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How did American Government get ruined?

How can we fix it? Avoid Civil War?

The Constitutional Alliance to Restore American Liberty

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In public history textbooks, written by taxpayer funded professors, Big Government politicians are the good guys, fighting against evil, greedy businessmen. The “Iron Triangle” is the bad alliance of government bureaucrats, elected career politicians, and special interest group/business lobbyists working together to promote their profits and interests. Big businesses and campaign donations to politicians are indeed often very bad, but there is a far worse alliance that has destroyed good American constitutional 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 laws and regulations and jobs for government bureaucrats, more campaign donations and power for the politicians. And many Perverted Triangle members become lobbyists.¹

This paper uses “webnotes” not foot- or endnotes. Go to constall.org to see sources, more explanations, other information. If reading this on paper or if two viewing devices, you may want to have the webnotes up so can readily read them and paper at same time

This paper explains how American government has been ruined by career politicians, political parties, lawyers, and government bureaucrats. Constitutional limits to federal government interference in social matters and personal economic affairs were illegally eliminated² 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) have undermined families and subverted individual responsibility, yielding 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 the welfare payments and social programs they have been trained to need.³ Our Country is bitterly split today, falling apart, because the two dominant political parties and uUS/State government social programs have divided our nation.⁴

Our Legal System has also been ruined by the Perverted Triangle, with thousands of laws, unknown millions of regulations enriching lawyers who are allowed to lie in Court, with laws requiring use of expensive lawyers and banning others from offering legal advice, and Judges (former lawyers), ignoring our retained Natural Rights, favoring past case citations at the expense of truth, justice, and personal liberty. Victory in court depends more on how much you can spend on attorneys than what is right. Elected Officials are allowed to violate laws without penalty.

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 and the growing likelihood of a collapse that could kill most of us, fixing our government and getting federal and state governments focused on avoiding disasters and surviving a collapse is especially vital now.

To correct the uUS, stop the Perverted Triangle and their destruction of families and personal responsibility, reunite our country, and get national and state governments re-focused on their proper, authorized role of protecting us from threats we cannot handle on our own, we must restore constitutional limits and Natural Rights, add term limits and other reforms, and keep social programs out of national and state government--allowing diverse local governments and voluntary associations to provide the adaptive, responsive services that citizens want. We need to restore personal responsibility and encourage youth to build good character. We must empower responsible citizens to fight government violation of our Constitutional and Natural Rights, including the duty of civil disobedience.

The Constitutional Alliance (TCA) is an expanding group of associations and organizations that are uniting to pursue a joint program of reforms to fight the Perverted Triangle, fix our government and legal system, save our country, and restore personal liberty and responsibility.

If The Constitutional Alliance movement fails to restore the Constitution and limit the federal and state governments, then free citizens must rely on Nullification, civil disobedience, and secession to reestablish democracy and good government.⁵

Democratic President Franklin Roosevelt pressured the Supreme Court to illegally delete the 10th Amendment, removing limits to federal government laws and spending

Until the 1930s, the federal government remained tiny, with a budget of less than \$40 billion. But after FDR forced the Supreme Court to ignore the 10th Amendment limits to federal programs, violating the Constitution, Big Government took off and the power of the Perverted Triangle exploded. Championed by the anti-Federalists in the Bill of Rights, approved by John Madison, Jefferson and Washington, the 10th Amendment was adopted to be an unassailable barrier to excessive federal government power by making it crystal clear that “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” Unless the Constitution specifically grants and mentions a task for the federal government, it **cannot** pass laws or spend tax dollars for such unconstitutional programs.

Antifederalists like Mercy Otis Warren and George Mason objected to the risks of excessive federal power, leading to the Bill of Rights, including the critical 10th Amendment to the Constitution that clearly states that unless a power and area of governance is specifically granted in the Constitution the federal government can pass no laws. The Federal Government is charged with foreign affairs

and defense, local matters were left to State Government and personal matters left to personal choice.

The “Federalists Papers,” are the supreme, most respected guide to what the Constitution means. In Federalist Paper #45, written by the leading author of the Constitution, James Madison, we have this same absolutely clear explanation: “The powers delegated by the proposed constitution to the federal government, are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the state governments are numerous and indefinite. The former will be exercised principally on external objects, as war, peace, negotiation, and foreign commerce; with which last the power of taxation will for the most part be connected. The powers reserved to the several states will extend to all the objects, which, in the ordinary course of affairs, concern the lives, liberties and properties of the people; and the internal order, improvement and prosperity of the state.”⁶ Madison reaffirmed this absolute limit on federal government powers and taxes again in 1800 in a written report to Congress.⁷

Jefferson called the 10th Amendment, which Democratic President FDR assaulted and the Chief Justices erased, the “foundation” of the U.S. Constitution: “I consider the foundation of the Constitution as laid on this ground: That ‘all powers not delegated to the United States, by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States or to the people.’ To take a single step beyond the boundaries thus specially drawn around the powers of Congress, is to take possession of a boundless field of power, no longer susceptible of any definition.”

In 1935 Franklin Roosevelt signed the Social Security act passed by a Democratic Party controlled Congress, a clearly unconstitutional program, having nothing to do with any of the enumerated powers in the Constitution. For years the Supreme Court had been striking down FDR’s “New Deal” socialist programs as blatantly unconstitutional, violating the 10th Amendment, but they would operate for years until declared unconstitutional by the Court, passing on wealth and pork to millions of citizens and elected officials, corrupting the citizenry, undermining families and personal responsibility, and building up his political power. FDR threatened to “pack” the Supreme Court, increasing the number of Justices, with new appointees who would ignore the 10th. Leading public policy expert and political scientist Charles Murray published a brilliant book *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission* that explains how the Supreme Court, under pressure from FDR threatening to force retirement of older Justices, with threats of strikes and violence in the country, suffering during the Great Depression, and condemnation of the Court, gave up enforcing the Constitution and effectively erased the 10th Amendment. In 1937, a majority of Justices surrendered to FDR and gutted the Constitution, eliminating the 10th Amendment limits on federal spending and laws. The 1937 decision in *Helvering v. Davis*, 301 U.S. 619, ruled that Social Security was constitutionally permissible as an exercise of the federal power to spend for the general welfare and so did not contravene the 10th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. A majority of the Judges ruled that the “general welfare” phrase in effect gives Congress and the federal government the ability to fund and do whatever they want—directly violating and illegally deleting the 10th Amendment.⁸

The rationale used in the 1937 *Helvering* case was a gross lie and deception, a blatant violation of the Supreme Court’s duty and the clear intent of the Constitution. As Murray explained, “The constitution wouldn’t have had a snowball’s chance in hell of being ratified if the Federalists had defended the interpretations of the General Welfare Clause and the Commerce Clause that revolutionized the Constitution in the twentieth century. The Constitution was ratified only because all of the leading Federalists vigorously rejected those interpretations during the debate over ratification”⁹

A leading Constitutional expert, Roger Pilon, explained why this Supreme Court decision to ignore, erase the 10th Amendment was absolutely wrong:

“The centerpiece of the Constitution, again, is the doctrine of enumerated powers, which limits the federal government to its authorized ends. Consistent with that doctrine, as Madison, Jefferson, and others made clear, the General Welfare Clause could not have afforded Congress an independent power to spend for the general welfare; for under such a reading, Congress would be able to spend for any end, enumerated or not, provided only that it served the “general” welfare, and thus would be able to evade the limits imposed by enumeration. No, the clause was meant to serve as a shield against overweening power, not as a sword of power: it was meant to limit Congress’s spending for enumerated ends by requiring that spending be for the general rather than for any particular or local welfare. It was meant, in short, to limit Congress’s enumerated powers, not to undermine the doctrine of enumerated powers itself.”¹⁰

