its noble intentions, needs based aid rather than merit scholarships sends individuals less well

prepared and less likely to succeed in college. The worst effect of needs-based aid is the welfare entitlement mentality it promotes and the subversive effect it has on work ethic when children who worked hard to succeed in high school get no merit scholarships while classmates who partied through high school and performed poorly can nonetheless get undeserved taxpayer funds to attend college based on their parent's income. Merit scholarships promote the proper work ethic and individual responsibility that is the foundation of a strong society. Needs-based aid, presented as yet another program you are "entitled to" simply by being born American, provides no incentive to work hard in high school.

Powerful evidence that a student's work ethic, not parental income, drives school performance comes from Asian American families. Low income, often first-generation Asian Americans enforce strong study and work by their children and stress the critical importance of education.^{lxi} We should promote public policies that increase incentives to work hard, not entitlement programs that undermine the work ethic, responsibility, and offer false excuses for failure.

Social programs should never be run by a government agency, ever. Non-profit, private groups should be the only ones providing welfare assistance to people in a manner that is compassionate, tailored to their situation, and given as charity—not an entitlement that breeds irresponsibility and dependence. One of the foremost business consultants ever, Dr. Peter Drucker, assessed the Salvation Army as "the most effective organization in the U.S. . . . No one even comes close . . . in respect to clarity of mission, ability to innovate, measurable results, dedication, and putting money to maximum use."^{lxii}

If the federal Government followed the Constitution and social programs were eliminated, then States and localities could decide if they want to pursue social programs, limited by Natural Rights and what the local population wants.

There is no honesty in federal government budgets or accounting, but we roughly know that from the first year Medicare spending was visible on the books, in 1967, through 2020 that Medicare and Medicaid combined cost about \$18 trillion—about the same amount as federal deficits over that same period.^{lxiii} As of December 2024, the reported uUS debt is over \$36 trillion, spiraling up every minute! The only way to grasp the magnitude of this debt is to put it in per capita terms. Every American owes over \$100,000 in government debt!! But since most people don't pay taxes (too young or too poor), the debt per taxpayer is over \$260,000. With the average family having just \$11,000 in savings, there is no way we can pay this debt.

Worse, the real government debt is several times more than \$36 trillion! The money owed for Social Security and Medicare and public employee pensions and retirement health benefits are also debts that we as individuals and businesses would have to report, but the cheating, dishonest government does not. The uUS is over \$100 trillion in debt thanks to the Perverted Triangle. The interest payments on our debt are now also in the trillions; the country has amassed debts we cannot repay. Eventually we will have to default on government bonds, Social Security and Medicare benefits promised, government worker retirement benefits, and all the other Ponzi Schemes the Perverted Triangle has passed to amass power. The Perverted Triangle and Big Government have ruined and bankrupted our country. Future generations especially are screwed—but they can't vote, so the Perverted Triangle does not care.^{lxiv}

The uUS national debt is way above the admitted \$36 trillion. The reported government debt numbers ignore the \$100 trillion plus in debt that the government owes for unfunded Medicare

and social security payments, publicly held debt, and the massive pensions and retirement health care liabilities from politicians buying votes and campaign assistance from government employees by awarding them massive retirement benefits.^{lxv}

Many state governments, especially those ruled by the Democratic Party, also lie. Last year 27 states could not meet their financial obligations, were in debt. As the “Truth in Accounting” association, run by CPAs and Government Accountants, including the former Director of the Government Accountability Office, even states with laws mandating a balanced budget, state spending exceeds revenues, so elected officials (leaders of the Perverted Triangle) excluded costs from their budget calculations, such as future pension obligations or deferred maintenance, and they claim revenues based on “expectations” of revenues, not actual receipts.^{lxvi} The five biggest debtor states were California, Massachusetts,

Illinois, New Jersey, and Connecticut—all states dominated by the Democratic Party. New Jersey occasionally elects a GOP Governor, but Democrats have controlled both houses of the legislature, which controls spending, since 2004. The top 5 budget surplus states were all GOP dominated: North Dakota, Alaska, Wyoming, Utah and Tennessee.^{lxvii}

Another indicator of the destructive power of the Perverted Triangle is the U.S. debt—already well beyond what we can repay and still growing. While the Republicans are almost as bad as Democrats in trashing the Constitution and Natural Rights, pandering and buying votes to reelect career politicians, the fate of Perverted Triangle controlled government is most clear in states run by the Democratic Party. In Illinois, the last time the GOP controlled the Governor’s Office and both branches of legislature was 1996 (they also irresponsibly overspend and buy votes, just at a slightly lower rate). Taxpayers in Illinois have \$52,600 in state government debt, mostly for government worker pensions and retiree health care.^{lxviii} Add this to federal government debt per taxpayer of \$260,000 and it’s easier to understand how the Perverted Triangle has effectively corrupted, bankrupted and ruined the United States. If you live in a big U.S. city the Democratic Party likely rules and your debt is thus worse. If you are a Chicago taxpayer, add \$20,000 to your government imposed debt load, bringing your total government debt to at least \$335,000.^{lxix}

Again, quoting Truth in Accounting:

“America's largest cities have accumulated billions of dollars in debt by using accounting tricks like reporting borrowed money as income and delaying the payment of current bills until the start of the next fiscal year so they aren’t included in the budget calculations. The most common accounting trick cities use is hiding a large portion of employee compensation from the budgeting process. Employee compensation packages include benefits such as healthcare, life insurance, and pensions. Unfortunately, some elected



About

Our Debt Clock

US Published National Debt

\$36,425,294,341,219

The Truth

\$157,450,195,778,500

Each Taxpayer's Share: **\$980,000**

officials have used portions of the money owed to pension and OPEB funds to keep taxes low and pay for politically popular programs. This is similar to charging earned benefits to a credit card without having the money to pay off the debt. Instead of funding promised benefits now, they have been charged to future taxpayers.”^{lxx}

DOGE should bulldoze unaffordable, unconstitutional federal social and welfare programs completely out of the budget. If the U.S. debt, that is a result of these unconstitutional social and welfare programs is not brought down quickly, the BRICS movement or other countries upset with U.S. tariff threats and toxic debt levels could abandon the dollar and put the U.S. into an even worse financial position.^{lxxi}

There is no limit to what unconstitutional government can seize from Americans to spend on in the United States today with American’s Natural and Constitutional Rights illegally erased, as the traitor/criminal/prisoner Bradley Manning’s government funded sex change operation proves



The image is a screenshot of a news article from Military Times. The article title is "Chelsea Manning to undergo sex reassignment surgery" by Tom Vanden Brook. Below the title is a photograph of Bradley Manning in a military uniform, wearing a black beret with a blue and white crest. The article text is partially visible on the right side of the screenshot.

In 2010 while serving in Iraq, Army Private Bradley Manning, deliberately gave WikiLeaks about 750,000 classified and sensitive, military and diplomatic documents. He was caught and sentenced to 35 years imprisonment. While serving his prison sentence, he decided that he wanted to be a she and changed his name to Chelsea Manning. Then he^{lxxii} demanded that the government pay for his sex change operation. The US Army of course refused the request. But then the gay community in San Francisco and New York City rallied beyond him (even nominating him to be grand Marshall of Gay Pride parades) and lobbied Democrats in office. The politically powerful (with the Democratic Party) American Civil Liberties Union sued on Manning’s behalf.

His request for government funding of a sex change operation should have been quickly rejected, but the Perverted Triangle,

unencumbered by the Constitution or common sense, zero limits on any government action, no matter how wrong and absurd, granted the request. Not wanting to risk a politically incorrect action that might lose LGBTQ-community votes, no elected officials blocked the asinine, absolutely outrageous, wrong decision to waste and abuse taxpayer funds. So traitor, felon, criminal, prisoner Bradley/Chelsea Manning was given gender reassignment surgery, costing about \$25,000, while in prison, and then free hormone treatments after. This would be continuing today, except that “Chelsea Manning” was pardoned by Barack Obama after serving just seven years of his 35-year sentence.

Ignoring the incredible wrongs, the perversion of government paying for someone to have a sex change, the worst offense is that this is a grotesque violation of our Natural Right to use our personal property and wealth. Thanks to FDR and the Perverted Triangle, there are no limits whatsoever left—governments at all levels take our money to do whatever they want. Administrative courts levy ridiculous, absurd fines that you can't even defend yourself against without being forced to hire an attorney.^{lxxiii}

DOGE may come up with hundreds of thousands of examples of government waste and misconduct, but the Manning sex change operation that Americans were forced to pay for is all the evidence you need to insist on the destruction of the Perverted Triangle and revolutionary changes in government and our legal system to return our Natural Rights and Constitutional, limited government.

Defense Spending can be cut, and massive changes in focus, strategy, and forces are vital for both cost savings and national survival

The Pentagon consumes more than half of the federal government's discretionary budget. Unless Trump is willing to phase out Social Security and Medicare and other unconstitutional welfare programs, DoD spending will have to be cut drastically to achieve \$2 trillion in savings.

For Defense Spending, now approaching an astonishing \$900 billion annually while we are not at war, efficiency improvements are needed along with huge shifts in grand strategy, ceasing procurement of obscenely expensive high tech conventional weapons systems that are both unaffordable, and unwise with advances in Artificial Intelligence.

With advances in bioengineering, AI and other extremely lethal new technologies, we have entered "The Age of Collapse" where we will suffer severe disasters that kill off millions or billions of people because of new technologies and threats, our fragile, interdependent economic system, irresponsible government, and a population that is increasingly dependent. We need to shift not to Asia or the Pacific, but to homeland defense and collapse survival. The US military needs to abandon its world's policeman role, and focus on prompt global strike with conventional or nuclear attacks to interdict enemy WMD, with smaller overseas forces backed by a return of battlefield nuclear weapons, and most resources focused on homeland defense and collapse recovery capability so fewer citizens die when the WMD attacks cannot be prevented.

Efficiency Improvements can yield billions in savings in the massive Department of Defense Bureaucracy

DOGE is not going to gain much in defense spending cuts without ceasing unaffordable high tech conventional weapons systems and huge shifts in strategy (addressed later), but can cut some tens of billions in DoD bureaucracy and waste.

The number of people involved in the Dept of Defense's massive Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution system is unfathomable to most Congressmen and citizens. When I worked in the DoD Senior Executive Service in the "Business Management Modernization Program" (which has run for decades under a variety of names, always failing, relaunched and renamed to help conceal the failure), we estimated at least 10,000 man years of government

civilian and military manpower is devoted to this process, a billion dollars arguably wasted annually on the budgeting process in the DoD, the fight for money.

Because of an incomprehensible thicket of government acquisition regulations (a DoD University attempts to teach them), and a legal system designed to promote lawsuits and income for lawyers, the DoD acquisition system is an even bigger source of waste. Government run processes are inherently wasteful, reliable only in yielding big cost overruns—hundreds of billions of dollars per weapon system cost overruns in the DoD.^{lxxiv}

When we abandon the effort to design, develop, field and maintain the most advanced conventional weapons technology military systems in the world (addressed later in this report), we can abandon a lot of our civilian bureaucracy in the DoD—thousands in budgeting positions, thousands in the acquisition process, tens of thousands in maintenance, logistics, tens of thousands of administrative and personnel positions.

The DoD financial and accounting systems are so convoluted and full of bad information, that they have never passed a financial audit. Many federal agencies can't produce reliable financial statements.^{lxxv} No American citizen or public company could get away with having bad books, inability to pass an audit, but the Government exempts itself from such requirements (The DoD loses track of billions of dollars of equipment in its multiple, incompatible business systems.

In the DoD Business Management Modernization program we identified at least 4,000 different DoD business software/ID systems in use because of the complete lack of standards, independent military services and multitudes of DoD agencies that can use any duplicative, incompatible software and business systems they want. Even within military services, there is no administrative and business cost accountability or leadership—just utter the magic words “it’s for the war-fighter” and your spending wish is granted. It is no wonder that the Department of Defense can’t get auditable financial statements and has over half a million civilian employees—the duplication of all services in the now four separate military services and at least 50 DoD agencies is a tremendously duplicative, wasteful, bureaucratic expense.^{lxxvi}

The Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System was an attempt to get a DoD-wide standardized business system, using the extremely successful big business approach of an “Enterprise Resource Planning” (ERP) system—in this case a human resources management system that all the military services and DoD agencies would use, replacing over 100 different duplicative, incompatible DoD human resource IT systems, with lots of payroll errors and problems. The program started in 1998. Unlike a business that would have moved quickly, with staff fired for failing to deliver, this DoD program moved at a snails pace, plagued by the government regulatory morass, government employees that cannot be fired, “cover your ass” decision-making, and military services refusing to give up their particular idiosyncrasies and preferred practices in favor of a standardized system. It took five years just to agree to the design of the first phase of personnel and pay functions, 2004. Another five years of big spending, but little progress ensued, with the first phase of implementation delayed year after year, until finally the US Army in 2009, over a decade after the start, was scheduled to start first using the new DoD ERP personnel system.

As the 2009 Army implementation date neared, Army officials continued to complain that “Army requirements” were not adequately incorporated in the new system. Other Services in line to use the system also kept complaining, and in 2010 the Office of the Secretary of Defense

gave up and the entire effort was abandoned. 11 years of effort and \$850 million dollars flushed down the toilet on the failed system!^{lxxvii}

The Government Accountability Office study of the failed program attributed most problems to “DOD’s long-standing cultural resistance to departmentwide solutions.” Another problem was that “Years of ‘home-grown’ systems built up a myriad of data elements that in many cases did not match similar fields in different systems.” The morass of DoD business, accounting, personnel, and logistics systems is so immense, incompatible and screwed up, that efforts to try to link or use old data in a new system is practically impossible.^{lxxviii} You cannot negotiate efficient, shared IT systems with military services or please everyone. The morass of DOD accounting and business and IT systems, one of the worst Augean Stables^{lxxix} in the world, must be completely abandoned and replaced with one new DoD wide business and accounting system that is not customized for military services or any DoD agency. The DoD must admit that its current systems and the historical data in it is an unauditible, inaccurate mess and abandon all of it--starting over with modern, DoD-wide systems that will not be customized, but far cheaper, workable, compatible, and capable of yielding accurate and auditible data. DOGE should demand that the DoD deny the military Services and DoD agencies the right to run their own separate accounting, business, IT, personnel, and logistics management system and force them to standardize under one DoD-wide system, subject to the control of the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Like any sensible business that after acquiring a company forces them into their shared, common key business systems (usually an ERP system), the DoD must simplify, standardize, and just say no to military services preferred independence.

The major reasons the DoD bureaucracy and headquarters staff is so huge and wasteful are:

1. Bigger staffs can fight more successfully for bigger Service budgets
2. The Services are very independent, and fight back against attempts at cutting or changing or “interfering” with them with claims that this will “harm the warfighter,” with end runs to favored Congressmen to intercede on their behalf
3. Top military Service and DoD leadership have little to no experience in managing for cost effectiveness, and get no reward for being more “business-like”

The DoD bureaucracy is so vast and entrenched that any effort to pursue cost effectiveness is a nasty battle that no Secretary of Defense wants to deal with. In the past, when ordered to reduce headquarters staff, Services just create new units or transfer people to different organizations to pretend staff was cut.^{lxxx} DOGE must assume that the bureaucracy and Perverted Triangle will both fight cuts and then work to subvert them, lying and cheating without remorse.

An *Air & Space Power Journal* article I wrote on “Improving Cost-Effectiveness in the Department of Defense” noted, “the most important factor in cost-effectiveness for business is not profit but a system that enables real accountability and consequences for measurable results.”^{lxxxii} Such accountability and consequences are completely lacking in government—along with real concern for cost effectiveness. Former DoD officials like Anthony Cordesman call the DoD’s PPB&E system a “liar’s contest” where ridiculous claims of accomplishments and low costs are rewarded, not punished.^{lxxxiii}

We fight with joint forces, and decades ago the Dept of Defense rightly tried to shift to “capabilities-based planning”—funding forces we need to achieve capabilities to accomplish missions to get away from budgeting based on the military services and defense agencies

separate, biased goals. To choose joint military capabilities, the Office of the Secretary of Defense needs to analyze, compare and decide in a process that is not dominated by the military services promoting their favorite weapons and capabilities.

Not just for staff and budget savings, but primarily for sounder decision-making on national defense priorities, budget power and staff must be stripped from the military services and DoD agencies, replaced by a Dept of Defense Budget crafted and set by Office of the Secretary of Defense staff. An argument to help persuade the Services to accept this loss of staff and budget power is that the alternative to this is eliminating the separate military services altogether.

In an article another Institute for Defense Analyses analyst and I published, “Improving DOD Adaptability and Capability to Survive Black Swan Events,” we argued that given the increasing uncertainty of future threats, the impacts of new technologies and AI, the “key skill or attribute that individuals, units, and teams of commanders and leaders need to improve on is adaptability.”^{lxxxiii}

Our article offered recommendations on how to make DOD more adaptable and capable of deterring, countering, or recovering from black swan events.^{lxxxiv} We must stop trying to think we can predict future wars or events, and field forces with the greatest possible flexibility and versatility for the broadest range of conflict. Since black swans are “unpredictable,” Taleb states, “we need to adjust to their existence (rather than naively try to predict them).”^{lxxxv}

U.S. conventional force technological superiority almost demands that a determined opponent use an asymmetric attack such as weapons of mass destruction (WMD) or terrorism either to defeat our forces or to inflict losses that lead to loss of popular support for the campaign.

As AI capability and use grows, the U.S. will be unable to achieve conventional weapons superiority, no matter how much we spend/waste on advanced weapons systems. We will be challenged just keeping up with all the new tricks and countermeasures, new ways to attack and kill that AI will be used to develop. AI will develop better means to destroy our aircraft carriers and may also develop heretofore unthinkable ways to track and destroy our submarines. The \$350 million we spend for an F-22 Raptor (that’s for just one aircraft!) might be destroyed or disabled by a few hundred dollar system or trick that AI develops, something we would never have even considered possible. The P-51 Mustang, that cost \$50,000 to build in WWII (\$900,000 in today’s inflated dollars—but still about 1/400th the cost of the obscenely expensive fighters we buy today) might prove more capable in an era where computers and electronics can be a liability more than an advantage.