See webnotes for more details on how the Supreme Court under attack by FDR and the Democratic Party surrendered and gutted the Constitution and removed all limits on federal power.¹¹

There is absolutely no justification for a Supreme Court or any federal government official or organization to claim that an introductory phrase, “the General welfare” overrides or eliminates the 10th Amendment!¹² The 10th Amendment was then and is still today absolutely clear as a rigid limit on federal government involvement. But a majority of frightened Supreme Court Justices in 1937--facing a powerful President, Democratic Party controlled Congress, and a public that included many engaged in violent strikes and protests--lied, deceived and gutted the Constitution’s clear limits to federal government power. As a leading Cato Institute expert put it, the Constitution “was eviscerated by the New Deal Supreme Court following Franklin Roosevelt’s 1937 threat to pack the Court with six new members.”¹³

The *Helvering* case surrender was quickly followed by other Supreme Court abdications of responsibility and the Constitution. FDR then appointed 5 young Supreme Court justices (all FDR backers, some former Democratic party Senators) pledged to allowing any government spending or programs.¹⁴ Within six weeks of *Helvering*, the Court ruled that the National Labor Relations Act was constitutional, ignoring the 10th Amendment and perverting the Interstate Commerce Clause to allow federal rules even when there was no interstate commerce. With the 10th Amendment now erased, the Commerce Clause was turned into “the everything clause” and the 9th Amendment that guarantees Natural Rights like private property and privacy and being left alone was also erased--Congress was illegally enabled to spend on anything and do almost anything they wanted!¹⁵ In effect, the Supreme Court quietly told Congress (the public and many in Congress never understood what was happening) that the federal government could ignore Constitutional limits, regulate any economic activity it wanted, redistribute income at will, legislate and spend on any social program or anything at all they wanted to do—a perfect arrangement to buy votes, just as FDR had so effectively.¹⁶

Americans are 99% ignorant of how our Constitution and our Natural Rights were illegally erased by the FDR’s Supreme Court in the late 1930s. It is essential to understand what happened, and how our government and legal system was transformed into institutions not to limit government power, but empower the Perverted Triangle to trash American personal freedom, subvert families and individual responsibility, and build unlimited power for themselves via Big Government that profits them but has ruined our country. The next paragraphs, from Roger Pilon¹⁷, who held senior

posts in the Reagan administration and founded the Cato Institute's Center for Constitutional Studies, explain how FDR and the Supreme Court eliminated our Natural Rights and ruined our Constitution.

“Having thus eviscerated the doctrine of enumerated powers, the Court turned next to the Bill of Rights, which it gutted in a now-famous footnote in a case called *Carolene Products* [in 1938]. Details of the case aside, the doctrine that emerged, which is the foundation of modern constitutional law, is this: we have two kinds of rights — “fundamental” rights, like the right to vote and the free-speech rights that are associated with the democratic process; and “nonfundamental” rights, like rights of property and contract and rights associated with “ordinary commercial transactions.” When legislation or enforcement actions implicate the first category of rights, the Court will give those measures “strict scrutiny” and will most likely find them unconstitutional. By contrast, when measures implicate the second category of rights, they will be given minimal scrutiny by the Court: if they are “rationally related” to some “conceivable” government end, they will pass constitutional muster.”

“Needless to say, the floodgates were now almost fully opened. With the government’s redistributive and regulatory powers all but plenary [absolute] after 1937, only our rights could be posed as a brake on federal power. After *Carolene Products*, however, even that brake was eviscerated, for only if we could show that the rights implicated by a given measure were “fundamental” could we hope to get a court to review the matter. The value-laden distinction between two kinds of rights — to say nothing of the distinction between two levels of judicial review — is nowhere to be found in the Constitution, of course. It was written from whole cloth to pave the way for the redistributive and regulatory programs of the New Deal. Indeed, Rexford Tugwell, one of the principal architects of the New Deal, said as much some 30 years after *Carolene Products* was decided: “To the extent that these [New Deal policies] developed, they were tortured interpretations of a document [i.e., the Constitution] intended to prevent them.”

“With that, the Constitution truly stood on its head. As written, it is a document of enumerated powers, the exercise of which is limited by both enumerated and unenumerated rights. As it emerged from the New Deal, it was a document of effectively unenumerated powers, the exercise of which would thereafter be limited by rights interpreted narrowly by conservatives on the Court and episodically by liberals on the Court. In short order, that is, both sides would buy into the New Deal’s “democratization” of the Constitution — the expansion of public power over theretofore private affairs; the only differences they would have, for the most part, would be over whether there might be any rights to brake that power. Conservatives would have difficulty finding any rights not expressly in the Constitution, thus ignoring the plain language of the Ninth Amendment: “The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.” Liberals would ignore rights plainly in the document, such as rights of property and contract, while finding other “rights” not meant to be among even our unenumerated rights. That, in a nutshell, is the state of modern constitutional jurisprudence in America. The rewriting of the Constitution, without benefit of amendment, goes far toward explaining how political forces bent on expanding government have been able to do so in the face of a document written plainly to prevent that.”

Thus FDR and the Democratic Party, often backed by Republicans eager to also bring pork to their district to buy votes for their re-election, unshackled by the Constitution and our Natural Rights

limits to government, passed welfare and social legislation that blatantly violates the 9th and 10th Amendments and completely ignores limits to government—the very purpose of the American Revolution and the Constitution! Congress routinely appropriates funds for programs that are absurd wastes and affronts to many Americans, in absolute violation of the 9th and 10th Amendments that are no longer followed, though never legally repealed. This is the fundamental, major reason why Texas and many other states, and divided parts of many more states, want to secede and get away from the abuse of power by the unconstitutional United States federal government. We thus refer to the current federal government as the unconstitutional United States, uUS.¹⁸

With limits to federal power gone, new programs and massive spending on Social Security, federal educational programs/spending/taxation, health care, welfare programs, massive federal economic regulations, all clearly unconstitutional, exploded. Though still appearing to be part of our Constitution, the blatantly illegal and still overwhelmingly unknown (by the public) elimination of the 9th and 10th Amendments and similar illegal abuse of the interstate commerce clause meant no limits to Big Government and the Perverted Triangle, and disaster for the United States of America.

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

The stress of the Great Depression and FDR's threats drove some Justices to abandon the Constitution. Contrary to the great lie in public school history books that FDR and Big Government rescued the U.S. from a depression, it was government that helped cause, worsen, and lengthen the depression.¹⁹ For FDR and the Perverted Triangle, the Great Depression was a fantastic means to justify expanded Big Government power and votes for the Democratic Party. State officials should have immediately rejected and fought this decision, but were also afraid of FDR's power, the huge fortunes in New Deal spending and vote buying, ruthlessly exercised by a megalomaniac²⁰ President devoid of any moral or now Supreme Court check on his unprecedented power. With no limit on what FDR and the Democratic Party controlled Congress could spend on, the nation was flooded with pork barrel spending and welfare programs that federal, state and local politicians benefited from, replacing family roles and individual responsibility with socialism and the Big Government Nanny State. Contrary to the great lie of public history textbooks, FDR did not save the country from the Great Depression, he prolonged it. Public school history books blame the Great Depression on individual greed and business, with FDR and Big Government the caring savior of the people. It is a collection of lies. Bad government and Federal Reserve policies were the biggest cause of the Great Depression, with FDR's unconstitutional programs extending the length and severity of the depression.²¹ Worse, his attacks on the Supreme Court and the Constitution led to an illegal, catastrophic Supreme Court surrender, erasing the 10th Amendment and then the 9th, removing limits on federal government spending, power and scope..²²