We will never again be able to have confidence that any weapon system is truly robust and superior; we can’t anticipate what AI will do in inventing new counter measures, new approaches, new means to destroy.

Our article also called for promoting “FARness”—flexibility, adaptiveness, and robustness. RAND’s Dr. Paul Davis has long advocated a DoD shift to buying not the most technologically advanced weapons systems, focused on specific threats or capability, but a more diverse force with large numbers of simple, diverse systems.^{lxxxvi} Again quoting the “Improving DOD Adaptability and Capability to Survive Black Swan Events” article, “Low-cost systems procured in large numbers may not be optimal for meeting specific known requirements, but they may be lifesaving to preempt or recover from black swan disasters.”^{lxxxvii}


Promoting innovation and adaptation is a must do for the DoD. Institute for Defense Analyses studies have laid out ways to improve our personnel’s ability to adapt, and “U.S. troops in the field are so good at adaptation because they are freed from many of the bureaucratic constraints that are constant in a headquarters.”^{lxxxviii} The multitude of asinine regulations and bureaucracy drives many bright young officers from the military. A 2011 Harvard study, which surveyed nearly 250 former junior officers who left the military between 2001 and 2010, revealed that the second most frequently reported reason was frustration with military bureaucracy.^{lxxxix} This is yet another reason why America must eliminate the vast majority of Perverted Triangle promoted, self-serving regulations not just to reduce costs and damage of Big Government, but to survive in the Age of Collapse.

Billy Mitchell fought for military airpower and was court-martialed for it. AF Colonel John Boyd fought the DoD establishment for 50 years and largely prevailed, though never made general. No one since has been able to impact the massive marshmallow bureaucracy of government.^{xc} Army Colonel Douglas Macgregor, a military reformer working outside the bureaucracy, observes that “the ability to think beyond the boundaries of what is conventionally acceptable is always scarce and, sadly, seldom in demand unless it aligns with the thinking desired in the ranks of the ruling bureaucracy, civilian appointees and influential politicians.”^{xc}

We must adjust foreign and defense policy and spending to “The Age of Collapse”—where new technologies render citizens vulnerable to attack and foreign defense unable to protect our homeland

We have entered “The Age of Collapse,” an era where mankind will suffer severe disasters that kill off millions or billions of people because of new technologies and threats, our fragile, interdependent economic system, irresponsible government, and a

population that is increasingly dependent and unable to survive without long distance water and food shipments.




We have entered “The Age of Collapse”

Definition of “collapse”

1. Economic and normal activity largely ceases
2. Widespread loss of law and order
3. For prolonged period of time (months to years)
4. Very high fatalities (millions, over 10% of the population)

- Rapidly growing number of new ways to exterminate people
- Small groups or individuals now have capability to kill billions
- AI increases the likelihood and severity of all weapons of mass destruction—and will be used to invent new means
- Vulnerable electric grid, fragile/interdependent economic system, just in time deliveries (no inventories)
- Long distance sourcing of food and water
- Irresponsible Government failing to protect population
- Societal divisions, millions of bad people who will loot, maraud, kill when police overwhelmed, starving to death

Link to “Age of Collapse” study by Dr Drew Miller:
<https://www.ida.org/-/media/feature/publications/t/th/the-age-of-bioengineered-viral-pandemics-and-collapse/d-5335.ashx>



INSTITUTE FOR DEFENSE ANALYSES
 NSD-5335
 The Age of Bioengineered Viral Pandemics and Collapse
 Drew Miller

Man-made threats and new technologies are rapidly increasing the inevitability of huge disasters that lead to a collapse—our economy not functioning and widespread, long-lasting loss of law and order as desperate people, starving to death, fight to survive. Bioengineering today allows a single individual to create a virus that could exterminate most people, or a plant virus to destroy crops. When our fragile electric grid goes down, something a terrorist group or even a tiny nuclear power like North Korea could do, most Americans will die.

Artificial Intelligence has raised the likelihood and severity of existing collapse threats and will invent new ones. AI is being used to develop new medicines and will be misused by bad people to develop deadly new viruses, easier means to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons, new poisons and novel new ways to kill people we never thought of before.


New technologies enable small groups and even individuals to design and deliver bioweapons that could not only devastate the United States but wipe out most of the human race.^{xcii}

The December 2016 issue of *The American Interest* policy journal warned that we will soon enter the “Age of Bioengineered Viral Pandemics and Collapse.”^{xciii} Many experts say natural or bioengineered viral pandemics are

inevitable due to new technologies that make it easy to modify an existing virus, making it more lethal or transmissible. As an Institute for Defense Analyses, a Dept of Defense Federally Funded R&D Center (think tank) report warned, through bioengineering a lone terrorist or a Revolutionary Guards lab in Iran can create a human-to-human transmissible version of 60% lethal H5N1 virus.

I published a report on this when I worked at the Institute For Defense Analyses, the top Dept of Defense FFRDC (Federally Funded R&D Center, think tank):

<https://www.ida.org/research-and-publications/publications/all/t/th/the-age-of-bioengineered-viral-pandemics-and-collapse>



The Destructive power of Individuals and economic fragility is growing, while resilience of society and individuals is falling—yielding high likelihood of a disastrous collapse

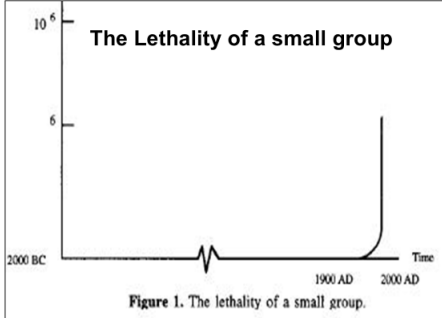



Figure 1. The lethality of a small group.

Relative Vulnerability to Disruptions		
	1800s	2010s
% population farming	>80%	<2%
Food travel distance	few miles	1,000s
Food on hand	months	days
Water supply	well	municipal
Electronic dependence	none	heavy
Production sourcing	local	int'l
Inventory levels	large	tiny (JIT)
resilience of people	Pioneers	Nanny State
Overall vulnerability	low	high

Destructive Power of an Individual + **Economic Interdependence and Fragility** + **Individual Resilience and Ability to Survive** = **Extreme Vulnerability to Collapse**


25



INSTITUTE FOR DEFENSE ANALYSES

NSD-5335

The Age of Bioengineered Viral Pandemics and Collapse

Drew Miller

Dr. Tara O’Toole, former director of Johns Hopkins University Center for Civilian Biodefense Strategies, warned in Congressional testimony: “We are in the midst of a bioscientific revolution that will make building and using biological weapons even more deadly and increasingly easy.” Avian Flu, H5N1, modified to be human to human transmissible, could cause a pandemic that kills a billion people. Bioengineered viruses are the ideal weapon. Compared to nuclear weapons they are more deadly, orders of magnitude cheaper and easier to create and launch, and, most importantly, offer the ability to attack with impunity to retaliation since we may not know and can’t prove who released the virus.^{xciv} Whether created and released by a terrorist group or one dedicated individual, a bioengineered virus could cause both a pandemic and, as people react, a collapse in economic activity and loss of law and order.^{xcv}

This video explains how new technologies, irresponsible government, and economic/ demographic changes make collapse disasters inevitable. “The Age of Collapse” is an era with far more WMD that even individuals can release, with our economy and population extremely vulnerable to disruption, law and order vanishing as starving people struggle to survive:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaQ1tAERPH4>

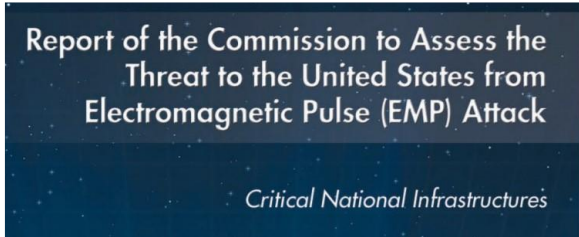
The Defense Threat Reduction Agency’s Joint Science and Technology Office for Chemical and Biological Defense warned that “Surprise from biological and chemical threats is inevitable.”^{xcvi} Nassim Taleb warned that “the history of epidemics, narrowly studied, does not suggest the risks of the great plague to come that will dominate the planet.”^{xcvii}

The electric grid is another great vulnerability, an Achille’s Heel even North Korea can exploit today to destroy the United States, thanks to the Perverted Triangle. A survey of preppers, who unlike most Americans are regularly watching for indications of a disaster or event that could lead to a “collapse” (economy not functioning, widespread loss of law and order), rated the top threats we face.^{xcviii} Our fragile electric grid can be taken down via nuclear weapons EMP attacks, solar flares, physical attacks, and cyber attacks.



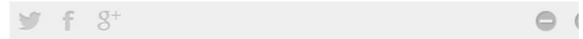
National EMP Commission, former CIA Director, warned that EMP attack could kill 90% of Americans during prolonged loss of electric power and collapse

- 2008 report by Congressional Commission on EMP Threat warned of huge EMP attack vulnerability
- In 2017, former CIA Director R. James Woolsey wrote that **“a single warhead delivered by North Korean satellite could blackout the national electric grid and other life -sustaining critical infrastructures for over a year—killing 9 of 10 Americans by starvation and societal collapse ”**
- **Congress’s Response: Nothing!**



Ex-CIA chief warns against underestimating N. Korea's nuclear arsenal

2017



WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (Yonhap) – North Korea's nuclear arsenal is believed to be more ar and dangerous than many experts think, a former CIA director warned Tuesday, calling for t attention to the threats.

James Woolsey, who served as CIA chief from 1993-95, made the point in an article in the Street Journal, saying the communist nation is taking the same path that the U.S. and othe powers took, including Israel, South Africa, India and Pakistan.

"History suggests North Korea already has nuclear-missile warheads and a sophisticated nuclear weapons," he said in the joint article with Peter Vincent Pry, executive director of th Task Force on National and Homeland Security.

The North built its first atomic weapon by 1994, more than a decade before testing, thoug yield of North Korean nuclear tests isn't known, Woolsey said, adding that estimating yield: seismic signals is inexact.

We have known about the EMP and solar flare threats to the grid for decades. Congressional appointed task forces have studied and reported back on the urgent need to harden the grid—and nothing has been done despite their warning that 90% of Americans could die with no electricity for over a year.^{xcix} The cyber-attacks and physical attacks on our grid have been going on for years, well known—and nothing done. Career politicians get huge campaign donations from utility lobbyists and are afraid of losing votes when electricity bills go up to pay for hardening the grid. Nor do elected officials face the risk of death when the grid



To learn more about U.S. electric grid vulnerabilities and criminal governmental irresponsibility watch this documentary:



griddownpowerup.com



goes down—Congressmen and top government officials will be sheltered at Mount Weather and Raven Rock while the rest of us are left to fend for ourselves. An award winning documentary about how vulnerable our electric grid is and this gross government irresponsibility in refusing to address our electric grid vulnerabilities is:

<https://griddownpowerup.com/>

Thanks to the Perverted Triangle, the Achille’s Heel of the U.S. is our electric grid. Russia, China and North Korea have the capacity to instantly destroy the U.S. electric grid and kill 90% of our population in the aftermath.^c Grid loss also destroys most U.S. military power. With the exception of strategic nuclear forces which have some capability to operate (short term anyway) in the face of an EMP attack, our conventional military force cannot function and will have a hard time even staying alive when the civilian power grid is destroyed.

We can’t assume that an ICBM will deliver the high altitude EMP attack that destroys our grid; they might launch a short-range missile out of a modified civilian airliner over the U.S. (to achieve higher altitude for better EMP impact) to destroy our grid.^{ci} We may not be able to determine what airliner it came from, what country executed the attack, so they can avoid retaliation (and thus are not deterred from executing the attack). Smart people can figure out how to do this; AI will make it ever easier and eventually impossible for us to anticipate and defend against the many means to destroy our fragile electric grid that our irresponsible government has ignored for decades despite dire warnings from government-funded studies.

In fighting for budget cuts and efficiency improvements, DOGE should demand that federal and state governments mandate hardening of our electric grid, and a switch to micro-grids^{cii} where feasible since AI will likely develop new means to destroy even hardened electric grids.

In a recent update of the “Probability of Collapse Model” maintained by Disaster Preparedness LLC, 23 intelligence officers, political scientists, biologists, defense analysts, and scientists reviewed 50 disaster “trigger events” that could spark a collapse, including the high probability of Nuclear War, a Bioengineered H5N1 Pandemic, cyber-attacks, old and new means to trigger a disaster.^{ciii} This model weighs both the probability of the initial trigger disaster event occurring, and then the likelihood of the initial disaster disruption spreading in coverage area and escalating to a collapse level disaster where economic activity largely ceases, and there is widespread loss of law and order, society breaks down. The Probability of Collapse model now estimates a 16 to 57% annual likelihood of a collapse:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icOoPNvGKg4>

But the government, whose #1 job is to protect its citizens, is not even warning Americans about the rising threat of collapse. The big money, campaign donations, and votes are in funding biological research and keeping electric rates low, not preparing the public to survive collapse disaster.

Warren Buffet insists that “the CEO should regard his position #1 as the Chief Risk Officer. Now you have a lot of other functions too, but you should wake up every morning and think about ‘is this place built to take everything?’”^{civ} In my consulting work today, we help organizations prepare for collapse disasters that could last beyond a year because our irresponsible government is failing to protect the country or prepare us for surviving the collapse and recovering.^{cv}

In adapting our foreign and national security policy to the Age of Collapse we can cut spending while improving protection of the homeland, abandoning the unaffordable, increasingly infeasible quest for conventional military weapons superiority and the world's policeman role

DOGE will not come close to saving \$2 trillion unless they go far beyond waste and efficiency recommendations and address root causes of government problems and spending. The best experts in any topic you can name are not in government, they are outside. So DOGE can tap into the best ideas and mine expert opinion to come up with recommendations to address defense strategy and policy to change the U.S. with 4% of the world's population from paying 40% of the world's military spending.

No military weapons or soldiers are needed to deliver a virus that could kill most citizens in a country—or most of our species. Small atomizers carried unnoticed by individuals walking through crowded airports suffice. With this level of threat, we must throttle way back on our overseas military involvements and commitments. In the Age of Collapse, even if the government turned into a paragon of efficiency, followed Constitutional limits, and focused on national security, we are not going to be able to prevent bio attacks that one individual can launch or other new weapons of mass destruction that AI will help bad people invent. We are going to suffer catastrophic collapse disasters and should focus our defense on preventing as many as we can and recovering from the inevitable disasters that do strike home. The U.S. must abandon its strategy of being the world's policeman and its massive network of 750 military bases scattered on every continent except Antarctica, with 170,000 troops stationed overseas, to devote the bulk of our resources to homeland defense and collapse recovery capability.

U.S. military strategic and focus needs to shift not to Asia or the Pacific, but to homeland defense and collapse survival.

Scientists and analysts have been warning (ineffectively) for over a quarter century now that this Age of Collapse is coming and must be prepared for. Yale Professor Martin Shubik warned in 1998 that “the use of biological weapons as a terror weapon should be seen as an inevitability” and “the United States must radically rethink how it hopes to deal with biological warfare initiated by terrorists and fringe groups.”^{cvi}

The 9/11 terrorist attacks should have been the wake up call to get the DoD to shift away from traditional overseas clash of armies to homeland security and recovery. Instead, it led to an increase in overseas military campaigns in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere, and a temporary surge (for the Army) in insurgency operations and investments.

All we got after 9/11 was a shuffling of government agencies into the Department of Homeland Security, and the military's establishment of U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), Oct. 1, 2002, “to provide command and control of Department of Defense homeland defense efforts and to coordinate defense support of civil authorities.” NORTHCOM claims to “defend America's homeland,” but like the rest of DoD, is really focused on outside the U.S. border and traditional military threats. NORTHCOM is “integrated and aligned with North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD)” —looking for traditional overseas enemies and threats

coming from outside our borders. The vast majority of DoD forces and budgeting is focused on traditional clash of military forces overseas—not homeland defense!

Taleb's fantastic book, *The Black Swan: the Impact of the Highly Improbable*, explains how we are psychologically programmed to make common misjudgments. His key point is critical for the Department of Defense (DOD): Do not try to predict the likelihood of a disaster but prepare for the impact. The most important thing DOD can do to prepare for inherent unknowns and new technologies capable of producing catastrophic effects is to enhance individual and organizational adaptability and procure more flexible, diverse weapons systems operated by more adaptable personnel.^{cvi}

In general, we will be far better off in the age of AI and Collapse to have a wide variety and large numbers of relatively low cost systems, not a few very high tech, extremely expensive systems, including many deliberately low tech, electronic free, cheap weapons. The swarms of many different types of inexpensive drones used by both sides in Ukraine illustrate the smarter way to fight. Putting all your money and faith in a few hugely expensive big target weapon systems is increasingly unwise. We must plan on unthinkable new WMD threats, AI tricks and advances that will render all kinds of systems, existing approaches and assumptions wrong. The long-standing practice of spending tens, hundreds of billions of dollars on a weapon system must end.

Bioengineering, more capable and easy now with AI, enables weak nation states (Iran), terrorist groups (Al-Qaida), and even individuals (a biologist who wants to kill off people to save the planet) to launch attacks that could cause more damage to our country (and possibly our species—existential threats) than mankind has ever experienced.

When we get reliable intelligence that a terrorist group or nation state is about to release a deadly virus, launching a nuclear weapon to destroy the target (and safely incinerate the virus) immediately may be our best or only option. The threats we face that could kill Americans, most or all of us, are not enemy armies, but WMD attacks that individuals could carry out. AI will keep developing new forms of WMD, and we already have the threat of bioengineering that can develop viruses with more ability to kill us than nuclear weapons. When we don't have time to assemble or deliver conventional military forces, the capability to deliver a nuclear strike in hours is essential.

Given the capability and proliferation of synthetic biotechnology and relative ease of attacking with bioweapons, the era of strong U.S. national security is over. The nation now faces a worse threat than it has ever experienced, and one that is very likely unstoppable. While foreign military capability may be more useful than ever to go after distant WMD threats, the Department of Defense needs to shift a much larger proportion of its resources to WMD threats, homeland security, and disaster recovery.

The US military needs to abandon its world's policeman role, give up on the too expensive and increasingly impossible quest to have conventional weapons technological superiority, and instead focus on prompt (limited in size/scope) global strike with conventional or nuclear attacks, smaller overseas forces backed by a return of battlefield nuclear weapons (BNW), flexible and diverse Special Operations Forces, and homeland defense/collapse recovery so fewer citizens die when the WMD attacks cannot be prevented.

For decades, U.S. defense strategy has stressed conventional weapons technology superiority so we can defeat any other country with our advanced weapons (and top-notch training/personnel, which are also required). This is very expensive, and will likely fail due to three big developments:

1. Advances in AI will find ways for China and other rivals to achieve breakthroughs, or trick/defeat/bypass our advanced conventional weapons. It will not be feasible to maintain the most advanced, undefeatable conventional military systems.
2. AI will also be used to develop easier, faster, harder to detect means to enrich uranium, or entirely new ways to develop nuclear weapons or equivalents. So if a country can't match U.S. conventional weapons superiority they will likely leverage nuclear weapons to defeat our military, especially since the U.S. foolishly, irresponsibly destroyed all its battlefield nuclear weapons in the 1990s.^{cvi}
3. Bioengineered viruses and other new WMD can kill or incapacitate our troops, negating advanced conventional weapons.
4. Current and future WMD threats can by-pass our overseas military forces and strike us at home.

Some nations less concerned about the risks and collateral damage may give AI direct control of lethal weapons so they can more effectively defeat U.S. forces that may have more advanced, but still human controlled AI systems.

The bigger but largely ignored impact is that AI will be used to develop novel new ways to kill, and it will be impossible for the U.S. to maintain conventional weapons technological superiority.

The F-35 fighter program's explosive costs continue to set records, with the latest Government Accountability Office report estimating the program will exceed \$2 trillion. DOGE could accomplish its entire \$2 trillion spending cut goal by eliminating just one weapons program if they could time travel and stop the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.^{cix}

We should cease trying to develop, procure and field the most advanced fighter aircraft, tanks, and aircraft carriers (weapons decisive in WWII, but not today); \$350 million for fighters, \$13 billion for an aircraft carrier, \$5 million for a tank.

An enemy army is not what the United States or NATO or Pacific Allies need to worry about in the foreseeable future. If Russia overran Ukraine tomorrow, they would pose little threat to NATO and Putin would have little force beyond nuclear weapons (that the UK and France can deter, especially with the U.S. still backing NATO) to threaten Europe. China will likely take Taiwan, possibly very soon—but no outside nation has any obligation or good reason to oppose China in settling their civil war and must prioritize defending citizens they are supposed to protect—the ones that elected and support them, not Taiwan.

The U.S. promise of defending Taiwan must be eliminated. China has pledged that they will “retake” Taiwan and finish their civil war, and has a solid argument that this is an internal affair for China/Taiwan that outside countries have no business getting involved in. China will pressure or if necessary invade Taiwan to reclaim this territory, and if the U.S. follows through on promises to aid Taiwan we must expect that China will engage in “nuclear chicken” against

us—threatening and if necessary firing some nuclear weapons against the U.S. to force the POTUS to back down.^{cx} If the Chinese take out our fragile electric system, which they can do with even a very small nuclear strike, most Americans could be killed—and Taiwan not saved. The huge forces required for us to assist in Taiwan’s defense drives huge conventional weapons spending requirements that we would not have if we abandoned this suicidal offer to assist Taiwan.

We have to prioritize homeland defense and accept the reality that with the relative decline in US economic power, the rise of AI, more nuclear powers now and far more likely coming as AI enables easier/cheaper/faster ways to develop nuclear weapons and other more deadly forms of WMD, the historic focus on clashing armies is largely irrelevant. National security must focus on detecting and destroying WMD attacks before they can be carried out, reducing our vulnerability to WMD attacks, and building capacity to survive a collapse and then recover.

In the Age of Collapse, we cannot be the world’s policemen, or fight counter insurgency wars overseas. The clash of armies overseas is increasingly irrelevant to protecting citizens at home. We are unable to protect the homeland from ever increasing new technologies that enable small groups or even individual bad people now, and eventually bad computers and robots as well, to kill us. We need our troops and the bulk of the DoD focused on interdicting WMD attacks and homeland defense and collapse recovery—not fighting big enemy armies.

Technological conventional military superiority is increasingly irrelevant to the survival of U.S. citizens. Procuring, building, maintaining capability for big conventional overseas wars fought with the most advanced conventional weapons technology, the major focus of our military service since WW II, must end.

We must cut back on overseas bases, and troops deployed overseas, especially in countries where the host nation is not subsidizing them, reimbursing us for their costs. Far less overseas bases and forces are needed if we abandon plans to defend Taiwan. The Republic of Korea and Japan should be encouraged and assisted to get their own nuclear weapons to defend against North Korea’s nuclear force. If they want U.S. troops in the ROK or Japan to help them deter and defeat a North Korean attack, they need to pay our costs of deploying troops in their country.

With Russia’s Army so badly damaged and discredited from their invasion of Ukraine, they are clearly not a near term threat to NATO—and our western allies have plenty of wealth and manpower to provide the vast majority of military resources to defend western Europe. With the U.S. refusing to fight for Taiwan, our prospect for war with China will go down considerably. There is no legitimate need for our current level of building military capabilities and defense spending, and no reason to continue the too expensive and now infeasible quest for conventional weapons technology *deus ex machina* when AI can increasingly invent all manner of countermeasures to emasculate advanced weapons systems. With the backup of nuclear weapons (addressed later) we are in a particularly good position to stop procuring high cost, advanced conventional weapons systems, and shift to a variety of smaller, far less expensive defense measures.

Throughout U.S. military history we’ve basically followed Clausewitzian principles of war, focused on “conquer and destroy the armed power of the enemy; always direct our principal operation against the main body of the enemy army or at least against an important portion of his forces.”^{cx1}

The Age of Collapse must bring a real “Revolution in Military Affairs”—not a minor change in how we fight and what we prioritize, but a huge, fundamental shift away from Clausewitzian strategy of Armies clashing on battlefields which are irrelevant when the citizens they are supposed to protect are dying from a virus, starving to death, or getting killed in their homes by marauders. We must abandon our military and strategy focus on destroying a nation state’s military and focus on preemptively destroying WMD attacks from any source (increasingly individuals and small groups), defending our homeland, surviving the attacks that we often will not be able to forestall.

A 2001 Defense Science Board study on “Protecting the Homeland” cited our unpreparedness for domestic biowarfare attacks and recommended that “greater emphasis should be placed on these emerging threats to the homeland than is evident in today’s budget allocation.”^{cxii} Two plus decades later that recommendation remains ignored.

In his study of how the obsolete horse cavalry remained not just fielded, but cherished in the major militaries at the start of WW II, Edward Katzenbach, the Director of the Defense Studies Program at Harvard, noted that the military is not just interested in the great weapons and the clash of armies, but also has a feeling of “romanticism.” A warrior “cannot be expected to operate without faith in his weapons system.”^{cxiii} The Air Force will cling to manned aircraft, the Army to tanks, the Navy to carriers, long after they are arguably too costly and obsolete.

Thomas Wright, a strategy expert at the Brookings Institution, noted that “President Donald Trump has questioned the utility of the United States’ alliances and its forward military presence” and “amid the shifting political winds, a growing chorus of voices in the policy community, from the left and the right, is calling for a strategy of global retrenchment, whereby the United States would withdraw its forces from around the world and reduce its security commitments.”^{cxiv}

Global retrenchment “would be a grave mistake” Wright believes, giving up alliances that help regional security and raising the risk of nuclear proliferation.”^{cxv} But we can pursue retrenchment with allies taking our place where warranted, and abandoning U.S. security guarantees in appropriate places. It would be wise to keep small deployments of U.S. forces where they can make a valuable difference, in the ROK and Iraq for example. Supporting NATO and other allies is a must do for security—but with far less U.S. troops and bases overseas—and with our allies compensating the U.S. for the expense of having our forces stationed on their soil or in nearby areas supporting their defense. These alliances and overseas bases will be vital for prompt global strike missions against WMD threats.

We can keep some big carrier groups and submarines, some overseas bases for the Air Forces and Special Operations Forces—but far more limited than today, with smaller forces largely for prompt global strike attacks (conventional and nuclear if necessary) to take out imminent WMD threats--not to fight big land battles against large armies. We must reduce most overseas basing of troops and cease planning and equipping and sizing our force for large overseas land combat or counter insurgency engagements.

The Trump Administration hasn’t announced a foreign or defense policy, but based on Trump’s goals, the nation’s requirements, and the huge change in threats in the Age of Collapse, our defense policy and spending must shift focus from traditional, overseas combat, to top priority on

detecting and preempting WMD attacks anywhere in the world and conducting operations to enable homeland recovery from WMD attacks.

In our decisions on overseas involvement, start considering and weighing the consequences of this intervention probably increasing the likelihood that a nation state, rogue group, or terrorists will be motivated to release bioengineered agents or other new WMD against us. As long as the U.S. has superior high tech conventional military forces, the best way to defeat us is either nuclear attacks on our troops (who today have little to no training on battlefield nuclear operations, as well as no responsive BNW), or bio attacks/other WMD attacks on our homeland to force calling troops overseas back.

DHS and DoD stay in their “swim lanes,” careful not to step into the other’s turf. As long as the DoD remains in its role of supporting DHS, DoD/military leaders won’t put major resources into homeland defense and collapse recovery programs. The Department of Homeland Security’s lead role in homeland defense and disaster recovery should end, the Department eliminated, with the DoD taking over.

No one should assume that in the face of a deadly, contagious virus, first responders will report for duty. As Hurricane Katrina demonstrated, many first responders will abandon their posts when a collapse results.^{cxvi} Military members, a stronger culture, rules, and sanctions for those who go AWOL, are more likely to stay in service. This is another reason why DoD should be lead on homeland defense and collapse recovery operations, not FEMA or DHS.

With the vast majority of this federal military capability in the Army Guard, controlled by Governors, there need be no fear of a military coup. We can trust military officers who are far more honest and respectful of the Constitution than career politicians.

The organizational shift is readily doable, but the more difficult reform for DOGE and the Trump Administration will be to force DoD and military services to end their centuries long *raison d’être*,^{cxvii} fighting foreign militaries, to surgical strikes on WMD around the world (in partnership with our key allies) and preparing for homeland defense and collapse recovery operations. Bureaucracies resist change, and don’t normally adapt until a disaster hits or their budgets are slashed. This huge shift in defense strategy, budgeting, procurement, forces, and operations, will require a Secretary of Defense with the character, skills, and experience of a David Petraeus, and a POTUS who can defeat both the Perverted Triangle and the Iron Triangle^{cxviii} at the same time.

The good news is that the improved military and civil defense capability we need is very cheap relative to our current military strategy of trying to achieve conventional military superiority in all areas with horrendously expensive weapons systems and massive, also expensive, support systems. An Army Guard soldier with a rifle to protect stockpiled food in a revived civil defense program is readily affordable from the huge savings of ceasing to be the highest military spending nation in the world (40% of military spending with 4% of the world’s population).

Where we’ll need a lot of people is in the Army Guard role of homeland defense and disaster recovery: crowd control for quarantine, emergency distribution (and control) of food, water, and critical supplies, fighting marauder groups. For those who want to solve poverty and unemployment in the U.S. here’s a solution--quadruple the size of the Army guard, with minimal, lost cost training of new forces that are trained not for overseas high tech combat, but following

orders and simple "grunt work" doing disaster recovery missions in the states. Conservatives who hate giving welfare should not object to switching welfare benefits to pay for Army guard homeland recovery service.

In 2024 the Army National Guard's budget was \$8 billion for military personnel, \$6 billion for operations and maintenance, \$5 billion for procurement and military construction—just 2% of massive \$825 billion U.S. defense spending. The Army National Guard has just 325,000 members, down in recent years--less than one tenth of one percent of the U.S. population. The Army Reserve is small, just 200,000 personnel (including civilians). There are less than 1.3 million law enforcement officers. There is some double count here—many Army Guard and Reserve troops are also local government LEOs. Adding in Marines and Air Force, and we've got less than 1% of the population serving in the military or law enforcement. This is not nearly enough, given IMM plus gang members in the U.S., 2 million Americans in jail who will get out in a collapse, and much or most of the population turning to marauding, killing if necessary, to try to survive during a collapse.

We need to greatly expand the size of the National Guard, with small arms provided---not expensive weapons systems, serving part time, surging to full time only when needed. Most National Guard members don't have small arms and ammo—all should so they can fight marauder groups, secure stockpiled food and vital facilities, and conduct recovery operations.^{cxix} They also need to have chem-bio-nuclear protective masks and suits, training on crowd control and quarantine operations. Fortunately, this is very inexpensive relative to conventional military weapons systems, and a part-time job, not requiring many full time personnel in the units. All guard and reserve troops, regardless of their primary duty, need to be equipped with very low cost small arms so they are useful in collapse recovery operations.

There must also be robust preparations for family survival so military members can focus on recovery ops duties, not be abandoning their posts to rush home to their families (as many, perhaps most first responders and medical personnel are likely to do).

We also need to build up big reserve police/Sherrif forces. We have less than 100,000 reserve LEOs—we should have several million of them; recruited from retired military and LEO members, paid a low fee for regular training, equipped with small arms and protective gear.

Active duty, regular forces should be significantly cut, many overseas bases closed. If there is a big world war that we do want to participate in—the massively larger Army Guard will give us more manpower than we could possibly buy with active duty forces.

U.S. military manpower should shift more from active duty to reserve and guard personnel. They are far less expensive, and if drawn largely from retired/separated active-duty forces, capable of performing as well as active-duty troops or better.^{cxx} We must have far more ground forces for homeland recovery operations during and after a collapse, and this requires a much larger Army National Guard as well as a new, very large "Civil Ground Patrol" of volunteers, modeled on the Civil Air Patrol volunteer USAF auxiliary.^{cxxi}

There are some ways that the DoD is very cost efficient. Civil Air Patrol (CAP) leverages 65,000 volunteers in an official Air Force Auxiliary. CAP was not an invention of government Bureaucracy, it was created by volunteers before WWII, is older than the USAF. As an official auxiliary of the US Air Force today, CAP gets small AF funding to conduct search and rescue

and a huge variety of disaster recovery operations (aerial photography of flooding and fires for example) using small aircraft and well trained volunteer manpower.

A much bigger, ground focused “Civil Ground Patrol” (CGP) is needed for disaster relief capability. When H5N1, 60% lethal to humans, spreads in a human-to-human contagious version, we’ll experience what a really bad pandemic is like. When our fragile electric grid goes down or any big disaster or war strikes, police and the military will be overwhelmed. The economy will shut down, and there may be long lasting, widespread loss of law and order. A CGP would be vital to help mobilize more organized, disciplined help to distribute goods and help law enforcement maintain order. CGP limited to unarmed missions such as collecting and reporting information on local conditions, assisting in supply deliveries, and providing assistance to deployed Guard and Federal forces in the community could make a life and death difference for millions of Americans.^{cxxii}

Defense industry lobbyists and much of the Perverted Triangle will fight this huge shift in defense procurement and spending. Every Congressmen will be lobbied about job losses in their district. Congress does not scrutinize and then cut the U.S. defense budget—they add tens of billions to it in their continuous, top priority effort to raise campaign funds and win reelection, adding in pork and accepting lobbyist donations for special-interest projects based in their states or districts.^{cxxiii}

Big defense contractors are huge lobbyist and campaign donors, spending \$83 million over the past two election cycles to buy votes from both parties.^{cxxiv} The defense contractors work to spread the jobs and sub-contractors used for a big weapons program out amongst as many states as possible (Lockheed Martin claims that the F-35 program creates jobs in 48 states) as another way to buy influence with career politicians, but do focus key spending in the states and districts of the members of Congress with the most sway over military spending.^{cxxv} There is nothing cost effective, reasonable, just, good for our security, or right about anything the Perverted Triangle does--it is all about their political power.

Both for Prompt Global Strike to eliminate WMD threats, and to empower and protect U.S. military forces overseas, the U.S. must return Battlefield Nuclear Weapons to the Army and employ low yield, limited use of tactical nuclear weapons when they are the best means of protecting U.S. lives



Nuclear weapons, whether used in prompt global strike to preemptively destroy a WMD attack, or save U.S. military forces from being overrun and destroyed, can be the best or only means to save lives, potentially millions or billions of them—and must stop being condemned as inherently evil or only useful for mutually assured destruction. New technologies in the Age of Collapse will deliver far worse threats than nuclear weapons, and nuclear weapons may be our best means of limiting the loss of lives.

Today, Russia and China can use battlefield nuclear weapons (BNW) to obliterate U.S. conventional forces since the U.S. irresponsibly gave up these weapons and refuses to train or even allow discussions of how battlefield nuclear warfare will be fought.

President George H. W. Bush offered a “peace dividend” of reduced military spending and eliminating battlefield nuclear weapons to swing votes that normally would go Democratic to GOP candidates. Many US politicians, United Nations and NATO officials, proudly proclaim either “abhorrence” of “tactical” use of nuclear weapons, insisting that any limited use of nuclear weapons is inherently wrong and evil. The U.S. foolishly eliminating all of its ground-launched short-range tactical nuclear weapons, destroying all short-range ballistic missile warheads and nuclear artillery shells. The Army was left with no way to call in quick battlefield nuclear weapons to stop a heavy enemy ground attack. Aircraft delivered tactical nuclear weapons may not be able to reach the target, and are far too slow in delivering a prompt battlefield nuclear strike whose timing is critical.^{cxxvi} Russia and China not only kept, but continue to modernize and expand their tactical, battlefield nuclear weapons. The U.S. unilaterally abandoned, destroyed its responsive, short range, low yield battlefield nuclear weapons, disarmed itself. A political peace dividend benefit was achieved for the Bush Administration, but national security was sacrificed. The lack of battlefield nuclear weapons capability invites enemies to use these weapons—especially given western superiority in conventional weaponry.