Later Democratic Administrations, along with Republicans, let the Perverted Triangle surge in power with massive increases in unconstitutional social and welfare programs, and an explosion of laws and regulations, undermining families and personal responsibility, and dividing the nation

Under Eisenhower government growth slowed, but in the 1960s with Democrats in power and LBJ pursuing his “Great Society” Big Government agenda, no Constitutional checks, the Perverted Triangle took off. Dr. Charles Murray with the American Enterprise Institute summarized the disaster: “[in]1963, the number of pages in the *Code of Federal Regulations* was about the same as it had been at the end of World War II. From 1963 through 1968, the code increased by an average of 5,537 pages per year.... Lyndon Johnson’s administration saw the advent of covert regulation through federal largesse. Thus, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 began to provide large-scale financial support to K-12 schools, but only if those schools adopted federal guidelines on how the money was to be used. Of course, the schools did take the money, and everybody had to comply with Washington’s preferences. By the time Lyndon Johnson left office at the beginning of the 1969, the federal government had acquired major roles in local education and law enforcement.... federal rules about permissible conduct reached down to the neighborhood and into the home.”²³

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 big spending Pork that virtually guarantees election for Congressmen since more seniority means more “free” federal 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....”²⁴

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 tunnel to Boston’s airport.²⁵ 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, wastes of \$26.1 billion. Since 1991, they have identified 124,212 pork earmarks costing \$437.5 billion.²⁶

The corrupt power of pork also explains why Congress has wretched approval ratings and respect—but Congressmen have overwhelmingly high reelection rates. The more time in office, the more seniority and ability to bring home pork. In the second half of the 1800s, and start of 1900s, less

than 80% of House incumbents running for reelection would win. That started climbing in the mid-1930s to over 90% in the 1950s, where it remains today. In addition, a switch to permanent politicians in office, empowered by increased federal power and pork spending led to the average tenure of Representatives rising from 3 years in the early 1880s to 9 years today.²⁷ It is not representative government with normal people serving, but permanent, career politicians, a separate class of people who serve today.

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.²⁸

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).²⁹

The Perverted Triangle left on the opportunity to grow welfare/entitlement dependence on government and buy votes with completely unconstitutional, gross violation of Natural Rights (which are to protect your freedom, not force you to participate in government income redistribution and vote purchase plans). You have a Natural Right to privacy, use of your personal property as you choose. There is no Natural Right to demand money from other people.

Congress and the POTUS sold the \$800 billion Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)³⁰ with the deceptive marketing name "CARES" (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) as low-interest loans to small firms so they could continue to pay employees during the COVID crisis rather, not lay them off. Of this \$800 billion, \$757 billion has been forgiven so far—the label "loan" was a typical Perverted Triangle lie. As of 2023, studies have found that most money did not go to workers and 75% of PPP benefits accrued to the top quintile of household income³¹ It did not matter whether you really used it to avoid laying off an employee, it was a taxpayer funded invitation to steal cash. PPP funds were used to buy luxury automobiles, "mansions, private jet flights and swanky vacations."³² Members of Congress and their family members received \$14 million in these loans-turned-gifts.³³ A former U.S. attorney called this program, "the biggest fraud in a generation." This was not done by a Democratic Administration, but the Trump Administration, passed with a unanimous bi-partisan vote in the Senate. No one had the courage to speak truth to power and condemn the program as an unconstitutional program and violation of Natural Rights (stealing your money to give to someone else), or an invitation for fraud. Both parties are supporters and slaves of the Perverted Triangle.

In the same manner that FDR doled out New Deal program benefits to states and districts to buy votes, the Biden Administration adds government subsidies, benefits and regulations to campaign for office (examples, citations in webnotes).³⁴

The Perverted Triangle, political parties, and Administrative State have amassed political and economic power that dwarfs everything else. Businesses and citizens are strangled by the laws, regulations, and a political and legal system that primarily benefits the Perverted Triangle. The uS federal government spends \$3 Trillion annually. Half of this is spent not by the Department of Defense, but the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) which dolls out cash and benefits to not just subservient welfare donors, but a huge proportion of Americans, mostly middle

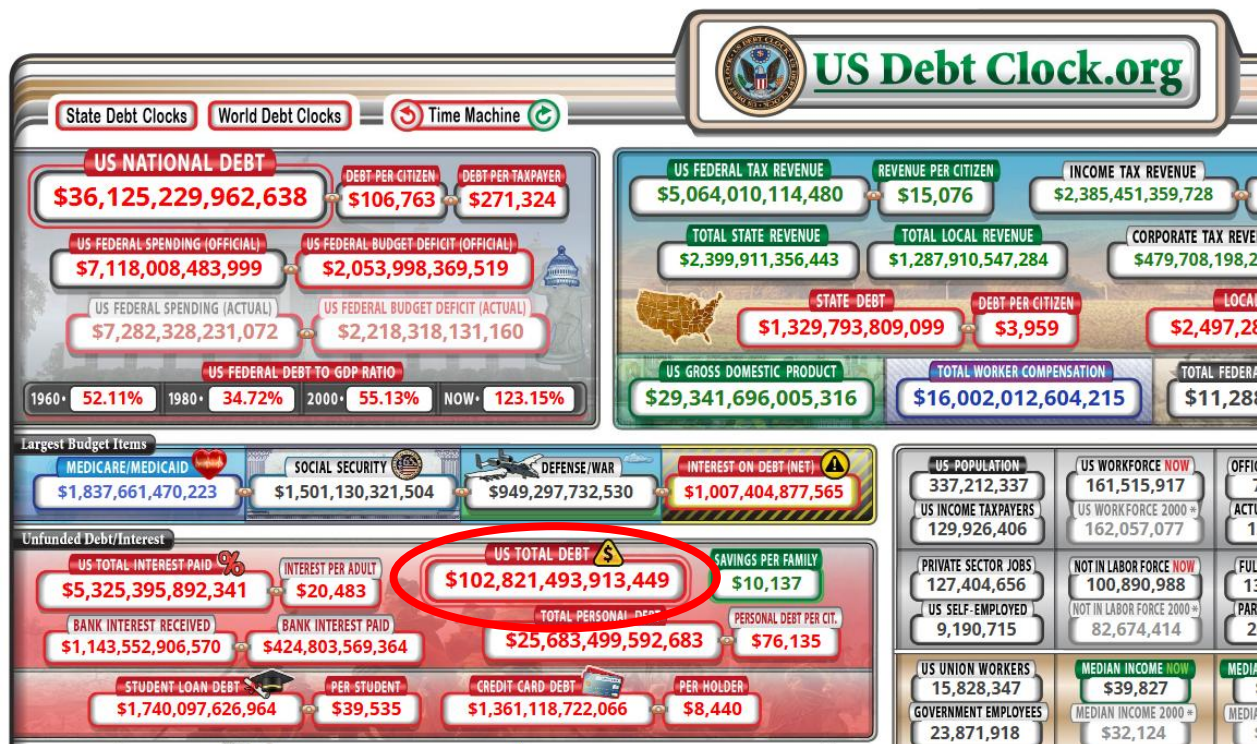
class, with Medicare and Medicaid and hundreds of other welfare programs. Just as Roman Emperors handed out food and gladiator games to appease and sway the masses, the Perverted Triangle runs government programs to buy votes, destroy individual responsibility and families, and build dependence on the Administrative Nanny State.

Successful, honest businessman Ross Perot attempted to fight the Perverted Triangle with a 1992 presidential campaign as an independent, attacking the Perverted Triangle. Perot condemned lobbyists, often politicians and government officials in a “revolving door” of conflicted interests: "This is coming to Washington to cash in and then go in and get a several-hundred-thousand-dollar-a-year job as a foreign lobbyist and use your influence on the White House and Congress to shift not only jobs overseas {but also} whole industries overseas."³⁵ "Our political system no longer comes from the people, it comes at the people."³⁶ Despite a poorly run campaign, even dropping out of the race for a few months in the summer, in the 1992 election Perot received 19% of the popular vote. The only way Americans will defeat the Perverted Triangle is a well-planned, coordinated attack by masses of Americans. Individual efforts are tilting at windmills.