US nuclear doctrine says limited battlefield nuclear war will escalate uncontrollably to strategic nuclear attacks on the warring party’s cities and thus will be deterred. But this is more politically correct BS that threatens the lives of U.S. citizens. If the U.S. did seek to escalate a limited, battlefield nuclear war in to a “strategic” nuclear exchange between the U.S. and Russia or China, that would invite nuclear attacks on the homeland that will kill tens of millions. Russia and China can be confident that no U.S. President will fight a strategic nuclear war that risks destruction of U.S. cities to save Ukraine or Taiwan—or even western Europe. The promise of extended deterrence for other allies has never been credible when it comes to strategic nuclear weapons exchanges. As Henry Kissinger told the Europeans, “Great powers don’t commit suicide for their allies.”^{cxxvii}

The more the U.S. does have strong conventional military technology and superiority and no BNW, the more likely it is that an enemy army will either use tactical nuclear weapons to destroy them or decide to bypass U.S. military forces and release WMD inside the U.S. to force us to back down.

With the U.S. no longer enjoying conventional weapons technology superiority, and cutting back on the size of its overseas based forces, BNW are our best means of deterring and defeating larger enemy armies—or at least preventing our deployed forces from being overrun and killed.

Battlefield nuclear weapons must return to the U.S. Army, especially nuclear rounds for artillery, rebuilding 1,000 W79 nuclear artillery warheads for the 8 inch howitzer with a 15 mile range,

yield of about 1 kiloton. Hiroshima was 15KT, the huge ICBM silo destroying strategic nuclear weapons are up to megatons in yield. The low yield, short range of these artillery-delivered nuclear weapons don't threaten enemy homeland attack or "uncontrollable escalation." They are responsive and useful in defending ground troops—especially those dug in, fighting defensively. That is why many pandering U.S. politicians, with zero military experience, less knowledge of strategy and deterrence, pandering to arms control groups, have tried to cut funds or ban battlefield and tactical nuclear weapons.^{cxxviii}

The U.S. nuclear inventory was as high as 32,500 weapons, the equivalent of 1 million Hiroshima size nuclear weapons! Adding BNW would not mean a return to this; the increase in warheads would be about 1,000, an increase in explosive power of just 1 megaton. Few would ever likely be used, but with their short range, if defending across a large front, our Army may need hundreds at their disposal.

If a terrorist captured one of these artillery nuclear warheads they would be a far less deadly threat than we face from North Korean ICBMs delivering an EMP attack on our vulnerable electric grid, or a terrorist group using AI to develop a high yield nuclear device that could wipe out a big city. BNW are far more usable in defensive combat—that's why we need them, and our allies may, if attacked by large Russian, Chinese, Iranian, or North Korean armies. This kind of nuclear weapons system is also dirt cheap relative to either high tech conventional military weapons systems or the long range strategic nuclear weapons systems we maintain, using common, widely used artillery pieces that the U.S., NATO, South Korea, other allies possess.

With technological advances and AI, nuclear weapons are not the worse WMD threat we face—bioengineered viruses can likely kill far more people. New technologies and AI will continue to invent WMD we can't imagine today. Nuclear weapons can be used for destroying some other WMDs, other nuclear weapons or threats that could kill citizens at home or our troops overseas. In the Age of Collapse, nuclear weapons may well be the most valuable deterrent of other new deadly technologies and the best means to destroy WMD or defeat enemies if deterrence fails.

The U.S. has no biological weapons and destroyed its chemical weapons. Thus, we must not just retain BNW and TNW, but trumpet a policy of using nuclear weapons against any nation that threatens to employ these WMD against our forces or allies we protect. Nothing may deter a terrorist group from using WMD, but capable, rapidly responsive BNW along with theater and strategic nuclear weapons may deter attacks from enemy states, and be the only means available to destroy WMD attacks by terrorist groups or insane individuals.

The U.S. should cease the futile and counter-productive effort to promote nuclear non-proliferation, and encourage some of our most valuable, trustworthy allies to acquire their own nuclear weapons to protect themselves: Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Germany, Poland, Finland. Oppose the acquisition of nuclear or any WMD from bad, rogue states like North Korea and Iraq. Iraq signed the Non Proliferation Treaty in 1969 and has clearly violated it. They may be within months of producing nuclear weapons—or they already have them and we don't know it, or it has not been admitted. Non-proliferation efforts did not stop Pakistan or North Korea. U.S. pressure for non-proliferation has stopped many of our best allies from fielding these weapons---leaving them vulnerable and the U.S. at risk of strategic nuclear war (both because our allies don't have nuclear weapons and because of our asinine, unilateral abandonment of BNW).

In a crisis, if we are trying to encourage a dissuadable enemy to back down, we need the “Flexible Deterrence Option” of detonating a nuclear weapon at our Nevada Test site to demonstrate resolve. When we stopped nuclear weapons testing in respect of the un-ratified Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, we retained the ability to conduct a test for two basic purposes: 1) if needed to fix a problem with a nuclear weapon or 2) in case we needed to detonate a nuclear weapon at the Nevada Test Site (NTS) as a Flexible Deterrence Option^{cxix} (FDO) to show resolve. But due to domestic political constraints, the Perverted Triangle, this latter “demonstrative detonation” capability has decayed to the point where we can no longer conduct a quick “nuclear warning” FDO. We need to reconstitute this capability that might be our best means of avoiding enemy use of WMD.^{cxix}

An aggressive opponent with WMD may believe that a superpower unwilling to conduct nuclear tests, who gave up BNW, and is deterred by heavy troop casualties would probably never use nuclear weapons (NW). With NW not used in combat for over 60 years, not even tested for over two decades, and such strong aversion to losing troops or causing collateral damage, politicians who have attempted to ban U.S. nuclear weapons, we should be prepared for opponents that believe the U.S. will never use NW, and can be coerced into backing down.

By safely detonating a nuclear weapon underground at the Nevada Test Site as a FDO, the U.S. could send the following clear, strong message:

1. Our nuclear weapons work
2. We believe the threat of enemy WMD use has risen to a point where we must demonstrate that we are both gravely concerned and prepared to use nuclear weapons
3. We are willing to use NW on our own soil to demonstrate our resolve—and we are very willing to use them on foreign soil if necessary

With U.S. progressives increasingly against overseas military ventures and huge defense budgets, the Trump-dominated GOP unenthused about big spending to support Ukraine and allies, and the clear national need to focus on homeland security and disaster recovery in the Age of Collapse, there could be a political majority for this shift in strategy away from conventional military weapons superiority. But the entrenched government bureaucracy and the defense lobby will be absolutely against the huge shifts in government weapons program spending and career politicians won’t give up the vote buying power of these expensive, job creating programs.

Add to this the massive DoD bureaucracy, the military-industrial complex; defense firms with billion dollar contracts to supply the latest and greatest weapon systems, leveraging an army of lobbyists to buy votes in Congress; and you have an impregnable entrenched, powerful, morass—both the Iron and Perverted Triangles. The switch from fielding the most powerful conventional military forces deployed around the world to a focus on homeland defense and BNW, big defense budget cuts, with far less dollars for re-election vote buying and job losses from defense program cutbacks will be a huge political battle, that only someone like Trump can win.

With growing threats from new technologies and enemies, DOGE proposed program eliminations that get Federal and State governments focused on their proper, limited mission of protecting citizens against threats they cannot handle on their own are vital

With a future of deadly bioengineered pandemics,^{cxxxix} a vulnerable electric grid our irresponsible federal and state governments refuse to harden, and many new threats from AI and new man-made technologies, U.S. Government must stop wasting resources on social and welfare policies that divide the nation and return to its original, constitutional limited priority of protecting citizens from external threats they cannot handle on their own.

We need constitutional, limited and correctly focused government now more than ever, not just to recover personal liberty and avoid national bankruptcy, but to deal with new threats to our survival. Today, a small group or even an individual can create a new virus, or take down the electric grid.^{cxxxix} A small nation can create a nuclear weapon, and with AI enabling new means of enriching uranium, we may reach the point where small terrorist groups can also do so.^{cxxxix} Artificial Intelligence, Nanotechnology, Genetically Modified Organisms, cyber-attacks, other new technologies keep adding to the probability that our grid will go down, economy can't function, crops and wildlife will be destroyed, and most of us killed with our complex, just in time delivery (few inventories or stockpiles) economy. When there is no food to buy in grocery stores, people will start looting, law and order will quickly vanish as marauding spreads. The collapse that results could kill far more than the initial trigger event.^{cxxxix}

When a disaster occurs, the #1 priority of government today is not protecting its citizens. The top priority of government officials is "Continuity of Government"—keeping themselves and their families alive and government functioning.^{cxxxix} So when the grid goes down, a nuclear exchange occurs, an economic downturn or disputed election leads to massive unrest or Civil War, a truly bad pandemic hits, or any of the 50+ trigger events that could yield a collapse happens, your need for police protection will go way up while their availability goes down. When law and order vanish in a collapse, more police and National Guard troops will be called to duty to ensure the safety of elected officials and their families. The need for police or national guard protection of hospitals, food stores, and other facilities will also rise in a collapse. If you can call for help from your home it will likely be a waste of time. The police and security priority is protecting senior government officials and facilities, not you. A TV series, "While the Rest of Us Die," explains how the government's priority is protecting themselves, with no plans to help average citizens survive:

https://www.vicetv.com/en_us/show/while-the-rest-of-us-die



Why isn't the Government warning of us of these collapse Threats or making preparations to protect citizens?

1. Career politicians are focused on re-election not your survival prospects
 - Utility and corporate and big university lobbyists own career politicians (we need term limits!)
 - No reelection votes, special interests and lobbyists pushing for preparedness
 - If they vote for preparations and attack doesn't come—might lose votes for “wasting money” or “crying wolf”
2. Government officials want a dependent public that follows their direction and trusts them to know what's best, will protect them
 - Don't want to panic the public
 - Don't want to look ineffective
 - Prefer a dependent, docile citizenry to well prepared citizens
3. Preparedness requires weapons—Democratic Party champions gun control and wants to outlaw “military capable” weapons that are vital to fend off marauder groups in a collapse
4. Government officials will be protected in a collapse at Mount Weather, other FEMA and military survival facilities
5. Dept of Defense focused on external threats, Dept of Homeland Security is lead on domestic protection and recovery
 - DHS doesn't have budget or capability to deal with home land defense
6. Improving security requires getting rid of thousands of government regulations banning wood stoves, stockpiling antibiotics, zoning and building codes that block survival facilities
7. Most Congressmen are lawyers or professional politicians with no foreign policy or national security experience, expertise or interest in security

Mount Weather and other government survival facilities should be closed to Congressmen and their families. They should receive no better survival preparedness treatment than ordinary citizens. Otherwise we have the perverse incentives today where they fund FEMA and Mount Weather for themselves, but don't require hardening the electric grid or a civil defense program to at last offer American citizens some stored food. Mount Weather and other FEMA sites designed to shelter elected officials should be switched to serve troops, first responders and their families--not politicians. The “media rooms” at Mount Weather, designed to connect Congressmen to their districts so they can stay in touch (read: keep campaigning) must be converted to shelters for valuable personnel who can aid in recovery. The President, Commander In Chief, must survive an attack, but “Continuity of Government” plans at all levels of government should be cut back, limited to executives, not legislators or councils—just government workers with an essential defense and collapse recovery role (resuming government social programs, regulations, etc. excluded). This will allow more police and Guard troops to switch from protecting politicians and bureaucrats to protecting the populace.

While there are 23 million government employees (not including military personnel), less than 1 million are law enforcement officers. The Perverted Triangle favors bureaucrats and regulators, not security, the #1 purpose of government. The misconduct of a very few policemen led to an asinine “defund the Police” movement that sprouted in some big cities and attacks on policemen that contributed to thousands of law enforcement officers quitting or retiring early--resignation rate in 2020-21 increased 18% and the retirement rate rose 45%.^{cxxxvi} As one Mayor explained,

“The toxic national dialogue that demonizes police officers has made police department staffing significantly more difficult for every major city in America.”^{cxxxvii} The military and law enforcement personnel are the most valued government expenditures we make. With the increasing likelihood of homeland attacks and collapse, we need more Law Enforcement and National Guard forces—which we could readily afford by firing millions of government social workers, planning and zoning officials, and regulators, eliminating their programs that violate the Constitution and our Natural Rights. DOGE should not cut law enforcement officers, but show no mercy in proposals to wipe out government regulatory organizations. By cutting unconstitutional, wasteful, improper state and local government grants, DOGE can also force state and local government staff reductions.

While Government officials have fantastic survival facilities at their disposal, they are not doing anything to prepare or even warn the population to get prepared for the increasing likelihood of a collapse. After decades of government studies and warnings of the dire need to harden our electric grid and prepare for truly bad pandemics, nothing has been done. Worse, the biggest barrier to personal preparedness is Big Government and regulations. Americans need to be prepared for a collapse—but government rules and restrictions make it far more difficult and costly to prepare. Zoning and building codes greatly increase the costs of a building. Limits of one residence per acreage mean people can’t spread out into separate, smaller buildings to be both safer in a pandemic, and more able to defend a compound from marauders in a collapse. The huge increase in building costs from government permits, regulations and building codes adds tens of thousands of dollars in unnecessary expenses.^{cxxxviii}

The Nanny State illegally dictates what we consume, regulates drugs and birth control, how we invest, the placement of outlets in our house, spacing of our stair balusters — but can’t be bothered to warn or prepare its citizens to survive the coming pandemic, harden the electric grid, or stockpile transformers so we can repair damage to the electric system in weeks rather than months or years. We don’t have limited, Constitutional Government in the United States, or Responsible Government that provides security while staying out of personal affairs. We have the Perverted Triangle abusing power in areas where it has absolutely no business being involved, trampling individual rights and freedom, violating the U.S. Constitution—ignoring the national security threats that could kill us, and blocking our ability to prepare.

Without an end to the Perverted Triangle focused on re-election and pandering for votes with pork and social programs rather than prioritizing national security, dividing our country, most Americans, and likely the vast majority of all humans around the world, are unlikely to survive the coming collapse.^{cxxxix}

A contributing factor to the sharp, irreconcilable divide in our nation is that the two corrupt political parties that are owned by their respective special interest groups and donors, push divisive social programs that have split our society and pushed us to the brink of civil war. Political parties, professional politicians, lawyers and bureaucrats benefit from and thrive on these divisive issues and government policies and programs that raise taxes and generate lawsuits. The two parties agree largely on their commitment to trash the other regardless of damage to the country. These two political parties and the Perverted Triangle they enable are a huge net negative for the citizens and a threat to our unity and survival.

If DOGE can get social and welfare programs phased out, governments focused on their proper role of protecting us from deadly threats we cannot handle on our own, we can be a reunited country with the best possible prospects for surviving the Age of Collapse.

Trump's huge success is due to his open rejection of our disgusting Big Government that most of the nation loathes in its current form. Charles Murray explains:

“The federal government has changed from being a vehicle through which the American people celebrate themselves and each other to being a vehicle through which a ruling class hectors and pesters us about our shortcomings. This too helps explain why so many of us have shifted from a broad loyalty and affection for the government to alienation and anger. . . .The federal government has become an entity distinct from our conception of America, with agendas that have nothing to do with serving the American people and everything to do with the health and well-being of the federal government itself.”^{cxl}

Trump is not part of the Perverted Triangle, not a career politician, government bureaucrat, or lawyer. And he attacks the Perverted Triangle, the key to his popularity.

Democrats, Libertarians and Republicans are never going to agree or unite over social policies, abortion, taxation, welfare, gun-control, and other domestic policies that some consider absolutely wrong for government action while others deem vital. We are not going to build a national consensus; our views are irreconcilable on many social policies. As we become a more diverse society, the possibility of all agreeing on social and welfare policies decreases. “In a nation as diverse as America, it is ridiculous to impose one-size-fits-all national solutions for policies that involve morally complex cultural differences.”^{cxli}

Uniting on foreign and military policy is sometimes difficult, but far more feasible. We all agree on the essential, lead government role to protect us from foreign threats we cannot handle on our own.^{cxlii}

We dodged a bullet with the wide-margin Trump win in the POTUS election, but our country remains divided, and will as long as the Perverted Triangle system is in place and the two big parties and their competing social agendas violate the Constitution and Natural Rights, and divide the country.

To cut \$2 trillion, the Trump Administration, Musk, and Ramaswamy need to lead a second American Revolution, “The Constitutional Alliance,” to destroy the Perverted Triangle and bring back our Constitution and Natural Rights we fought the first revolution to secure.

Reagan pledged to “drain the swamp” in Washington. Trump has used the exact same words:

- “Under my administration, we’re fighting against the lobbyists, the special interests, and the corrupt Washington politics.”
- “We are going to Washington D.C., and we are going to drain the swamp.”^{cxliii}

Contrary to popular mythology, Ronald Reagan did not reduce federal spending. Even where President Reagan was successful in terminating a federal spending program, Congress would often implement lengthy phase-outs and later restore funding.^{cxliv} The Perverted Triangle won.

To cut \$2 trillion and, more important, fix our failing, corrupt government and legal system, DOGE and Trump must destroy the Perverted Triangle by passing the Constitutional Amendments laid out in “The Constitutional Alliance” plan.^{cxlv} The fix cannot come from Washington DC, there are too many Republicans in office who are career politicians and committed members of the Perverted Triangle. Many do hate this corrupt system, and will support The Constitutional Alliance if convinced that it will succeed. The great news, the thing that can save our country, is Article V of our Constitution, the fail safe measure the Founding Fathers placed to enable citizens and states to fight back against a corrupt, unconstitutional government seizure of power. A Convention of the States can pass the Amendments needed to stop career politicians, the Court’s failure to enforce the 9th and 10th Amendments, restore our Natural Rights and limits to government activity, and adopt other measures to kill the Perverted Triangle.

Term limits are the most vital, immediate reform to pursue. Elected officials who are not running for re-election are more resistant to lobbyists and far more likely to vote for what is best for Americans. More details on how to achieve this liberation for Americans are provided at The Constitutional Alliance website:

<https://constall.org/>

Trump won 31 of the 50 states in the 2024 election. It only takes 34 states for a Convention of the States to propose Constitutional Amendments. 19 states have already passed legislation for a Convention of States—all 19 among the 31 that Trump won (Trump’s base is less the GOP than the larger majority of Americans disgusted with government). A major advantage Trump has over past GOP Presidents is that he is not owned by the Right To Life movement, and can acknowledge that the Right to Privacy, a Natural Right, protected by the 9th Amendment, is something our Courts should consider.

By mobilizing state legislatures in the conservative, patriotic states with populations that still want Constitutional limits to government power, and convening a Convention of States to amend the Constitutions, force term limits and obedience of the 9th and 10th Amendments, Trump can amass political power to not just cut 2 trillion in spending, but save the United States of America from divisive civil war and get the country ready to survive the Age of Collapse.

In decades of work studying American government and the Constitution, Roger Pilon concluded that “the Founders intended nothing like our present American leviathan. Indeed, many of the grievances the Declaration [of Independence] lists, which led to our revolt, are today the ordinary stuff of government in America.”^{cxlvi} The vast majority of Americans are disgusted with the disaster that the Perverted Triangle has made of American government and our legal system.

Again quoting Charles Murray, “The federal government was created with one overriding duty: to allow us to live freely as we see fit, as long as we accord the same right to everyone else. It has betrayed that duty.”^{cxlvii}

The Perverted Triangle is not a conspiracy group or just Democratic Party top leaders, it is a system-- a collection of horrible practices, laws, two political parties, institutional rules, a legal system that has been corrupted over time.^{cxlviii} There are certainly leading proponents of this corrupt, Big Government, Nanny State system, but most members of the Perverted Triangle are

better described as trapped in the system than willing participants. Many Congressmen/women who take office hoping to effect change quickly become cogs in the Perverted Triangle system.

DOGE is not an official government agency, but outside, expert advisors volunteering their help to fix the mess, save our country. If the Perverted Triangle blocks DOGE and Trump, DOGE should not quietly fade away like Reagan's Grace Commission, but help lead The Constitutional Alliance.

The DOGE plan of eliminating thousands of regulations that are probably illegal, unconstitutional since they came from the bureaucracy or "administrative state," not Congress, will yield thousands of lawsuits that experts are already warning will at least slow for years or defeat these regulatory elimination plans.^{cxlix} The more effective, better way to eliminate horrible regulations is for Congress to repeal them—possible only if DOGE and President Trump do the right thing and declare war on the Perverted Triangle and destroy this unconstitutional, perverted, un-American form of Government. The Second Revolution, following a path like the one laid out by The Constitutional Alliance, is the best path to both collapse survival and recovering the United States of America.

When necessary, civil disobedience is called for, vital when Big Government and the Perverted Triangle is illegally and immorally trampling individual rights and liberties. The non-violent model of Martin Luther King should be followed as much as possible. King proclaimed that "An individual who breaks a law that conscience tells him is unjust, and who willingly accepts the penalty of imprisonment in order to arouse the conscience of the community over its injustice, is in reality expressing the highest respect for the law."^{cl} We are trained to consider it "un-American" or "unpatriotic" to question government, but as Charles Murray argued, "When I propose to use systematic civil disobedience, it is not against a government that has made a few unintentional missteps and should be given the benefit of the doubt. The civil disobedience I propose is against a government that has over five decades earned our distrust."^{cli}

Mercy Otis Warren, in her *History of the American Revolution* (1805) noted the propensity of Americans to obey authority out of old habits of obedience until they have been pushed to the limits by despotic masters.^{clii} This limit has been reached for most Americans, and we face the risk of civil war because of the sharp divisions in our society promoted by the two political parties and the Perverted Triangle. Ray Dalio, founder of the largest and most successful hedge funds, one of the smartest forecasters of future events, has estimated a 50% chance of civil war in our divided uUS.^{cliii}

We must have responsible, limited government that stays out of individual lives and decisions that do not harm others, and focuses all efforts on protecting people from threats and harms we cannot deal with on our own. Because Big Government is irresponsible and negligent in preparing us to survive a pandemic, loss of the electric system, and other collapse threats, we must take responsibility and action to protect ourselves. Dr. Charles Murray with the American Enterprise Institute contends that being a good citizen "does not command our blind allegiance to the law." Indeed, "government is instituted to protect our unalienable rights, and . . . when it becomes destructive of those rights, the reason for our allegiance is gone."^{cliv}

It is our duty as citizens to defend the Constitution. As a commissioned military officer, it is particularly galling to serve in an uUS when I took an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, but serve under a federal government that promulgates blatantly illegal,

unconstitutional programs that are tearing our country apart. We swear loyalty not to the President or Congress, but to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” The Perverted Triangle is a horrible domestic enemy of the U.S. Constitution and our retained Natural Rights as Americans.^{clv}

American citizens can support DOGE even if Congress or the Courts block them. We don’t need and cannot lead good lives with millions of unlimited government rules or spending that is theft from us and is bankrupting our nation. We can and must fight government violation of our Natural Rights, refuse to follow rules and programs that are unconstitutional and violate our Natural Rights to privacy and freedom at home and basic human liberty. As more and more Americans refuse government rules, it becomes impossible for government bureaucrats and courts to enforce them. Mass civil disobedience can succeed and thwart the Perverted Triangle. As more Americans demand limited government, personal liberty, refuse to follow asinine rules or let government bureaucrats into their homes to approve our receptacles and stair balusters, we can stop the politicians, bureaucrats and lawyers from violating our freedom.

You have a right to your personal property, and should have near absolute freedom to build and live in your home as you alone choose. A local government has a right to ban a fireworks factory in a city apartment building, but no right to dictate design and use of rural property that poses no threat of damage to the public. State Government has no right to dictate inherently local zoning and building codes or gun rights in rural counties. This is happening all over the country, especially where big city, Democratic Party dominated state governments promoting the Perverted Triangle force conservative, rural counties to follow rules and policies that do not fit and are opposed by the local citizens. It is the exact opposite of democracy and government that serves the particular needs of citizens.

Uber openly violated taxi laws and regulations and won because of massive public support. Airbnb has also succeeded and offered great public service by blatantly violating zoning regulations limiting how people use their private residences. Every citizen should tell government officials to take their rules on how people use their private property and shove them into an appropriate place. Government is for protection from external threats people cannot handle on their own—not to dictate who stays in your house, or stair tread height you prefer. Government action is only justifiable when it is protecting citizens from serious external threats. If someone wants to foolishly take drugs or kill themselves, that is their business.

Poor Americans in particular should refuse to follow unreasonable regulations that restrict their ability to start up a small business and provide for their families, ignore building code requirements that are not really essential for safety, and refuse to accept any judicial proceeding that forces them to hire a scum lawyer. If ruled against—do not pay or comply.

As citizens we have an obligation to protect ourselves and our families. Government rules and bureaucrats that stand in the way of preparing for a collapse are wrong, immoral, and should be ignored and opposed. Thomas Paine, who laid out the case for the American Revolution in *Common Sense* (1776), is correct: Americans have not just the right, but the duty, the responsibility, in the face of “a long train of abuses and usurpations” to “throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.”

In Colonial times, Americans used juries “in protecting fellow citizens against government oppression” by rejecting a Judge’s (lawyer’s) instructions to confine themselves to limited

questions the Judge and lawyers want to argue, and instead—do the right thing and focus on delivering real justice.^{clvi} This check on bad/big government was wisely included in our Constitution (the 7th Amendment right to jury trial). Lawyers and their partners in the Perverted Triangle have undermined this rightful citizen's power with laws, lawyers über alles provisions, and Judges dictating to juries precise, strict and unconstitutional limits on how they can vote—forcing them not to rule based on right and wrong, justice, but legal BS and allegiance to past rulings of Judges (lawyers). Juries must exercise their right and obligation to dispense justice, not serve lawyers. When true Americans disobey unconstitutional and unreasonable intrusive government laws, they should not just refuse to comply, but refuse to settle or pay fines, and insist on a jury trial by their peers, as guaranteed by the 7th Amendment. In trial, argue against the use of case precedents by lawyers and instead, appeal to Natural Rights, reason and justice. Appeal to true Americans serving on juries to vote for what is right and just, not be coerced by regulatory BS, legal tricks, and restrictions Judges cannot rightfully impose.

If Americans, even by just a few hundred thousand at first, sound out in favor of DOGE government cutting recommendations, start refusing regulations, taxes, and laws that are clear violations of our Natural Rights, the Perverted Triangle system could start to falter.

A nice couple in San Francisco put a book sharing cabinet outside their home, letting anyone passing by borrow or trade a book as a nice neighborhood service. Bureaucrats in San Francisco ordered them to pay a \$1,420 “Minor Sidewalk Encroachment Perit” fee to keep their free library open.^{clvii} Tar and feathering is too risky, but Americans need to refuse obscene, unjustified laws and say “hell no” to politicians, government bureaucrats, lawyers and judges who give them wrongful orders. Martin Luther King's non-violent protests should be the guide, but Americans must be willing to pay the ultimate price to stop Big Government and unconstitutional laws. Quoting Benjamin Franklin, “Security without liberty is called prison.”^{clviii}

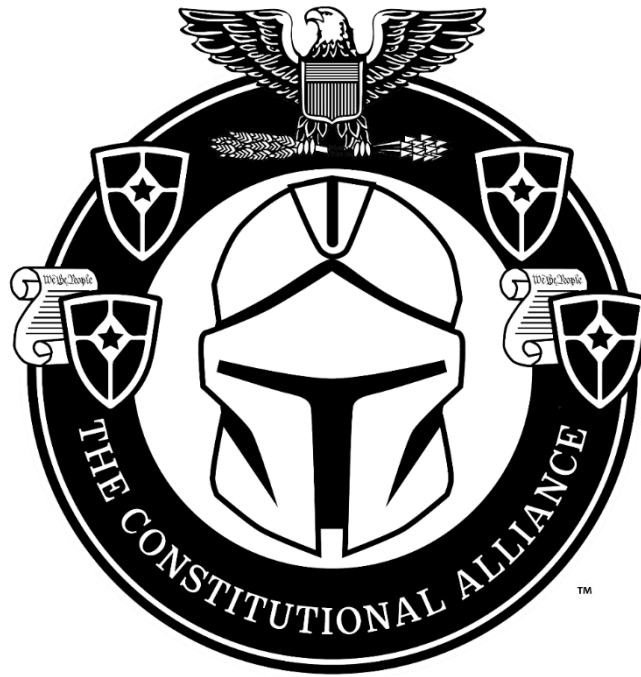
The top beneficiaries of the Perverted Triangle will fight to retain their power with every underhanded measure they can muster, but once it is clear that the TCA can succeed, most participants in the system are likely to abandon it and applaud its fall. Everyone knows how horrible and disastrous the uUS Big Government and many State Governments have become. 95% of Americans will be far better off when we return to limited federal and state government, and diverse/responsive local government. Most trapped in subservience to the Perverted Triangle will turn on it when they see that DOGE and the Trump Administration and it's supporting citizens can succeed. Public Employee and Teacher Union leaders, the Trial Lawyers Association will fight aggressively, but most government employees and teachers are good citizens working in a system they hate but have been unable to change. Laid off government regulators can find rewarding work as analysts at Citizen Advisory Associations and voluntary regulatory organizations, in a far better work environment where talent and initiative are rewarded.

The American Revolution began as a revolt against government policies the colonists opposed—and would still have opposed whether or not they passed in Parliament with a few Colonial Representatives voting no. The Declaration of Independence was not about voting rights or majority rule, it was about real freedom--priority given to protecting an individual's Natural Right to live free, the right to be left alone, not harassed by government or a majority. The American Revolution was instigated by outrage over British taxes and fees that were trivial compared to the avalanche of Big Government taxes, regulations and violations of freedom we

suffer from today. The Constitution was written and approved to protect our Natural Rights and freedom from government or majority opinions violating this personal, individual freedom. The Constitution has been strangled and is dead in practice, alive on paper largely as a lie. American government today is orders of magnitude worse than British rule in the 1700s.

Reagan failed in his attempt to fix and reform our government, and the Trump Administration will also fail if they do not defeat the Perverted Triangle and lead the conservative states into a Convention of the States to get the Constitutional Amendments and reform outlined in The Constitutional Alliance program. If DOGE excels and Trump leads the hopefully peaceful Second American Revolution to destroy the Perverted Triangle and restore Constitutional, limited American government, Trump could go down in history as the greatest President and leader since Washington.

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ⁱ <https://www.cnn.com/2024/12/06/business/doge-elon-musk-budget-trump-nightcap/index.html>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.cfr.org/blog/first-time-us-spending-more-debt-interest-defense>

ⁱⁱⁱ For example, a fundamental problem of the Department of State is its Foreign Service Officer hiring program that deliberately screens out applicants who are focused on accomplishing the mission in favor of people who will listen and write—disregarding success. Promotion is based on reporting and writing great memos, not achieving vital foreign policy objectives. While serving in Iraq I worked with Dept of State personnel, and though working on the Multi-National Force Iraq military staff, I ghost wrote the campaign assessment reports that the Department of State was charged to prepare (and pretended they did) since military personnel put mission first and when ordered deliver—while Dept of State staff just write memos on what they have heard, ignoring other requirements and mission accomplishment. Budget changes won't improve the efficiency of the Department of State.

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^v Burton Folsom, Jr., *New Deal or Raw Deal? How FDR's Economic Legacy Has Damaged America*, Threshold Editions, 2008, p. 262

^{vi} <https://www.investopedia.com/financial-edge/0410/6-outrageous-political-earmarks.aspx>, <https://www.cagw.org/reporting/all-about-earmarks>

^{vii} Citizens Against Government Waste, *1923 Congressional Pig Book*, <https://www.cagw.org/reporting/pig-book>

^{viii} The Congressional Pig Book is the Citizens Against Government Waste’s annual compilation of the pork-barrel projects in the federal budget, <https://www.cagw.org/reporting/pig-book>

^{ix} <https://www.murray.senate.gov/cutting-edge-biomedical-research-agency-established-by-murrays-prevent-pandemics-bill-awards-uw-21-million-for-cancer-imaging-research/>

^x The “Private Sector Survey on Cost Control,” commonly referred to as the Grace Commission report, requested by President Ronald Reagan by Executive Order, delivered to Congress in 1984.

^{xi} Chris Edwards, “Reagan’s Budget Legacy,” Cato Institute, Commentary, June 8, 2004; <https://www.cato.org/commentary/reagans-budget-legacy>

^{xii} Veronique de Rugy, “How Donald Trump and Elon Musk Could Cut \$2 Trillion in Government Spending,” Reason Magazine, Nov 8, 2024; <https://reason.com/2024/11/08/how-donald-trump-and-elon-musk-could-cut-2-trillion-in-government-spending/>

^{xiii} Veronique de Rugy, “How Donald Trump and Elon Musk Could Cut \$2 Trillion in Government Spending,” Reason Magazine, Nov 8, 2024; <https://reason.com/2024/11/08/how-donald-trump-and-elon-musk-could-cut-2-trillion-in-government-spending/>

^{xiv} Michael Barzelay and Fred Thompson, *Efficiency Counts: Developing the Capacity to Manage Costs at Air Force Materiel Command* (Washington, DC: IBM Center for the Business of Government, 2003)

^{xv}

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reaganomics#:~:text=During%20the%20Reagan%20administration%2C%20fiscal,an%20increase%20of%2069%25\).](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reaganomics#:~:text=During%20the%20Reagan%20administration%2C%20fiscal,an%20increase%20of%2069%25).)

^{xvi} Reserved for future updates

^{xvii} Economist Thomas D. Hopkins of the Rochester Institute of Technology, cited in Yesim Yilmaz, “Private Regulation, A Real Alternative for Regulatory Reform,” Cato Institute, Cato Policy Analysis No. 303 April 20, 1998, p. 7

^{xviii} Today Underwriters Laboratories is now called UL enterprise

^{xix} From Investopedia, “An externality is a cost or benefit caused by a producer that is not financially incurred or received by that producer. An externality can be both positive or negative and can stem from either the production or consumption of a good or service.” For example, pollution you generate that harms someone else is a negative externality.

^{xx} If you think “millions” is an exaggeration, look at the numbers. There are 3 million federal government employees. This does not count the almost 2 million federal military personnel, including reservists. Now, add 20 million state and local government employees to the count!!! This does not include the millions of people working for defense contractors or companies serving government. The Perverted Triangle exists and grows to serve itself, and the more government jobs they add, the stronger they are. Their goal is to reach a point where they have a majority of Americans either working directly in the Perverted Triangle, or dependent on them for jobs or welfare programs. At that point there is no way to ever control or limit them.

^{xxi} Dr. Thomas West, “Poverty and Welfare in the American Founding,” Heritage Foundation, May 19, 2015, <https://www.heritage.org/poverty-and-inequality/report/poverty-and-welfare-the-american-founding>

^{xxii} I experienced this bull shit requirement in a relatively small government, a Republican dominated city. But everywhere the Perverted Triangle takes bribes, rewards supporters, passes laws to grow the power and size of government, and work for attorneys. I had to spend money, then go testify to get a variance to have less glass in my patio (which is still covered with windows) than the city code requirement. Most codes have no legitimate basis for public safety; they are there because of some company or party’s self-interest, or to make it more difficult for do it yourselves, or other unjust reasons.

^{xxiii} Alex Horowitz & Tushar Kansal, “Survey Finds Large Majorities Favor Policies to Enable More Housing, Simplifying permitting, allowing more apartments are especially popular,” Pew Charitable Trust survey, Nov 30, 2023

^{xxiv} <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/44731-everything-that-is-really-great-and-inspiring-is-created-by>

^{xxv} Reserved for future updates

^{xxvi} Chris Edwards, “Entrepreneurs and Regulations: Removing State and Local Barriers to New Businesses,” Cato Institute, Policy Analysis No 916, May 5, 2021

^{xxvii} Reserved for future updates

^{xxviii} <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/construction-and-extraction/construction-and-building-inspectors.htm>

^{xxix} William R. Burns and Drew Miller, “Improving DOD Adaptability and Capability to Survive Black Swan Events,” Joint Forces Quarterly, 1st Quarter 2014; https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/jfq/jfq-72/jfq-72_31-38_Burns-Miller.pdf?ver=2014-03-13-152408-657

^{xxx} <https://www.hyperledger.org/>; <https://www.mdpi.com/2813-5288/2/2/6>

^{xxx} At the risk of overwhelming readers with repetition, here is another example from Paul Cleveland, a Professor of Business Administration and Economics, and a member of yet another Institute working to try and reform our horrible state of government and stop the Perverted Triangle: Paul A. Cleveland, “Government: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly,” Independent Institute website, Sep 1, 1997,

<https://www.independent.org/publications/article.asp?id=1598> Excerpts: “Since the 1930s, however, for all practical purposes, the Constitution has been ignored and the national government has continued to grow virtually unchecked. As a result, there has been a proliferation of bad government which may very well turn ugly. . . .