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, the legal system that has developed with such perverse power that individuals cannot possibly stop.³⁷ 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.

There is no honesty in federal government budgets or accounting, but we roughly know that from the first year that 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.³⁸ As of December 2024, the reported U.S. 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 U.S. 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 will bear the heaviest burden—but they can't vote, so the Perverted Triangle does not care.³⁹



Source: usdebtclock.org **Bring this up on your computer and watch as it rises before your eyes!**

With every conceivable industry and interest group lobbying and donating (bribing) politicians to pass laws and benefits for them, with big companies and groups having a decided advantage in the perverted process, government spending and the costs/wastes of regulations and bureaucracy keeps outpacing economic growth. Banks want limits on FDIC guarantees lifted to give them bigger subsidies, car manufacturers and their unions get electric vehicle credits that will cost taxpayers \$523 billion! Chip makers just got \$39 billion in direct government aid and huge tax credits--a typical Perverted Triangle deal: the GOP backed money to the companies, the Democrats required that they pay construction workers union wages plus Nanny State benefits.⁴⁰

The costs of government plaguing citizens and families goes far beyond the direct payments of taxes. A recent study estimated that federal regulations alone add \$2 trillion to citizen's costs every year, about \$15,000 annually in household expense.

America's youth today back socialists like Bernie Sanders partly because they have learned from their American history public school textbooks and teachers to subserviently trust government and hate business. The Democratic Party has successfully worked to expand subservience to Big Government and their political power by championing higher teacher pay and backing teacher's unions.

The one room schools across the prairies and west did excellent service well into the 20th Century, providing both great academic education and fantastic, good character development. This could have continued forever if not persecuted by the Democratic Party in favor of building big public school bureaucracies that back and donate to their party. Public schools today are often an instrument of Big Government, promoting pro-Big Government textbooks and liberal, politically correct, Democratic Party social programs and beliefs.

Another way the Perverted Triangle has gained power at the expense of citizens and limited government is gross dereliction of duty by Congressmen. Rather than pass limited laws and holding the Executive Branch accountable, Congress and the Perverted Triangle have empowered an “Administrative State,” a huge, largely unchecked category of Big Government that leverages huge, abusive, destructive power over citizens. Always looking for more ways to buy votes with federal spending programs and tax exemptions and pork and regulations and laws the lobbyists pay for, but limited in time to actually write and craft good legislation, Congress no longer even bothers: they pass vague laws granting their gifts to constituents and lobbyists, collecting their campaign donations, and leave it to bureaucrats and lawyers to figure out what to do, as a Heritage Foundation report in webnotes explains.⁴¹

Five of the eight richest counties in the U.S. are not New York City or big business, industrial centers—they are counties near Washington DC.⁴² The other three surround Silicon Valley. Big money is no longer in building cars or making food and steel, but lobbying and serving the Perverted Triangle, Big Government. Big Government regulations add high paying government jobs, paying twice the salaries of private employers in states like California, a champion of Big Government.

Lobbyists numbered in the 100s in the early decades of America, likely never a thousand until Big Government took off with FDR’s Supreme Court takeover and destruction of Constitutional limits.⁴³ With a small federal budget and federal spending properly restricted to the few enumerated powers, there was not much pork to buy. But that all changed with FDR’s “New Deal,” the end to Constitutional limits to federal spending, and the Perverted Triangle.⁴⁴ There are over 12,000 lobbyists in the U.S. today, spending \$4 billion dollars annually.⁴⁵

“Tammany Hall” was the name of the political machine of the Democratic Party that controlled New York City for 100 years, developing many of the principles of the Perverted Triangle that still rules today. Dead dogs were registered and voted, individuals voted multiple times, but if that type of cheating didn’t work, they simply altered the election results to ensure the desired Democratic candidate won. The machine greeted recent immigrants, gave them food and money, naturalized them as American citizens and signed them up to vote, “and in overwhelming numbers, immigrants happily voted for the Democrats who ran the city.” Their most powerful leader was Boss Tweed, a full-time career politician, a proto-typical member of the Perverted Triangle.

While some of these practices were later outlawed, the Democratic Party still follows the same basic strategy and tactics of Tammany Hall. Blackmail and theft used then is less common now, but there is still “honest graft” when a planned government land buy or other big purchase opens up opportunities to buy land or invest to profit from government insider knowledge. The patronage and corruption of Tammany Hall grew much worse with FDR who built a national “Nanny State” with subsidies and permanent government program bribes to build a dependent, subservient, loyal voting base for the Democratic Party. In the 1960s under LBJ, it devolved into more blatant socialism.

As political scientist Jay Cost concluded in his study of the Democratic Party:

“In time, the spoils system became the foundation for morally bankrupt political machines like Tammany Hall, whose only purpose in winning office was to pay off the supporters who had put it there. The nineteenth-century patronage regime was modernized in the twentieth century by the liberal Democrats who expanded the size and scope of the government with the New Deal. The Democratic party would no longer use more patronage to reward a few

thousand loyalists; now it would take advantage of the massive new regulatory and redistributive powers of Washington to reward millions of new party clients—not only with federal jobs but with beneficial laws that reshaped society to advance their particular interest. The party could take care of whole classes of society—farmers, union workers, urban ethnics—with a single stroke of the presidential pen.”⁴⁶

Compared to the vote buying, character and family destruction of Tammany Hall, the Democratic Party and Perverted Triangle is orders of magnitude worse today. This is why the Democratic Party is referred to as the Evil Party—they destroy both individual responsibility and families, ruining lives and the country to build political power and support the Perverted Triangle.

Regulations undermine, and ultimately ruin personal and family responsibility. Why inspect a house when it is regulated, 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. 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 beholden 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, but 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.

The worst enemies of the U.S. Constitution are Democratic Party top leadership, most top elected officials, Supreme Court Justices, and their accomplices in violating the 10th Amendment, State Governments who are supposed to enforce this most important part of the Bill of Rights, not be bought off with federal grants and pork.

The Welfare and Entitlement Programs of the unconstitutional United States Big Government and Perverted Triangle have undermined Families and subverted Individual Responsibility

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 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 and rights experts, 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.”⁴⁷ 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.”⁴⁸

“[R]edistributive power and its regulatory corollary — the power to take from some and give to others . . . is a naked power that enjoys no credible rationale whatsoever — not from the theory of rights, at least. None of us has such a power in a state of nature. Nor do any of the eminent domain rationales apply to the redistributive power: there is no practical necessity, no just compensation, and no constitutional consent for the power. In a word, however noble-sounding the purported rationales for its exercise may be, the power amounts to theft by government, plain and simple.”⁴⁹

American public school textbooks rail against the greed of businessmen and rich people, but as award winning economist Thomas Sowell rightly argues, "I have never understood why it is 'greed' to want to keep the money you have earned but not greed to want to take somebody else's money."⁵⁰

The theft of income from some Americans to buy votes from others is not the worst damage from these welfare and entitlement programs. Because of FDR’s Social Security system and many additional elderly, poor, business, whatever welfare programs passed since, family care has been replaced by Big Government programs run by bureaucrats. Even childcare, the most basic, fundamental family responsibility is now regulated by Big Government, and often conducted by governments. MaryJo Bane, a professor at Wellesley College and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard said that, “In order to raise children with equality, we must take them away from families and communally raise them.”⁵¹

Hillary Clinton published a book *It Takes a Village* using an African proverb: "It takes a village to raise a child." It was a promotion of the Democratic Party’s long-standing grand strategy of undermining families in favor of government welfare programs and dependence. The book brought huge conservative condemnation, with 1996 GOP POTUS nominee, WWII hero, Senator Bob Dole countering, "... with all due respect, I am here to tell you, it does not take a village to raise a child. It takes a family to raise a child."⁵²

Before the Perverted Triangle, with normal family ties and responsibility in America, welfare was overwhelmingly provided by immediate and extended families, backed up by Churches and private charities. You could live a good life with little income with taxes and regulations small to absent. But after the New Deal, followed by the cancerous growth of the Perverted Triangle and LBJ’s “Great Society” and “War on Poverty” promotion of socialism, the Nanny State wrought huge destruction on the family and created conditions that lock in poverty and dependence for millions of Americans.