.Nevertheless, the vast majority of government programs in the twentieth century have been designed to redistribute income at the expense of protecting life, liberty, and property. This has been done through the proliferation of laws. In fact, the legal code has become so extensive and complex that most everyone, if not in fact everyone, is guilty of violating some portion of it. The recent ethical crises among political figures are evidence of this fact. The tax laws provide another example. The tax code has become so extensive and convoluted that there is no uniform agreement even among tax experts as to what it actually says or means. In this atmosphere the execution of law becomes arbitrary. When the legal code is expanded to this point, society is well on its way to the ugliest form of government because authorities can use the legal code for political ends rather than for the promotion of justice. Government authorities of this genre hide behind their legal position and use their power in all sorts of hideous ways.”

^{xxx} Editorial, “The Case for Overturning Chevron Deference,” Wall Street Journal, Jan 16, 2024, p. A16.

^{xxx} Reserved for future updates

^{xxx} Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Forum, 2015

^{xxx} Some books to read about lawyers regularly lying in Court and the Perverted Triangle’s laws to promote hiring lawyers and lawsuits include *The Bodyguards of Lies: Lawyers’ Power and Professional Responsibility and Servants of the Damned: Giant Law firms, Donald Trump, and the Corruption of Justice*. A prospective Franchisee reading their Franchise Disclosure Document does not know that every aspect of the document is dictated by federal law written to promote lawyers and lawsuits as its top goal, not protect Franchisees. Every aspect of the document is dictated by law written by attorneys and passed the Perverted Triangle. For example, the following statement, exactly as the Perverted Triangle lawyers wrote it into federal law, must be in every Franchise Disclosure Document: “The terms of your contract will govern your franchise relationship. Don’t rely on the disclosure document alone to understand your contract. Read your contract carefully. Show your contract and this disclosure document to an advisor, like a lawyer or accountant.” The law also is written to promote lawsuits, with ridiculous requirements on disclosing financial information. When I worked at ConAgra Inc, a Fortune 25 company under a fantastic CEO, Mike Harper, we had no General Counsel on staff because Harper knew attorneys generally provide really bad business advice, and understandably are inclined to recommend doing nothing as the best way to avoid lawsuits. Lawyers are generally not good advisors for a Franchisee to talk to. So this is what I put into the Fortitude Ranch Franchise Disclosure Document: “The law is written to help employ attorneys who profit by suing franchisors who dare to help prospective franchisee’s estimate their likely financial results. We do have the best expertise on estimating your likely financial results, and otherwise would like to assist you, but this law and our legal system will screw us if we attempt to do so. DP LLC, the parent company of FR, has been profitable since 2020, but we cannot provide our financial data or assist you in estimating your likely financial returns due to bad regulations and worse lawyers. As any business operator with an IQ over 90 knows, the results of business are subject to great risks, uncertainty, and sometimes losses. If you don’t have experience running a business, research starting up a business and consult with smart business persons you know. This regulation advises you to consult with lawyers for business advice (and requires that we print this recommendation)—we think that is foolish. Work with people who have real business experience, and be conservative rather than optimistic in your estimates. Assume that things will go wrong, sales won’t grow as fast as you anticipate, etc. Please do not ask us for any help estimating your financial results as a franchisee. We would like to help you, but cannot due to the high risk of lawsuits due to horrible regulations and our legal system.” Franchisees would benefit from a disclosure and illustration of the range of expenses and earnings they may expect, subject to huge variations depending on hundreds, thousands of factors. A normal investment document would have this, but if you offer this guidance to a Franchisee you are inviting a lawsuit from attorneys who specialize in suing Franchisors, empowered by the Perverted Triangle’s unconstitutional federal law on business franchise.

^{xxx} Philip K. Howard, “The Death of Common Sense,” Random House, 1994, p. 50

^{xxx} Philip K. Howard, “The Death of Common Sense,” Random House, 1994, p. 53

^{xxx} Roger Pilon, Cato Institute, *The Purpose and Limits of Government*, Cato’s Letter #13, Dec 1998, <https://www.cato.org/books/catos-letter-no-13-purpose-limits-government>

^{xxx} According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, a “police state” is “a political unit characterized by repressive governmental control of political, economic, and social life usually by an arbitrary exercise of power by police and

especially secret police in place of regular operation of administrative and judicial organs of the government according to publicly known legal procedures”

^{xl} Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Publishing, 2016, pp. 33-37

^{xli} Yesim Yilmaz, “Private Regulation: A Real Alternative for Regulatory Reform, Cato Institute, Cato Policy Analysis No. April 20, 1998

^{xlii} Yesim Yilmaz, “Private Regulation: A Real Alternative for Regulatory Reform, Cato Institute, Cato Policy Analysis No. April 20, 1998

^{xliii} Yesim Yilmaz, “Private Regulation: A Real Alternative for Regulatory Reform, Cato Institute, Cato Policy Analysis No. April 20, 1998, p. 8

^{xliv} Ramsey Solutions, *Money Ruining Marriages in America: A Ramsey Solutions study*

Feb 6, 2018, <https://www.ramseysolutions.com/company/newsroom/releases/money-ruining-marriages-in-america>

^{xlv} <https://www.cagw.org/thewastewatcher/senator-reid-out-yucca-mountain>; “Washington should stay out of US nuclear renaissance,” Washington Examiner editorial, Oct 30, 2024

^{xlvi} John Tierney, “The Perverse Panic over Plastic,” *City Journal*, Winter 2020

^{xlvii} Quotation widely attributed to George Washington and oft cited, but not found in any of Washington’s papers.

^{xlviii} Roger Pilon, Cato Institute, *The Purpose and Limits of Government*, Cato’s Letter #13, Dec 1998, <https://www.cato.org/books/catos-letter-no-13-purpose-limits-government>

^{xlix} Roger Pilon, Cato Institute, *The Purpose and Limits of Government*, Cato’s Letter #13, Dec 1998, <https://www.cato.org/books/catos-letter-no-13-purpose-limits-government>

^l Wilcox and Wang, *The Marriage Divide*, American Enterprise Institute, 2017

^{li} Wilcox and Wang, *The Marriage Divide*, American Enterprise Institute, 2017

^{lii} Dr. Thomas West, “Poverty and Welfare in the American Founding,” Heritage Foundation, May 19, 2015, <https://www.heritage.org/poverty-and-inequality/report/poverty-and-welfare-the-american-founding>

“Did Americans before the 20th century lack compassion for the poor? Did they treat the poor with indifference or even cruelty? That is the impression given by most high school and college textbooks. Few students ever learn that government-funded welfare, not to mention generous private charity, has existed throughout American history. James MacGregor Burns’s *Government by the People*, a college textbook, says that “[c]ontemporary American liberalism has its roots in Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal programs, designed to aid the poor and to protect people against unemployment and bank failures.”[1] He implies that the poor received no government aid or protection before the 1930s. Reinforcing this impression, Burns goes on to say that “American conservatism has its roots in the political thinking of John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, and many of their contemporaries.... Most conservatives opposed New Deal programs and the War on Poverty in the 1960s.... Human needs, they say, can and should be taken care of by charities.”[2]

Larry Berman and Bruce Murphy’s college textbook *Approaching Democracy* gives a similar slant: “While poverty has existed in the United States since the early colonial days, it first reached the public agenda in the early 1900s as a result of the writings of muckraking journalists.”[3] If poverty “first reached the public agenda” only then, readers are likely to conclude that government did nothing about it before that time. Nothing in Berman and Murphy contradicts that conclusion. Most history textbooks present accounts that are the same as or similar to the accounts given by these political scientists.

These claims about the American past are either untrue or misleading. America has always had laws providing for the poor. The real difference between the Founders’ welfare policies and today’s is over how, not whether, government should help those in need. Neither approach has a monopoly on compassion. The question is: What policies help the poor, and what policies harm them?

From the earliest colonial days, local governments took responsibility for their poor. However, able-bodied men and women generally were not supported by the taxpayers unless they worked. They would sometimes be placed in group homes that provided them with food and shelter in exchange for labor. Only those who were too young, old, weak, or sick and who had no friends or family to help them were taken care of in idleness.

The Founders had little to say about the topic of poor relief. Like the family, welfare was not a controversial topic. Two of their rare statements on the subject occur in writings provoked by foreigners: Jefferson’s *Notes on the State of Virginia*, written in answer to questions posed by a Frenchman, and an article criticizing the British welfare system written by Benjamin Franklin for the British press.

Jefferson explained the Virginia poor laws at the time of the Revolution:[8]

The poor, unable to support themselves, are maintained by an assessment on the tithable persons in their parish. This assessment is levied and administered by twelve persons in each parish, called vestrymen, originally chosen by the housekeepers of the parish.... These are usually the most discreet farmers, so distributed through their parish, that every part of it may be under the immediate eye of some one of them. They are well acquainted with the details and

economy of private life, and they find sufficient inducements to execute their charge well, in their philanthropy, in the approbation of their neighbors, and the distinction which that gives them. The poor who have neither property, friends, nor strength to labor, are boarded in the houses of good farmers, to whom a stipulated sum is annually paid. To those who are able to help themselves a little, or have friends from whom they derive some succors, inadequate however to their full maintenance, supplementary aids are given, which enable them to live comfortably in their own houses, or in the houses of their friends. Vagabonds, without visible property or vocation, are placed in workhouses, where they are well clothed, fed, lodged, and made to labor. Nearly the same method of providing for the poor prevails through all our states; and from Savannah to Portsmouth you will seldom meet a beggar.

In his proposed Virginia "Bill for Support of the Poor," Jefferson explained that "vagabonds" are:

able-bodied persons not having wherewithal to maintain themselves, who shall waste their time in idle and dissolute courses, or shall loiter or wander abroad, refusing to work for reasonable wages, or to betake themselves to some honest and lawful calling, or who shall desert wives or children, without so providing for them as that they shall not become chargeable to a county.

In the poorhouse to which vagabonds are sent, there would be an overseer, a "discreet man ... for the government, employment, and correction of the persons subject to him."^[9]

In the Notes on the State of Virginia passage just quoted, Jefferson referred to "those without strength to labor." In his proposed bill, they were more precisely described as the "poor, lame, impotent [i.e., weak], blind and other inhabitants of the county as are not able to maintain themselves."^[10]

The terms "tithable," "parish," and "vestrymen" in the passage above refer to the pre-Revolutionary Southern practice of assigning care of the poor to the local Anglican church. In keeping with the spirit of the Revolution, which separated church from state, Virginia transferred this task from church to county government in 1785, as Jefferson had proposed.

Poor children whose families could not provide for them, including orphans, were put out to suitable persons as apprentices so that they would learn "some art, trade, or business" while being of use to those who were training them.^[11] However, this was not to be done, in Jefferson's plan, until they had attended public school for three years, if necessary at public expense.^[12]

All the typical features of early American welfare policy can be seen in Jefferson's descriptions and proposals: The government of the community, not just private charity, assumes responsibility for its poor. This is far from the "throw them in the snow" attitude that is so often attributed to pre-1900 America.

Welfare is kept local so that the administrators of the program will know the actual situations of the persons who ask for help. This will prevent abuses and freeloading. The normal human ties of friendship and neighborliness will partly animate the relationship of givers and recipients.

A distinction between the deserving and undeserving poor is carefully observed. Able-bodied vagabonds get help, but they are required to work in institutions where they will be disciplined. Children and the disabled, on the other hand, are provided for, not lavishly but without public shame. The homeless and beggars will not be abandoned, but neither will they populate the streets. They will be treated with toughness or mercy according to their circumstances. Jefferson's idea of self-reliance was in fact family reliance, based on the traditional division of labor between husband and wife. Husbands were legally required to be their families' providers; wives were not. Nonsupporting husbands were shamed and punished by being sent to the poorhouse.

Poor laws to support individual cases of urgent need were not intended to go beyond a minimal safety net. Benefit levels were low. The main remedy for poverty in a land of opportunity was marriage and work.

For Jefferson, the abolition of primogeniture and entail was a far more important anti-poverty measure than poor laws providing housing and food for people in need. As Jefferson boasted to John Adams, "These [anti-primogeniture] laws, drawn by myself, laid the axe to the root of the pseudo-aristocracy." Laws restricting the use and ownership of private property were remnants of feudalism, whereby the common people were kept in their place by discouraging property owners from making the most economical use of the property they had or by making it hard for the poor to acquire property of their own. In America, said Jefferson, "everyone may have land to labor for himself if he chooses; or, preferring the exercise of any other industry, may exact for it such compensation as not only to afford a comfortable subsistence, but wherewith to provide for a cessation of labor in old age."^[13]

When Benjamin Franklin lived in England in the 1760s, he observed that the poverty problem was much worse in that country than in America. Britain did not limit its support of the poor to a safety net provided under conditions that prevented abuse. There, the poor were given enough that they could live in idleness. The result was to increase poverty by giving the poor a powerful incentive not to become self-supporting. Franklin wrote:^[14]

I am for doing good to the poor, but I differ in opinion of the means. I think the best way of doing good to the poor, is not making them easy in poverty, but leading or driving them out of it. In my youth I travelled much, and I observed in different countries, that the more public provisions were made for the poor, the less they provided for

themselves, and of course became poorer. And, on the contrary, the less was done for them, the more they did for themselves, and became richer. There is no country in the world where so many provisions are established for them [as in England] ... with a solemn general law made by the rich to subject their estates to a heavy tax for the support of the poor.... [Yet] there is no country in the world in which the poor are more idle, dissolute, drunken, and insolent. The day you [Englishmen] passed that act, you took away from before their eyes the greatest of all inducements to industry, frugality, and sobriety, by giving them a dependence on somewhat else than a careful accumulation during youth and health, for support in age and sickness. In short, you offered a premium for the encouragement of idleness, and you should not now wonder that it has had its effect in the increase of poverty. We see in Franklin's diagnosis a striking anticipation of today's welfare state, in which, as we will see, poverty has remained stagnant as the welfare system has swelled since the 1960s. Franklin's understanding of the welfare paradox—that aid to the poor must be managed carefully lest it promote indolence and therefore poverty—was shared by most Americans who wrote about and administered poverty programs until the end of the 19th century. These were the Founders' practical proposals and views on poor relief. Their policies were intended to help the poor in ways that did not violate the rights of taxpayers or promote irresponsible behavior.

From Jefferson's standpoint, poverty programs that help people who choose not to work are unjust. Far from being compassionate, compelling workers to support shirkers makes some men masters and other men slaves: Workers are enslaved to nonworkers. That violates a fundamental principle of the Declaration of Independence.

Jefferson's whole career was devoted to the establishment of a government that would secure the rights of ordinary people against "pseudo-aristocrats" who would oppress them. To say that all men are born with a right to liberty means that no man has the right to rob another of the fruits of his labor. That principle goes for any person or group in society, whether it be European aristocrats, slaveholders, or those today who despise "dead-end jobs" and "chump change." [15] (In a 2007 survey, only 5 percent of jobless poor adults blamed their unemployment on "inability to find a job." [16])

Jefferson affirmed his principled opposition to government redistribution of income from the rich to the poor in this statement: [17]

To take from one, because it is thought his own industry and that of his fathers has acquired too much, in order to spare to others, who, or whose fathers, have not exercised equal industry and skill, is to violate arbitrarily the first principle of association, the guarantee to everyone the free exercise of his industry and the fruits acquired by it. The "first principle of association" is the right to liberty, including the right to the free exercise of one's industry and its fruits.

According to the Declaration of Independence, we have an unalienable or natural right only to those things that we possess by nature. We are born alive and free, so life and liberty are natural rights, but no one has a natural right to a decent income or free medical care.

Jefferson's and Franklin's views were shared by most Americans during and after the Founding era. Burns suggested in the quotation cited on the first page of this paper that "conservatives" like Adams and Hamilton opposed government support of the poor. He cites no evidence to support that insinuation because there is none. As noted, Trattner's *From Poor Law to Welfare State: A History of Social Welfare in America* criticizes early American welfare policy, yet his book presents a mostly accurate picture of what was done. Trattner shows that the earlier policies have much to recommend them: "Most communities [in colonial America] attacked the problem of poverty with a high degree of civic responsibility." [21] The same is true, in his telling, of the Founding era and after. A historian of Founding-era welfare in New York State agrees: "Local communities attempted as best they could to assist their destitute neighbors, balancing compassion with economy, benevolence with discipline." [22]

In colonial times, some communities supported the poor in their own homes or in the homes of others. As the poor population grew, many concluded that "outdoor relief" was leading people to look on welfare as an entitlement and creating a class of permanent dependents. Consequently, the emphasis soon shifted to "indoor relief"—almshouses and workhouses. Now, writes Trattner: [23]

Public assistance would be confined to institutional care, mainly for the "worthy" or hard-core poor, the permanently disabled, and others who clearly could not care for themselves. Also, the able-bodied or "unworthy" poor who sought public aid would be institutionalized in workhouses where their behavior not only could be controlled but where, removed from society and its tempting vices, they presumably would acquire habits of industry and labor.

For most people such institutions were not places of permanent, or even long-term, residence.... They were ... temporary shelters for the jobless during times of depression and widespread unemployment; maternity homes for young, unmarried pregnant women; and places of last resort for orphans and sick, helpless, and childless elderly persons.... [A]lthough they generally were dreaded, poorhouses often served as key life supports amidst the harshness and uncertainty of existence in early industrial America.