Proof positive that Big Government welfare programs have ruined families and created a poor, dependent class is the data on marriage rates and single-family kids. Wealthy Americans continue to have similar marriage rates and overwhelmingly two parent families, but poor Americans were devastated by the surge in socialism and the Nanny State in the 1960s:⁵³

“From 1890 to 1950, black women had a higher marriage rate than white women. And in 1950, just 9% of black children lived without their father. By 1960, the black marriage rate had declined but remained close to the white marriage rate. In other words, despite open racism and widespread poverty, strong black families used to be the norm. But by the mid-1980s, black fatherlessness skyrocketed. Today, only 44% of black children have a father in the home. In unison, the rate of black out-of-wedlock births went from 24.5% in 1964 to 70.7% by 1994, roughly where it stands today. . . . [I]n 1964, only 7% of American children were born out of wedlock, compared to 40% today. As Jason Riley has noted, ‘the government paid mothers to keep fathers out of the home—and paid them well.’”⁵⁴

Dr. Thomas West, a political scientist who has studied American welfare programs, explains how they have assaulted and reduced the attractiveness of 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.”⁵⁵

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. But they are wrong--family structure and family & individual responsibility are decisive in driving work ethic and good character and wise decisions.⁵⁶

When the government provides Social Security you don’t need to take care of your parents. You can leave them on their own or put them in a retirement home. Indeed, you may have to take away their wealth and make them dependent to qualify for some government elderly care benefits. Rather than grandparents supervising children while the parent’s work, government subsidized and regulated day care programs are used. The popular Great Depression era “Walton Family”⁵⁷ of grandparents and two parents in the home has been replaced by unconstitutional socialism and the Nanny State—with great benefit to the Perverted Triangle, but very bad results for poverty, crime, families, and happiness.

Most Americans do want to provide some charity, help to people in legitimate need—but it should be done at the family level first, then with private charities. If they are overwhelmed, then in some cases, local government programs may be justified—if the local populace votes for this and supports it.

War hero, Medal of Honor winner Roy Benevides, summarizes one of the many reasons why government welfare is wrong, work not charity teaches responsibility and good character, and why families are the rightful source of assistance:

“At Christmastime, the welfare office of Wharton County would send baskets to the school for the ‘poor’ kids on the last school day... We would all line up to leave at the end... We’d say thank-you and walk out of school with our ‘gift’ from the county. Man, I can still see the condescending, do-gooder looks in those people’s eyes when they handed us our bags....The entire family worked in the fields from ‘can see’ to ‘can’t see.’ . . . It was all family money, and it went to put clothes on our backs, shoes on our feet, and beans in our bellies. Soon, I found myself wanting to be part of that team, and I began to take pride in my contribution...”⁵⁸

FDR and Public School textbooks try to persuade you that the New Deal and social welfare programs saved Americans from starving in the Great Depression. From Colonial Days on, without

exception, starvation in America has not occurred due to our relatively fantastic farmland, families providing assistance, along with churches, private charities, and even local government aid to the poor. The notion that FDR created the first government provided aid to the poor is yet another Big Lie of the Perverted Triangle and public school textbooks.

Contrary to public school textbook disinformation that poor people were starving to death in the Depression and there was no assistance whatsoever from private or public assistance prior to FDR, there was substantial amounts of both—though overwhelmingly not needed because the primary, best form of assistance—families—was provided. Many local governments provided public assistance, as they had since colonial times. As Dr. Thomas G. West, Professor of Politics at Hillsdale College explained, “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.”⁵⁹ Government provided relief to the poor was small, administered locally, required work, and was managed to prevent abuse. The Founding Fathers noted how Britain had set up aid programs providing the poor enough to live in idleness, providing bad incentives and increasing poverty. Early, small, local public welfare programs were, as Dr. West explains, “intended to help the poor in ways that did not violate the rights of taxpayers or promote irresponsible behavior.” Thomas Jefferson regarded government welfare programs that help people who choose not to work as unjust, wrong to compel workers to support shirkers, in effect enslaving working people to lazy nonworkers—and violating the fundamental principles of freedom of the Declaration of Independence.⁶⁰

And what was the best way to avoid poverty? Families. Again quoting Dr. West’s research, “The self-reliant family was to be the nation’s main poverty program.”

“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.”⁶¹

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.⁶² 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.⁶³ 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.⁶⁴

When government is responsible for education rather than family, a disgruntled teenager who shoots up a school, the parents are not held accountable. Before the Big Government takeover, parents, backed often by the extended family, could and did closely supervise, educate and discipline their kids. But FDR's "New Deal" and LBJ's "Great Society" programs, Big Government, destroyed this family responsibility. Democrats blame guns for school shootings, not the break down in family and personal responsibility that flows from FDR's New Deal, Johnson's Great Society, and trillions of dollars of Perverted Triangle welfare and social program spending. School gun violence should not be blamed on guns or lack of government funded mental health treatment, but on FDR, the Democratic Party, and the Perverted Triangle for undermining and in millions of cases, destroying the American family.

Anyone who thinks that Big Government and the legal system is the best way to reduce gun violence is profoundly misguided. If a teenager is being abused in school and/or via social media and needs help—a parent may know that and be able to address it. Tasking a government bureaucrat to deal with this is deeply misguided. Believing that it is possible to eliminate guns in the country, or other means for people to commit mass murders, also reflects a serious lack of judgment. Next year it may not be guns that a disgruntled teenager uses to kill and lash out. He or she might poison a water supply, set off an improvised explosive device, release a virus or leverage some new technology to kill. Families are the only feasible means of discovering seriously upset or deranged people and reporting or (better) dealing with them. If it is a government responsibility to deal with mental health or violence, then families are absolved of responsibility to watch over family members. But that is exactly what the Perverted Triangle wants: a subservient, dependent population that relies on Big Government to take care of them, and votes to keep them in power.

Big Business, Big Media, Big Government, Big Legal System all shape and work and manage the system to maximum benefit. The rest of us are left to bear the consequences. And worse, American character and responsibility has been perverted, perhaps irretrievably for many. The worst villain of all in this is the Democratic Party, the champion of socialism, welfare and entitlement programs, Big Government, and the Perverted Triangle. By subverting the family and personal responsibility, they shape a citizenry that is dependent, subservient, begging for the government handouts that Democratic officials provide. Republicans are little better. They talk the Libertarian, responsible, limited government talk, but vote and act to bring in the pork and get reelected as their top priority, ignoring the 9th and 10th Amendments just like Democrats.

Whenever Government races in to fix a problem—and expand their power--the Perverted Triangle gains and freedom, families, and personal responsibility decline. When Government adds a new social or welfare program, families and individuals have less responsibility for fixing it. Personal income also declines, since government social programs are inherently expensive and ineffective. The program will likely fail and have many bad unintended and unadmitted problems, but it will definitely benefit the Perverted Triangle, harm responsibility, and lower most citizen's personal income.

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 federal welfare kicked in. 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.⁶⁵ 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.⁶⁶

A leading cause of marital strife and divorce is stress from inadequate money.⁶⁷ 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.

The Heritage Foundation has as their #1 goal, working to “restore the family as the centerpiece of American life” primarily by keeping government rules and bureaucrats out of our lives (i.e. freedom, liberty). They point out that “In many ways, the entire point of centralizing political power is to subvert the family. Its purpose is to replace people’s natural loves and loyalties with unnatural ones.”⁶⁸

Political Scientist Charles Murray has documented in his many books how “The perverse incentives of the welfare state have created dependency and human suffering.”⁶⁹

Since many liberals believe that white conservative Republicans are inherently evil, self-serving liars, the next seven paragraphs only cite Democrats and minorities.

It is individual responsibility, conduct, and work effort that truly matters—not the starting position or level of discrimination. Former Democratic Governor Richard Lamm noted that “minorities that have been discriminated against earn the highest family incomes in America. Japanese Americans, Jews, Chinese Americans, and Korean Americans all outran white Americans by substantial margins Discrimination and racism are social cancers and can never be justified, but it is enlightening that, for these groups, they were a hurdle, not a barrier to success.”⁷⁰ Cuban Americans have succeeded in the U.S., far more than Hispanics from Mexico because of cultural differences in valuing education and work ethic. “Asian and Jewish children do twice as much homework as black and Hispanic students and get twice as good grades. Why should we be surprised?” Black scholar Shelby Steele insists that focus on being victims keeps minorities in a victim-focused identity, undermines efforts to succeed, and breeds dependence.⁷¹

Lamm condemns his party’s emphasis on “minorities as victims” which is “self-defeating to minorities.”⁷² Lamm concluded that “groups whose culture and values stress delayed gratification- education, hard work, success, and ambition- are those groups that succeed in America, regardless of discrimination.”⁷³

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.”⁷⁴

Vietnam War hero Roy Benevides, quoted earlier, credited family values for his character, not welfare. Lionel Sosa, one of America’s leading Hispanic businessmen, wrote that “When I say that Latinos share conservative values, when Ronald Reagan said that, we mean the love of family, the love of country, a commitment to personal responsibility, to hard work.”⁷⁵

In a detailed US Department of Labor study of black poverty in the 1960s, conducted by Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a Ph.D. sociologist, who would later serve as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and four-terms as a Democratic Senator, warned about how welfare programs were destroying families, particularly urban black families, and promoting crime. “Moynihan argued that the decline of the black nuclear family would significantly impede blacks’ progress toward economic and social equality.”⁷⁶ Moynihan concluded, “there is one unmistakable lesson in American history: a community that allows a large number of young men to grow up in broken families ... never acquiring any stable relationship to male authority, never acquiring any set of rational expectations about the future – that community asks for and gets chaos. Crime, violence, unrest, disorder ... that is not only to be expected; it is very near to inevitable.”⁷⁷

Martin Luther King noted that “In spite of its glowing talk about the welfare of the masses, Communism's methods and philosophy strip man of his dignity and worth, leaving him as little more than a depersonalized cog in the ever-turning wheel of the state.”⁷⁸

Martin Luther King, Democratic Governor Lamm, Democratic Senator Moynihan, economist Thomas Sowell, Medal of Honor winner Roy Benevides, businessman Lionel Sosa, anyone honestly looking at discrimination and success in the U.S. will reach the same conclusion. Government welfare programs teach and reward dependency, not efforts to learn, work hard and succeed.

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.⁷⁹ 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 to achieve.

Dr. Thomas West, a political scientist who studied American welfare programs has this to say:

“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.”⁸⁰

We did not “win” the illegal “War On Poverty” LBJ launched, we just destroyed families and built a more dependent, far less happy, larger group of poor people. Rather than temporary poverty, the norm for most Americans in the past, we enabled generational, very long term poverty, disincentivizing both marriage and work. Combined with these horrible effects of the Nanny State, other aspects of Big Government made it much harder to escape poverty.

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.⁸¹

The standard lie of building code officials is that community safety drives them. But the vast 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).⁸² 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.⁸³ 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.”⁸⁴ 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.

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 know 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!!⁸⁵ Add to this state and local government rules and regulations and permits and you see more clearly 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, largely erased by the Perverted Triangle and relentless, unchecked growth of Big Government.⁸⁶

In a state like West Virginia, the tax agency can randomly audit your business, issue an obscenely wrong ruling, bill you (in my case for someone else's business), and your only recourse is to appeal in an administrative law court. But even that proved impossible because that court refused to let me argue my case—I was required to hire an attorney to represent me! I refused to do this; it was an outrageously wrong series of government lies and misconduct I could explain. But perverted government employees and outrageously wrong laws, combined with a legal system designed to maximize lawyer's income, led the Administrative Court Judge to refuse my testimony (the accused), and I was ordered to pay taxes they suspected someone else may have generated in their business. Our laws and legal system are a perverted, corrupt, unjust disgrace, "un-American" relative to the goals espoused in the Declaration of Independence.

Poor Americans are not just allowed to buy government lottery tickets but subjected to government-funded marketing campaigns encouraging to throw their money away in one in a billion chance of winning. And unconstitutional Big Government (the Securities and Exchange Commission) prohibits poor Americans from investing in start-up companies that offer legitimate opportunities for huge return on investment. Of course, the Perverted Triangle will insist there is no law banning poor people from investments. But our federal and state governments are run by unscrupulous, unethical, professional liars, the Perverted Triangle. The poor are banned from investing in a start up like Facebook or Microsoft with a big lie of "accredited investor" requirements. SEC laws require most start-up companies trying to raise capital to use only "accredited investors" which you would think means experienced investors or people who have had training, passed some test on investor knowledge. But it's a deliberate lie. The only requirement of being an "accredited investor" is to be rich: at least a million dollars in net worth. It has absolutely nothing to do with experience or education or investment knowledge. It is a typical, disgusting, immoral, wretched Big Government lie. The social security number is another government lie. The FDR Administration knew that a welfare program for poor elderly would be rejected, so they designed the unconstitutional social security program to look like a retirement plan, with individual retirement savings accounts and your "social security number" for your retirement bank account. The Perverted Triangle studied FDR's deceit and trickery well, so they regularly lie with "social security number" to make you think you've got a retirement account, "accredited investor" to hide laws banning poor people from investments offering huge returns, "loans" from the government that don't have to be paid back.⁸⁷

Problems paying your bills? It's no problem!!! Just declare bankruptcy; the lawyers will take care of you—and pass on your debts to everyone else in the form of higher prices. Bankruptcies used to be rare in America, just 0.15 per 1,000 people, growing just slightly with the great stock market collapse of 1929 and the Great Depression. But after FDR's New Deal and launch of the Perverted

Triangle, bankruptcy rates kept rising despite the far greater levels of wealth today. In the 2000s we have over a million bankruptcies a year, 80 times the per capita bankruptcy rate of the time when Americans were responsible, and not subsidized and corrupted by the Nanny State and Perverted Triangle.⁸⁸ Bankruptcy rates are not up because the economy or poverty is worse, but because Americans are increasingly irresponsible, and it's good business for lawyers.