Because public aid was so limited, there was wide scope for individual acts of generosity and liberality. Today's conservatives are right to point to private charities as an important source of poor relief in the old days. Even before the Revolution, writes Trattner:[25]

Private philanthropy complemented public aid; both were part of the American response to poverty. While, from the outset, the public was responsible for providing aid to the needy ... as soon as they could afford to, private citizens and a host of voluntary associations also gave generously to those in distress.

After the Revolution and throughout the 19th century, hospitals for the poor, educational institutions, YMCAs, and Salvation Army branches were established in growing numbers all over America by public-spirited citizens. Like the public workhouses, these private charities distinguished between deserving and undeserving poor. Good character, it was thought, would enable most people to become self-sufficient. These agencies tried to build the character of their recipients through education, moral suasion, religious instruction, and work.[26]

Marvin Olasky shows in detail in *The Tragedy of American Compassion* how 18th and 19th century Americans combined Franklin's hardheaded realism about the ill effects of indiscriminate generosity with a warmhearted sympathy for those who fell into need through no fault of their own. Private welfare was often given by religious groups, and recipients were expected to pray, worship, and repent of the unindustrious habits and self-indulgence (such as excessive drinking) that often led them to seek assistance in the first place. Americans of that day believed that God himself set the proper example: His mercy is infinite—but only to the repentant who strive to mend their ways.[27]

However, if poverty and welfare policies are judged by their effectiveness in providing for the minimal needs of the poor while dramatically reducing poverty in a society over time, then America before 1965 could be said to have had the most successful welfare policy in world history. By the same benchmark, post-1965 poverty programs have failed.

Two centuries ago, most Americans—at least 90 percent—were desperately poor by today's standards. Most houses were small, ill-constructed, and poorly heated and insulated. Based on federal family income estimates, 59 percent of Americans lived in poverty as late as 1929, before the Great Depression.[28] In 1947, the government reported that 32 percent of Americans were poor.[29] By 1969, that figure had declined to 12 percent, where it remained for 10 years.[30] Since then, the percentage of poor Americans has fluctuated but has remained near the same level. As of 2013, the poverty rate was 14.5 percent.

In other words, before the huge growth in government spending on poverty programs, poverty was declining rapidly in America. After the new programs were fully implemented, the poverty rate stopped declining.

The recipe for America's enormously successful pre-1960s antipoverty program was:

Establish free markets and protect property rights. Keep taxes and regulation at a minimum to encourage the poor to provide for themselves through their own work and entrepreneurship.

Provide strong government support for lifelong marriage and for a morality of self-controlled self-assertion (a morality combining industriousness, self-restraint, and basic decency with the vigilant spirit that says "Don't tread on me"). The self-reliant family was to be the nation's main poverty program.

As the poverty program of last resort, provide minimal, safety-net public and private support in local communities for the poor whose families were unable or unwilling to provide for them.

In the older America, most poor people were free to work or go into business without asking permission from government. Low taxes and minimal regulation allowed them to keep most of the fruits of their labor. The stability of marriage encouraged men to meet their family obligations. Government officials, teachers, and writers praised the dignity of responsible self-support and condemned irresponsible dependence on government handouts.

In the Middle Ages, a serf might have worked hard all his life, but much of what he produced went into the hands of a wealthy landowner. In most countries of the world, including America today, government regulation and licensing requirements often prevent the poor from entering and competing freely in the market. Besides, much of what the working poor earn through their own efforts is taxed away to support those who do not work.

In the 19th century, a few American intellectuals, typically influenced by European thinkers opposed to the Founders' idea of property rights, questioned the idea of individual responsibility. By 1900, many intellectuals were turning away from the traditional American view that in a free country, frugal and industrious conduct usually leads to an adequate living.

Christopher Jencks explains how different was the original congressional conception of ADC (later renamed AFDC, Aid to Families with Dependent Children) from today's welfare:[32]

When Congress established ADC in 1935, it thought it was subsidizing a set of state programs known as "mothers' pensions." These programs had been established to ensure that indigent widows of good character did not have to place their children in orphanages. Not all states explicitly restricted benefits to widows, but most states did limit benefits to mothers who could provide their children with a "suitable" home. Local officials usually interpreted this

requirement as excluding unwed, separated, and divorced mothers, on the grounds that such women set a poor moral example for their children.

However, the 1935 law had been based on a report written by bureaucrats in the Children's Bureau who made sure that the language of the law would permit (although not require) states to give aid to divorced women and single mothers. Looking back on the episode, Frances Perkins, FDR's liberal Secretary of Labor, said that:[33]

[She] felt that the Children's Bureau had let her down.... She said it never occurred to her, in view of the fact that she'd been active in drives for homes that took care of mothers with illegitimate children, that these mothers would be [eligible for aid]. She blamed the huge illegitimacy rates among blacks on aid to mothers with dependent children.

Perkins, like most other Americans at that time, accepted the older distinction between the deserving and undeserving poor, a distinction based on moral conduct.

State governments gradually loosened welfare eligibility standards and increased benefit levels during the 1940s and 1950s, but it was not until the mid-1960s that welfare was officially conceived as a right that could be demanded by anyone in need, regardless of conduct or circumstances.

Before 1965, most Americans believed that property rights and the marriage-based family were the most effective means to get people out of poverty. After 1965, government policy and elite opinion turned against the older view. In order to help the poor, government raised taxes on the working poor. In the name of safety and environmentalism, it set up licensing requirements and regulations that make it harder for the poor to go into business building houses, repairing air conditioners, exterminating insects, fixing cars, or running a store or restaurant. Local governments set up building codes that were meant to guarantee safe dwellings and businesses but which deprive the poor of inexpensive housing. Code requirements drive up the costs of new houses by tens of thousands of dollars. Moreover, government routinely tears down poor people's houses that are not "up to code" for defects as minor as peeling paint. The city of Dallas, Texas, demolished over a thousand private homes between 1992 and 1995, most of them in low-income and minority areas, sending previous residents onto the welfare rolls or into the streets as homeless.[34]

The most destructive feature of the post-1965 approach has been its unintentional promotion of family breakdown, which is a recipe for the neglect and abuse of children, the widespread crime that such abuse fosters, the impoverishment of women and children, and the loneliness and anguish of everyone involved.

Among the reasons that people get married and stay married (or used to) are happiness, mutual usefulness, a sense of moral obligation, and the penalty of shame and the law for those who misbehave. Post-1965 policies and ideas have ravaged all four of these supports of marriage.

Recent welfare policies have particularly undermined the usefulness of marriage for many women, at least in the short-term horizon in which people sometimes make such decisions. Marriage makes possible an efficient division of labor for raising children and providing for the care and livelihood of people of all ages. In the usual arrangement, the husband is the principal provider and protector, and the wife bears and tends the children when they are young. George Gilder has explained better than anyone else the role of welfare in family breakdown. Most women have a natural superiority to men in affairs of love and the heart, including especially the bearing and nurturing of children. What, then, can a man offer a woman? To put it bluntly, money and honor. Women rarely marry men who make less money than they do or whose social rank is below their own (unless the men have a good career in prospect), and women frequently divorce men who make less. Men and women often lose romantic interest in each other when one of the partners cannot offer an equalizing contribution.

When increasingly generous government support became widely available to women in the 1960s, illegitimacy and divorce grew dramatically. As Gilder writes, "Female jobs and welfare payments usurped the man's role as provider, leaving fatherless families." Welfare destroys the incipient families of the poor by making the struggling male breadwinner superfluous and thereby emasculating him emotionally. His response is predictable. He turns to the supermasculine world of the street: drinking, drugs, male companionship, and crime.[35]

The incentive structure of the modern welfare state is similar to the one that Franklin condemned in old England, except that ours is more generous and more tolerant of single motherhood. Since 1965, when President Lyndon Johnson inaugurated the modern War on Poverty, total annual government welfare spending has grown from less than \$9 billion (1.3 percent of gross domestic product) to \$324 billion (5 percent of GDP) in 1993 to \$927 billion (6 percent of GDP) in 2011.[36] Between 1965 and 2013, the government spent \$22 trillion (adjusted for inflation) on means-tested welfare programs—more than three times the costs of all military wars in the history of the United States.[37]

In 2013, there were roughly 80 different federal means-tested welfare programs.[38] Just counting seven large federal programs (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance; public housing; Medicaid; utilities; Women, Infants, and Children assistance; and emergency food assistance), a single mother of

two was eligible in 2013 for benefits that were the equivalent of a job paying \$16.96 per hour in California, \$18.27 in New York, and \$20.44 in Massachusetts (\$35,287, \$38,000, \$42,515, respectively, per year). In California, the value of this package of welfare benefits was only 8 percent below the median salary in the state; in New York and Massachusetts, the value was less than 5 percent below the respective median salaries. Minimum-wage jobs do not even come close to competing with welfare in most states.

These figures do not take into account state, county, and municipal benefits. Nor do they take into account the massive use of Social Security Disability as a de facto welfare program (as of 2005, 4.1 percent of Americans between the ages of 25 and 64 were enrolled).[39] In Hawaii, the equivalent in taxable income for the total value of these seven federal benefits was \$60,590.[40]

From the point of view of the usefulness of marriage, the choice of the poor to forgo work is, as Charles Murray writes, “the behavior of people responding to the reality of the world around them and making the decisions—the legal, approved, and even encouraged decisions—that maximize their quality of life.”[41] As Robert Rector and William Lauber have explained:[42]

The current welfare system may be conceptualized best as a system which offers each single mother ... a “paycheck.”... She will continue to receive her “paycheck” as long as she fulfills two conditions: (1) she must not work; and (2) she must not marry an employed male.... [Welfare] has converted the low-income working husband from a necessary breadwinner into a net financial handicap. It has transformed marriage from a legal institution designed to protect and nurture children into an institution that financially penalizes nearly all low-income parents who enter into it.

Requiring able-bodied adults to work in exchange for welfare makes welfare more burdensome, but it does not remove its attractiveness altogether. The government-guaranteed jobs and day care that such schemes often require simply make the money less convenient. The basic problem—that government makes it affordable for women to bear and raise children without husbands while living independently in households of their own—is still there. If a society really believes that marriage is the best arrangement for the well-being of men, women, and children, then its laws and customs must reflect that belief seriously, consistently, and effectively.

High benefit levels and irresponsible attitudes toward sex and marriage create a world in which many children have few or no ties to their fathers; in which mothers, increasingly unmarried, are more often abused and exploited; and in which many men join gangs and take up crime as a way of life. This is a world not only of financial poverty, but also of emotional chaos and physical danger. It is not Hobbes’s state of nature, but life is increasingly “nasty” and “brutish.”

The contemporary outlook on welfare has both propelled the family’s disintegration and promoted vast dependence. Many today fail to note that antipoverty programs can easily have a corrupting effect if they are not set up in a way that promotes rather than breaks down the morality of self-restraint and self-assertion that is a necessary foundation of what Jefferson called “temperate liberty.”[44] Both Jefferson and Franklin supported laws that encourage responsibility toward family and community, self-sufficiency, and industriousness. They understood that political liberty rests on the moral character of a people.”

^{liii} Willis Krumholz, “Family Breakdown and America’s Welfare System,” Institute for Family Studies, Oct 7, 2019; <https://ifstudies.org/blog/family-breakdown-and-americas-welfare-system>

^{liv} Dr. Martin Olasky, *The Tragedy of American Compassion*

^{lv} Lawrence Mead, *Beyond Entitlement*

^{lvi} Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Publishing, 2016, p. 258

^{lvii} Reserved for future updates

^{lviii} Thomas Sowell, quoted in <https://www.texaspolicy.com/harris-county-is-creating-a-culture-of-dependency/> and <https://www.aei.org/carpe-diem/thomas-sowell-quotations-on-the-political-left/>

^{lix} <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-280.pdf>

^{lx} James Payne, “Why the War on Poverty Failed,” 1999, https://cdn.mises.org/The%20Freeman%201999_2.pdf, Robert Rector, “The War on Poverty: 50 years of failure,” Heritage Foundation, <https://www.heritage.org/marriage-and-family/commentary/the-war-poverty-50-years-failure>,

^{lxi} Daniel Bugler Et Al, “Who Should We Help? The Negative Social Consequences of Merit Scholarships,” Harvard Civil Rights Project, Aug 23, 2002; “An Evaluation of Georgia’s HOPE Scholarship Program,” 1999

^{lxii} Robert A. Watson and Ben Brown, “The Most Effective Organization in the U.S.” *Leadership Secrets of the Salvation Army*, NY: Crown Business, 2001, pp. 2, 16

^{lxiii} Heritage Foundation, *Mandate for Leadership, The Conservative Promise, Project 2025*, 2023

^{lxiv} Reserved for future updates

^{lxv} Truth in Accounting, <https://www.truthinaccounting.org/news/detail/financial-state-of-the-union-2024>

^{lxvi} Truth in Accounting, “Financial State of the States,” 2024,
<https://www.truthinaccounting.org/library/doclib/Financial-State-of-the-States-2024.pdf>

^{lxvii} Truth in Accounting, “Financial State of the States,” 2024,
<https://www.truthinaccounting.org/library/doclib/Financial-State-of-the-States-2024.pdf>

^{lxviii} <https://www.truthinaccounting.org/library/doclib/IL-2019-2pager.pdf>

^{lxix} <https://civicfed.org/blog/high-chicago-debt-burden-contributes-citys-fiscal-challenges#:~:text=City%20of%20Chicago%20total%20net,%2410%2C642%20between%20FY2014%20and%20FY2023>

^{lxx} Truth in Accounting, <https://www.truthinaccounting.org/resources/page/city-reports>

^{lxxi} BRICS is not just Brazil Russia, India, China, South Africa, it is now 9 countries and growing. The most populous nation in the world and 2nd largest economy, largest democracy in the world, largest nation in the world, the leading economy in South America, plus now Saudi Arabia, the world’s largest oil producer. They are working to replace the US dollar as the global currency, both for international trade and for holding reserve currency. U.S. allies have been behind the creation of the IMF special drawing rights, that uses a bundle of currencies, further diluting the value of the US dollar. In a recession the dollar will further collapse in value until eventually the majority of trade settlements will be conducted in currencies other than the US dollar. When that occurs, everything we import will explode in costs and U.S. inflation will explode. At any time, some nation may decide to sell its dollar currency reserves due to fear of a pending U.S. default on its debt—and start a panic sell off that quickly collapses the value of the dollar. The continued, irresponsible growth of U.S. government debt has set the dollar up for a collapse that could be triggered in many ways, at any time.

^{lxxii} No, I will not refer to him as a she. If he wants to that’s fine, but I will not be forced to in any way pretend I endorse any part of his actions.

^{lxxiii} Glad to explain to media and show records of how West Virginia, a relatively limited bad government state, “randomly” selected my B&B business for a tax audit. We passed, but then they suspected a worker had done some private business and not paid taxes on it. I had no idea if this accusation was true—nor did the WV state tax department. The worker had long left, and they were unable to find their new address, nor was I. So they assumed there was a tax bill owed—and demanded that I pay it! I said this was utterly wrong and refused to pay, demanded to go to Court to see if a Judge would allow such obvious government abuse. It was an Administrative Court, and the Judge refused to let me defend myself. I was ordered to hire an attorney, and I refused to do this—I knew all the details, and am quite capable of answering questions and arguing my reasonable position on my own. I protested this new dimension of gross violation of my Natural Rights and common sense, and government abuse of power. The Judge insisted that as an Administrative Court Judge he could refuse my right to defend myself in his court without an attorney. I refused this coercion to hire and attorney (and pay a big attorney fee, guarantying a big loss on this outrageous case regardless of my innocence) and so the Judge ruled against me. This is not unusual, Americans are abused by lawyers and our legal system without limit in the un-American, no Natural Rights, perverted legal system we are subjected to today.

^{lxxiv} <https://www.hudson.org/national-security-defense/oversight-accountability-subcommittee-national-security-border-foreign-bryan-clark>

^{lxxv} <https://www.taxpayer.net/budget-appropriations-tax/why-cant-the-pentagon-pass-an-audit/>

^{lxxvi} This list is probably missing several, but here are 50: Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), Defense Contract Audit Agency(DCAA), Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA), Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), Defense Health Agency (DHA), Defense Human Resources Activity (DHRA), Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), Defense Legal Services Agency (DLSA), Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), Defense Media Activity (DMA), Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC) Defense Technology Security Administration (DTSA), Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Department of Defense Education Activity (DOD EA), Department of Defense Test Resource Management Center (DOD TRMC), Missile Defense Agency (MDA), National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), National Security Agency/Central Security Service (NSA/CSS), Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA), Washington Headquarters Services (WHS), Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals, Army and Air Force Exchange Service, Defense Acquisition University (DAU), Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS), Joint Personnel Recovery Agency, Military Postal Service Agency, National Assessment Group (NAG), National Defense University (NDU), National Guard Bureau (NGB) Army National Guard (ARNG), Air National Guard (ANG), National Intelligence University (NIU), Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), United States Court of

Appeals for the Armed Forces, United States Military Entrance Processing Command (USMEPCOM), Electromagnetic Spectrum Operations Cross Functional Team (EMSO CFT), Close Combat Lethality Task Force (CCLTF), Protecting Critical Technology Task Force (PCTTF)

^{lxxvii} Ibid.

^{lxxviii} Government Accountability Office, letter to Honorable Robert M. Gates, Secretary of Defense, September 8, 2008, “Subject: DOD Systems Modernization: Maintaining Effective Communication Is Needed to Help Ensure the Army’s Successful Deployment of the Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System,”

<https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-08-927r.pdf>; Wikipedia,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defense_Integrated_Military_Human_Resources_System; My experience with the program while serving as a Program Manager, Senior Executive Service, in the DoD Business Management Modernization Program both directly with this program, and with similar ERP system efforts.

^{lxxix} The “Augean stables” in Greek mythology were used by 3,000 oxen, and had not been cleaned for 30 years.

Hercules was given the impossible task of cleaning them, which he wisely did by diverting two rivers to flood the stables to clean out the shit.