The Democratic Party would like to have everyone dependent on Big Government, begging for government handouts and rules, not personal responsibility for making decisions or taking care of yourself (and family). The Democratic Party and Perverted Triangle encourage growth in personal irresponsibility, so there is more call for government programs, more votes for them, more dependence on Big Government power. Since the 1960s, GOP representatives have been almost as corrupt in promoting pork and gifts to constituents to justify campaign donations and buy re-election. The Perverted Triangle promotes the entitlement mentality and never-ending proposals for new programs, more laws and regulations, more government spending to solve our problems for us, taking responsibility from us, growing their budget and numbers and power. This has been the corrupting, evil, core strategy of the Democratic Party for decades, with most Republicans partners in crime, treating the U.S. Constitution like toilet paper.⁸⁹

Thomas Sowell, a brilliant Libertarian economist wrote that “The welfare state is not really about the welfare of the masses. It is about the egos of the elites.”⁹⁰

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.”⁹¹

Ignoring our Priority Natural Rights and 9th Amendment, is another unAmerican, unconstitutional, intolerable abuse from the Perverted Triangle

The Founders believed in the moral and political thought called “state of nature theory.” The Declaration of Independence begins with discussing the “state of nature,” a “civil society,” and “self-evident” truths — truths of reason in the tradition of natural law, Natural Rights that all human beings are born with.⁹² As Roger Pilon, an expert on the Constitution from the Cato Institute explains, “They believed, quite simply, that there is a higher law of right and wrong from which to derive the positive law [(law laid down by a legislature)] and against which to judge that law at any point in time. And that higher law is . . . the law of individual liberty and, as a corollary, individual responsibility.”⁹³

“We do not get our natural rights from government; we are born with those rights; indeed, whatever rights or powers government has are given to it by us. . . . [T]he only proviso is that, as we chart our courses, we respect the equal rights in others to do the same.” – Roger Pilon, Cato Institute

People are endowed by their Creator with certain Inalienable Rights, Natural Rights of liberty and freedom and responsibility that are above the limited rights and powers we delegate, give up, to Government. This was the most important point of the American Revolution, American political philosophy, and the Constitution. Again quoting Pilon:

“The central issue here could not be more important: it is whether we are servants of government, beholden to it for our rights, or government is our servant, beholden to us for its powers. That issue would later manifest itself in the Constitution, in the form of the doctrine of enumerated powers — the idea that government’s powers are delegated by the people, who first have them to delegate; are enumerated in the document; and thus are limited by virtue of that delegation and enumeration. . . . [P]eople come first, government second. That was the central point the Founders sought to pin down.”⁹⁴

Rights are intimately bound up with property, your freedom and incentive to amass not just personal belongings, but wealth and ideas, business enterprises. It is not just private property for amassing wealth, capitalism, but the freedom and incentive to pass your legacy on to your family and other causes you support. Some of our Natural Rights (commonly referred to as “personal liberties”) are sacrificed to government primarily to protect private property from external enemies or bad fellow citizens who try to take our property.

When government uses its powers to take private property, it is limited to do this in support of its assigned, delegated, enumerated mission of protecting property and citizen’s lives. Taxes to support national defense, homeland security, a legal system to deter and punish criminals are proper. Taking private property and wealth, taxes, to support social programs or income redistribution are not as Pilon explains: “Were we to compel assistance, we too would violate rights. In a free society, people are free to be virtuous — or not. Indeed, only when virtuous acts are voluntary can they be called virtuous. . . . As part of our liberty, our right to freely act, each of us has a right to associate with others, provided only that the association be voluntary on all sides. The only limit to these rights is to not to harm others in exercising your personal freedom to enjoy Natural Rights”⁹⁵ Government “robbing Peter to pay Paul” is theft, unconstitutional, a gross violation of Natural Rights.

Devin Watkins, who researches and writes for both the Cato Institute and The Federalist Society, put it succinctly: “The reason that governments are ‘instituted among men’ is to protect our Natural Rights, as the Declaration of Independence states. Those Natural Rights of life, liberty, and property protected implicitly in the original Constitution are explicitly protected in the Bill of Rights. **That right of liberty is the right to do all those things which do not harm another’s life, property, or equal liberty.**”⁹⁶ Natural rights do not include a right to a job for life (public employee unions) or income without working (government welfare programs), or taking one person’s wealth and giving it to another.

The Constitution rests on a presumption of liberty. Those in the founding generation who demanded that a Bill of Rights be added meant for each of those amendments to be respected, especially those that speak to the very foundations of our Constitution, such as the Ninth, “The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.” Roger Pilon explains what the first Americans understood, but citizen’s since have largely forgotten, thanks in part to public textbooks that ignore Natural Rights and champion Big Government rather than America’s concept of freedom:

“Echoing the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution’s Preamble, the Ninth and Tenth Amendments go together to give us the Constitution’s theory of legitimacy. The Constitution rests on a presumption of liberty. Those in the founding generation who demanded that a bill of rights be added meant for each of those amendments to be respected, especially those that speak to the very foundations of our Constitution, the Ninth and Tenth Amendments. The Ninth Amendment says that the Constitution’s enumeration of certain rights “shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.” We cannot “retain” what we don’t first have to be retained, the Natural Rights we never gave up when we created government. And echoing that, but in reverse, the Tenth Amendment says that the federal government has only those powers we delegated to it, as enumerated in the Constitution. The rest belong either to the states or to the people, never having been delegated to either level of government.”⁹⁷

Georgetown law professor and Constitution expert Randy Barnett has extensively studied the Ninth Amendment and concluded that the amendment provides explicit guidance on how to interpret the Constitution. Specifically, it tells us that “unenumerated rights deserve no less protection from courts than those that were enumerated.” Accordingly, interpretations contrary to that principle are constitutionally prohibited.⁹⁸

James Wilson, one of the Constitution’s drafters, argued that a Bill of Rights would endanger liberty by implying that any rights left off the list were unprotected. Because it would be impossible to list all the rights that a person holds, it was better not to have a Bill of Rights at all. Instead, he argued, the Constitution protected liberty by carefully limiting the powers held by the government. The Ninth Amendment was the compromise measure. By clarifying that listing certain rights did not mean that other rights were less protected, the drafters thought that they had covered all of their bases. The rights listed in the first ten amendments would be protected, but so would those that were not listed. That was important, because the rights listed in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights amendments are hardly comprehensive. Notably left off the list is the principal right asserted in the Declaration of Independence: the right to “alter or abolish” an unjust and abusive government. This and other rights were included in the Bills of Rights of many state constitutions, but they were not explicitly listed in the Bill of Rights amendments to the national Constitution. The Ninth Amendment ensured that these rights would not be demoted to second-class status, as people like James Wilson had feared.⁹⁹

So vital to Americans were their Natural Rights, that in addition to protecting them in the federal constitution via the language of the Constitution and the 9th Amendment but in most of the State Constitutions.¹⁰⁰ Today, thirty-three state constitutions have Baby Ninths, the highest ratio in US history.¹⁰¹