^{lxxx} The sheer size and maze of government bureaucracies, webs of rules and regulations, makes it very hard to be sure that something like a personnel cutback really occurs. For example, when Strategic Air Command was ordered to cut back its HQ staff, they simply moved intelligence staff from a HQ assignment to an “Intelligence Wing.” Squadron and Wings are normally operational units. I served in the 544th “Strategic Intelligence Wing”—but I worked in the Strategic Air Command HQ building, doing HQ work, briefing HQ staff. We did some work supporting Strategic Air Command units, but we our work was overwhelmingly HQ work.

^{lxxxii} Col Drew Miller, “Improving Cost Effectiveness in the Department of Defense,” Air & Space Power Journal, Spring 2010, https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/ASPJ/journals/Volume-24_Issue-1-4/2010_Vol24_No1.pdf

^{lxxxiii} Anthony Cordesman, quoted in Col Drew Miller, “Improving Cost Effectiveness in the Department of Defense,” Air & Space Power Journal, Spring 2010,

https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/ASPJ/journals/Volume-24_Issue-1-4/2010_Vol24_No1.pdf

^{lxxxiii} William R. Burns and Drew Miller, “Improving DOD Adaptability and Capability to Survive Black Swan Events,” Joint Forces Quarterly, 1st Quarter 2014; https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/jfq/jfq-72/jfq-72_31-38_Burns-Miller.pdf?ver=2014-03-13-152408-657

^{lxxxiv} Nick Bostrom, director of the Future of Humanity Institute at Oxford University, also argues against the common practice of assigning low probabilities to or ignoring unpredictable, has-never-happened-before threats. Dr. Bostrom argues that when we consider the many potential sources of existential, black swan risks, there is substantial likelihood of some great disaster: “The balance of evidence is such that it would appear unreasonable not to assign a substantial probability to the hypothesis that an existential disaster will do us in. My subjective opinion is that setting this probability lower than 25% would be misguided, and the best estimate may be considerably higher.” quoted in William R. Burns and Drew Miller, “Improving DOD Adaptability and Capability to Survive Black Swan Events,” Joint Forces Quarterly, 1st Quarter 2014; https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/jfq/jfq-72/jfq-72_31-38_Burns-Miller.pdf?ver=2014-03-13-152408-657

^{lxxxv} Nassim Taleb, quoted in William R. Burns and Drew Miller, “Improving DOD Adaptability and Capability to Survive Black Swan Events,” Joint Forces Quarterly, 1st Quarter 2014; https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/jfq/jfq-72/jfq-72_31-38_Burns-Miller.pdf?ver=2014-03-13-152408-657

^{lxxxvi} Dr Paul Davis, RAND, cited in William R. Burns and Drew Miller, “Improving DOD Adaptability and Capability to Survive Black Swan Events,” Joint Forces Quarterly, 1st Quarter 2014; https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/jfq/jfq-72/jfq-72_31-38_Burns-Miller.pdf?ver=2014-03-13-152408-657

^{lxxxvii} William R. Burns and Drew Miller, “Improving DOD Adaptability and Capability to Survive Black Swan Events,” Joint Forces Quarterly, 1st Quarter 2014; https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/jfq/jfq-72/jfq-72_31-38_Burns-Miller.pdf?ver=2014-03-13-152408-657

^{lxxxviii} William R. Burns and Drew Miller, “Improving DOD Adaptability and Capability to Survive Black Swan Events,” Joint Forces Quarterly, 1st Quarter 2014; https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/jfq/jfq-72/jfq-72_31-38_Burns-Miller.pdf?ver=2014-03-13-152408-657

^{lxxxix} Sayce Falk and Sasha Rogers, Junior Military Officer Retention: Challenges and Opportunities (Boston: John F. Kennedy School of Government, March 2011). In another survey of West Point graduates by Tim Kane, when

asked why they left military service, 82 percent of the veterans responded, “frustration with military bureaucracy.” See Tim Kane, “Why Our Best Officers Are Leaving,” *The Atlantic*, January/February 2011, 80–85, available at www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/01/why-our-best-officers-are-leaving/308346/

^{xc} This is an analogy we used in the Pentagon describing the hopelessness of trying to change or fix bureaucratic problems in the vast DoD. Imagine fighting a marshmallow as big as a building with your bare hands. You can exhaust yourself throwing punches, tearing out pieces, but the impervious massive marshmallow remains.

^{xci} https://www.academia.edu/39887492/How_the_US_Army_decayed_Does_anyone_want_to_fix_it_A_look_at_our_military

^{xcii} The National Intelligence Council warned of this in their “Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds” report, citing the diffusion of power, and deadly impacts of new technologies like DNA engineering: “in a tectonic shift, individuals and small groups will have greater access to lethal and disruptive technologies (particularly precision-strike capabilities, cyber instruments, and bioterror weaponry), enabling them to perpetrate large-scale violence—a capability formerly the monopoly of states.”

^{xciii} Dr. Drew Miller, “The Age of Designer Plagues,” *The American Interest*, Nov 2016, <https://www.the-american-interest.com/2016/09/20/the-age-of-designer-plagues/>

^{xciv} Dr Drew Miller, Institute for Defense Analyses, NSD-5335, “The Age of Bioengineered Viral Pandemics and Collapse,” 2014 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep23620>

^{xcv} Our “just in time delivery” economy is extremely vulnerable to disruptions. We have a very fragile economic system, with cities dependent on daily food deliveries. Food truck drivers will quickly realize that it’s too dangerous for them to drive into cities or on long trips, too much risk of either catching the virus or being attacked by marauders seeking food. Even workers with the courage to face the risk of catching the virus may change their mind when they realize they could bring a fatal virus home to infect their families. Those that do keep working — medics, firefighters, and police — are likely to soon be sick or dead. We should expect that most economic activity, public services, production of essential goods, and transportation will cease.

^{xcvi} Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), 2012 DTRA RD Enterprise CB Directorate Strategic Vision, 16, available at www.dtra.mil/docs/system-documents/2012_StrategicVision-Web2.pdf?sfvrsn=0

^{xcvii} Nassim Taleb, *The Black Swan: the impact of the Highly Improbable*, 2nd edition, p. 354

^{xcviii} Paul Bedard, “Preppers list grid security, EMP attack, and civil war as top threats to US,” *Washington Examiner*, Nov 21, 2023, <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/washington-secrets/2447612/preppers-list-grid-security-emp-attack-and-civil-war-as-top-threats-to-us/>

^{xcix} Paul Bedard, “New EMP warning: US will ‘cease to exist,’ 90 percent of population will die,” *Washington Examiner*, January 24, 2019

^c Paul Bedard, “New EMP warning: US will ‘cease to exist,’ 90 percent of population will die,” *Washington Examiner*, January 24, 2019

^{ci} An ICBM shot at the U.S. to do a high altitude EMP attack and destroy our electric grid would invite, demand, U.S. nuclear retaliation. But putting a short range missile in a modified civilian airliner and launch it into the U.S. masquerading as a normal international flight, the short range missile launched from an airliner already at high altitude could both achieve a better height for maximum EMP damage to the grid and eliminate our ability to ascertain who launched the EMP attack. This was the plot in a book I wrote, *Rohan Nation: Reinventing America after the 2020 Collapse*. Count on AI to come up with many other, better means to deliver a nuclear EMP attack on our grid that kills most Americans.

^{cii} <https://domesticpreparedness.com/articles/emp-executive-order-self-funding-resilient-microgrids>

^{ciii} The Probability of Collapse model was developed by Dr/Col Drew Miller. It was presented at the Military Research Society Symposium, and maintained by Disaster Preparedness LLC, Fortitude Ranch. In the summer of 2024 the model was updated with survey inputs from 23 intelligence officers, business and financial analysts, scientists, biologists, and other experts. For more details, email Drew Miller at drew@collapsepreparedness.com; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=icOoPNvGKg4>

^{civ} Warren Buffett, interview by *FoxBusiness.com*, January 2010

^{cv} <https://www.collapsepreparedness.com/>

^{cvi} Martin Shubik, *Terrorism, Technology, and the Socioeconomics of Death*,” *Cowles Foundation Paper #952*, 1998, p. 399

^{cvii} William R. Burns and Drew Miller, “Improving DOD Adaptability and Capability to Survive Black Swan Events,” *Joint Forces Quarterly*, 1st Quarter 2014; https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/jfq/jfq-72/jfq-72_31-38_Burns-Miller.pdf?ver=2014-03-13-152408-657

^{cvi} Battlefield nuclear weapons are low yield nuclear weapons that can be very quickly authorized/targeted/detonated for effective use on the battlefield, like artillery delivered nuclear warheads or short-range nuclear missiles. Aircraft at bases 100s of kilometers away may be called tactical nuclear weapons, but they do not have the responsiveness necessary to be effective battlefield nuclear weapons. The U.S. has no effective battlefield nuclear weapons left.

^{cix} <https://www.defensenews.com/air/2024/04/15/f-35s-to-cost-2-trillion-as-pentagon-plans-longer-use-says-watchdog/>

^{cx} This video on a training exercise run on the Collapse Survivor App explains how such a “nuclear chicken” scenario with China could occur: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TAIXftqbUc&t=377s>

^{cx} Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, 1832

^{cxii} <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/citations/ADA389373>

^{cxiii} Katzenbach, Edward L., Jr. "The Horse Cavalry in the Twentieth Century: A Study in Policy Response." In *American Defense Policy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins, 1977. pp. 360-73, UA23.165.U52.

^{cxiv} Thomas Wright, “The Folly of Retrenchment: Why America Can’t Withdraw From the World,” *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2020; <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/folly-retrenchment>

^{cxv} Thomas Wright, “The Folly of Retrenchment: Why America Can’t Withdraw From the World,” *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2020; <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/folly-retrenchment>

^{cxvi} <https://www.congress.gov/109/crpt/srpt322/CRPT-109srpt322.pdf>; <https://www.myneworleans.com/true-blue-katrina-and-the-cops-the-other-side-of-the-story/>; <https://www.npr.org/2010/08/12/129090179/new-orleans-police-struggle-in-post-katrina-era>

^{cxvii} main reason or purpose for existence

^{cxviii} As explained in introduction, the “Iron Triangle” is the political science term for the relationship (and often corruption) between congressional committees, government bureaucrats, and interest groups/lobbyists. The Perverted Triangle is the term Dr. Drew Miller invented for the improper, worse, more powerful collusion of career elected officials, government bureaucrats, and lawyers.

^{cxix} Do not have a source for this, but am confident this is true based on my experience and questioning of many senior Guard officers, studying of Guard and Reserve forces while working at the Institute for Defense Analyses. The Guard and Reserve has a lot of non-combat units, transportation and public affairs forces, that do not have small arms. Support personnel are a huge percent of the military—combat troops a small percent. The Guard should be stockpiling small arms (and having members stay qualified in handling small arms) so they can be useful in protecting facilities, fighting marauder groups, doing homeland defense and collapse recovery.

^{cxix} <https://www.ida.org/research-and-publications/publications/all/e/ev/evolution-of-the-militarys-current-activereserve-force-mix>; <https://apps.dtic.mil/sti/pdfs/ADA591198.pdf>; https://rfpb.defense.gov/Portals/67/Documents/Reports/IDA_Report.pdf?ver=kfYPMa_67x_0-zL3pgX8fg%3D%3D

^{cxix} <https://medium.com/@collapsesurvivor/we-need-a-civil-ground-patrol-to-survive-a-real-pandemic-or-other-major-disaster-d53b5d5c62ea>

^{cxix} While CAP is under the Regular, active-duty Air Force, CGP would fit better under the Army National Guard, not the Regular Army.

^{cxix} William Hartung, “The US Congress Is Now in the Pocket of the Arms Industry,” *Fair Observer*, March 30, 2023, <https://www.fairobserver.com/politics/the-us-congress-is-now-in-the-pocket-of-the-arms-industry/#>

^{cxix} William Hartung, “The US Congress Is Now in the Pocket of the Arms Industry,” *Fair Observer*, March 30, 2023, <https://www.fairobserver.com/politics/the-us-congress-is-now-in-the-pocket-of-the-arms-industry/#>

^{cxix} William Hartung, “The US Congress Is Now in the Pocket of the Arms Industry,” *Fair Observer*, March 30, 2023, <https://www.fairobserver.com/politics/the-us-congress-is-now-in-the-pocket-of-the-arms-industry/#>

^{cxix} Drew Miller, Harvard PhD Dissertation, “Fortifications and Underground Nuclear Defense Shelters for NATO Troops,” 1985, <https://www.osti.gov/biblio/5947295>

^{cxix} Henry Kissinger, quoted in Michael Charlton, “From Deterrence to Defense: The Inside Story of Strategic Policy,” Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA, 1987, p. 59

^{cxix} Drew Miller, Harvard PhD Dissertation, “Fortifications and Underground Nuclear Defense Shelters for NATO Troops,” 1985, <https://www.osti.gov/biblio/5947295>

^{cxix} DoD Dictionary of Military Terms defines a flexible deterrence option as “a planning construct intended to facilitate early decision making by developing a wide range of interrelated responses that begin with deterrent-oriented actions carefully tailored to produce a desired effect.”

^{cxix} Dr. Drew Miller, “Reconstituting Capability to Conduct a Crisis Nuclear Detonation as a Flexible Deterrence Option,” *Joint Forces Quarterly*, 1st Quarter 2008, <https://ndupress.ndu.edu/portals/68/Documents/jfq/jfq-48.pdf>

^{cxxx} Dr. Drew Miller, “The Age of Designer Plagues,” *The American Interest*, Nov 2016, <https://www.the-american-interest.com/2016/09/20/the-age-of-designer-plagues/>

^{cxxxii} Drew Miller, “The Age of Bioengineered Viral Pandemics and Collapse,” *The Institute for Defense Analyses*, NSD-5335, Oct 2014, <https://www.ida.org/-/media/feature/publications/t/th/the-age-of-bioengineered-viral-pandemics-and-collapse/d-5335.ashx>

^{cxxxiii} This was explained and illustrated in a Collapse Survivor App simulation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8cYPVQqV6c&t=55s>

^{cxxxiv} Reserved for future updates

^{cxxxv} <https://whitehouse.gov/continuity-plan/>

^{cxxxvi} <https://www.statista.com/statistics/191694/number-of-law-enforcement-officers-in-the-us/>,

<https://www.dailynews.com/2022/07/01/los-angeles-democrats-double-down-on-defund-the-police/>,

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/12/21/police-officers-quit-reform/10891315002/>

^{cxxxvii} Tulsa City Mayor G.T Bynum, <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2023/01/21/police-hiring-government-jobs-decline>

^{cxxxviii} for example, a \$5 circuit breaker that is absolutely adequate and completely safe is often forced by building codes to be a \$75 arc-fault breaker. The number and location of outlets required is often excessive, unnecessary, but a forced requirement of codes that are pushed by industry for their benefit, not safety, violating the most basic liberty of deciding what you want in your private home. Two 20 amp electric lines might be needed in a modern, big urban house, but should not be required in small homes or rural survival home that use little power. Electric building codes alone add thousands of dollars of cost, with plumbing and other building codes adding tens of thousands of unnecessary expense, and zoning restrictions completely preventing building guardhouses and separate housing units needed to keep people safely separated during a pandemic.

^{cxxxix} Reserved for future updates

^{cxl} Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Publishing, 2016, p. 127

^{cxli} Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Publishing, 2016, p. 259

^{cxlii} Reserved for future updates

^{cxliii} Trump campaign statements Oct 29, 2016, May 10, 2018

^{cxliv} Brian Riedl, “Ten Guidelines for Reducing Wasteful Government Spending,” *Heritage Foundation*, Feb 12, 2003

^{cxlv} <https://constall.org/>

^{cxlvi} Roger Pilon, *Cato Institute, The Purpose and Limits of Government*, *Cato’s Letter #13*, Dec 1998,

<https://www.cato.org/books/catos-letter-no-13-purpose-limits-government>

^{cxlvii} Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Publishing, 2016, p. 264

^{cxlviii} Philip Howard, *Life Without Lawyers: Restoring Responsibility in America*, WW Norton & Co, 2010

^{cxlix} Francis Fukuyama, “Gunfight in DOGE City: In moving fast, the incoming administration is likely to tie itself up in years of litigation,” *American Purpose, Persuasion*, Dec 6, 2024, “Musk and Ramaswamy (or whoever drafted the op-ed for them) seem to think that the new administration can simply invalidate hundreds of regulations by executive order, based on these and other Supreme Court decisions. However, each regulation challenged in this manner is likely to be contested in the courts, oftentimes by the commercial entities that have learned to abide by them. It took years for the West Virginia decision to be handed down; while the Roberts Court may be sympathetic to regulatory rollback, it is not clear that it has simply handed blanket authority from the agencies to the White House. When the first Trump administration sought to roll back Title IX authority from the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights, it properly put its initiative through the notice-and-comment procedure legally mandated by the Administrative Procedure Act. A second Trump administration is unlikely to be this patient and rule-following. Rescinded rules will therefore be tied up in litigation for years, greatly increasing the level of uncertainty that business interests will face. And if the administration tries to accomplish its ends through extensive use of executive orders, it is setting itself up for failure, whether or not the Democrats return to power in 2028. So much for small-government conservatism.” Francis Fukuyama is Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies at Stanford University. He writes the “Frankly Fukuyama” column, carried forward from *American Purpose*, at *Persuasion*.

^{cl} Martin Luther King, in his “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” 16 Apr 1963

^{cli} Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Publishing, 2016, p. 127

^{clii} Mercy Otis Warren, *History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution* vol. 1

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- ^{cliii} Ray Dalio, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10267619/Billionaire-Ray-Dalio-predicts-30-chance-Civil-War-10-years.html> Ray Dalio, “The Coming Great Conflict,” Time Magazine, June 25, 2024
- ^{cliv} Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, 2015
- ^{clv} Reserved for future updates
- ^{clvi} Clark Neily, Walter Olson and Ilya Somin, The National Constitution Center, “Restoring The Guardrails Of Democracy Project, Report By Team Libertarian,” pp. 19-20
- ^{clvii} Jim Carlton, “San Francisco Fights Disorder—and Goes After a Little Library,” Wall Street Journal, March 27, 2023, p. A1
- ^{clviii} <https://quotefancy.com/quote/775148/Benjamin-Franklin-Security-without-liberty-is-called-prison>