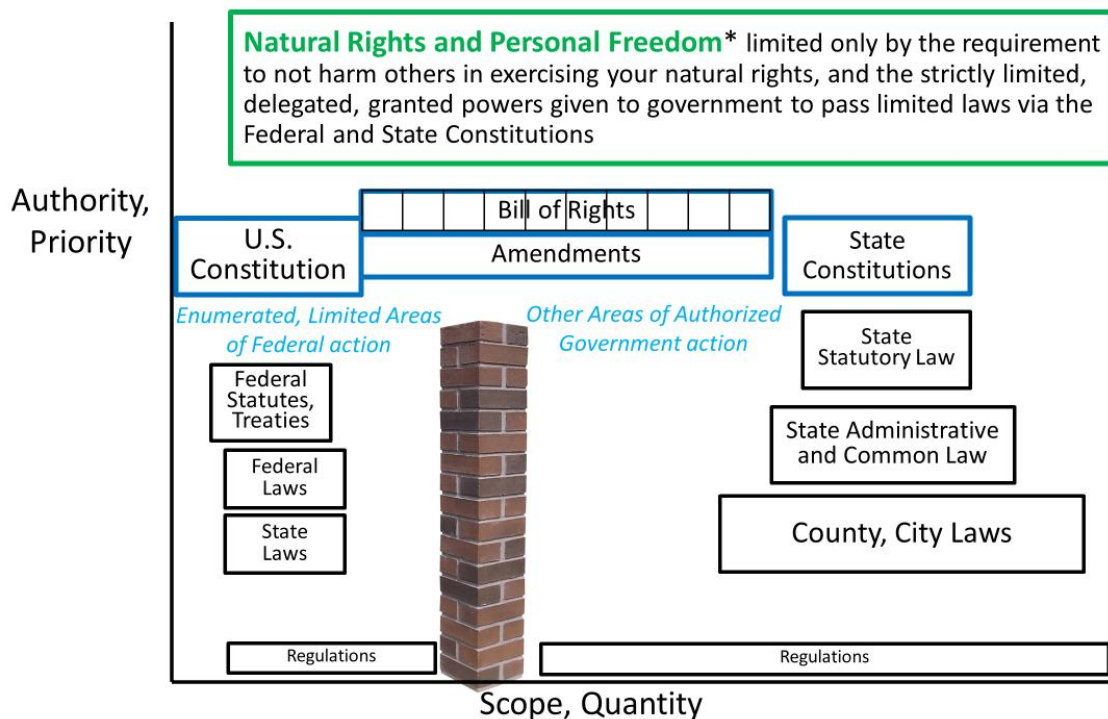
Though the Bill of Rights amendments originally applied only to the federal government, the 14th Amendment, approved by the States, applies these protections against state governments as well.

As another Cato Institute scholar summarized, “Our Constitution is one of expansive rights and limited government. The Ninth Amendment’s inclusion in the Bill of Rights reminds us, and the Supreme Court, not to interpret it otherwise.”¹⁰²

“For 150 years, the Supreme Court has applied the 14th Amendment in rulings that have shaped civil rights and liberties in America. Introduced to address the racial discrimination endured by Black people who were recently emancipated from slavery, the amendment confirmed the rights and privileges of citizenship and, for the first time, guaranteed all Americans equal protection under the laws. The 14th Amendment continues to be central to the fight for racial equality and many other social justice movements.”¹⁰³

To make it easier to understand and insist on the defense and retention of Natural Rights, the following diagram is offered.

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

The Rule of Law is essential for a fair and just society—but not if it excessively interferes with our retained Natural Rights. The term and demand for “respecting the rule of law” is often abused by the Perverted Triangle to cow citizens into obeying outrageously wrong laws that violate our Natural Rights, or submitting to abuse by lawyers--ignoring our Natural Rights and the Constitution which are above both government laws and regulations.

Bright people with the time to study the Constitution, history, and American politics like George Will, writing in the liberal Washington Post understand Natural Rights that were the basis for the Declaration of Independent that our Constitution was designed to protect:

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“where collective decisions are made for the polity — majorities should generally have their way. But a vast portion of life should be exempt from control by majorities. . . . Otherwise, individuals' self-governance of themselves is sacrificed to self-government understood merely as a prerogative of majorities. The Constitution is a companion of the Declaration of Independence and should be construed as an implementation of the Declaration's premises, which include: Government exists not to confer rights but to "secure" preexisting rights; the fundamental rights concern the liberty of individuals, not the prerogatives of the collectivity — least of all when it acts to the detriment of individual liberty. The Constitution is a document, one understood — as America's greatest jurist, John Marshall, said — ‘chiefly from its words.’”¹⁰⁴

Will calls Natural Rights, “the right to be left alone,” the key principle of the Founding Fathers and Libertarians today. But the Declaration of Independence and Constitution’s clear intent and clear words were ignored and America’s key retained Natural Rights were violated by FDR and his Supreme Court. The Perverted Triangle opposes Natural Rights in favor of unlimited Big Government, unlimited power.

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.¹⁰⁵ 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.

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.¹⁰⁶ The Perverted Triangle since FDR has deliberately shaped a system of law and government that eliminates Natural Rights that were absolutely retained, and remain the top priority in American Government—as 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.¹⁰⁷

Critics of courts upholding Natural Rights argue that “It eviscerates law, is unspecified and open to numerous interpretations, and, most dangerously, unleashes the power of government to secure its sheer unbounded claims.”¹⁰⁸ No, it will not unleash government power if 1) the courts strike down laws in favor our Natural Right to be left alone—not create new laws that infringe on personal liberty, and 2) Federal and State Governments are prohibited from getting involved in social legislation. We do want to error on the side of “eviscerating law”—minimizing the number and scope of laws. That’s the absolute key to America, our liberty, our Constitution and society;

minimum, inadequate if necessary, government and laws in favor of **maximum** personal freedom from government, laws, politicians, bureaucrats and lawyers. This is the reason the American Revolution was launched—to protect Natural Rights and limit government.

The Supreme Court since FDR has done far worse than just flush key parts of the Constitution down the toilet. They and the Perverted Triangle they are part of have wiped out limits to government at all levels in all manner of law and life. A later section of this paper lays out the immense growth in laws and loss of Natural Rights in our legal system, another horrible casualty of the Perverted Triangle and unlimited government.

Roger Pilon is correct, “in the post-New Deal era, the unenumerated rights issue has been misframed. It is not for a court or a plaintiff to “find” a right “in” a constitution. It is for the government to justify its action.”¹⁰⁹ Experts from the Cato Institute, the premier Libertarian think tank, explained how our legal system is supposed to operate; retained Natural Rights have priority and the burden of proof is on government officials to prove the law is a proper one, a rightful and necessary act of government consistent with the very limited, few powers We The People delegated to government: “[O]nce a plaintiff has made a prima facie case showing that the statute at issue restricts his liberty, [the state must] justify its statute as a proper exercise of its power to protect rights.”¹¹⁰

Georgetown University Law Professor Randy Barnett also insists that our Natural Rights are superior, and the burden of proof when they are violated is on government:

“[T]he Ninth Amendment can be viewed as establishing a general constitutional presumption in favor of individual liberty. According to the presumptive approach, individuals are constitutionally privileged to engage in rightful behavior — acts that are within their sphere of moral jurisdiction — and such behavior is presumptively immune from governmental interference. Identifying rightful conduct by determining the proper contours of this moral jurisdiction is what distinguishes liberty from license. This kind of inquiry is exactly what common law courts have been doing for centuries with occasional assistance from legislatures. The freedom to act within the boundaries provided by one’s common law rights may be viewed as a central background presumption of the Constitution — a presumption that is reflected in the Ninth Amendment.”¹¹¹

Since this is not at all how our legal system works today, we must force changes to recover American freedom and our retained Natural Rights:

1. Require Judges to protect and favor retained Natural Rights—our top priority rights; and limit any government interference with them at any level of government unless the government officials can prove a law or regulation is a proper one, a rightful and necessary act of government consistent with the very limited, few powers We The People delegated.
2. Ban Judges from prioritizing past case decisions and *stare decisis*, requiring that they rule based on what is the most just, best outcome considering the truth and particular situations of the case at hand and Natural Rights.
3. Citizens serving on juries must be willing to defy judicial guidance to prioritize a just ruling based on individual freedom and reasonable justice, not an unproven government claim of valid law or an old case decision that a judge prioritizes over right/wrong in the case at hand.

In other words: our legal system must error on the side of maximum individual freedom and minimum Legislative laws and Judicial law making (*stare decisis*). This is what the Declaration of Independence and Constitution called for: prioritizing natural laws and individual liberty!

For any branch of the government, especially the Supreme Court, to ignore the Constitution's primary goal of protecting Natural Rights and individual liberty is a complete betrayal of the Constitution, the American Revolution, and the whole idea of American freedom and liberty—and absolutely unconstitutional.

Conservatives made an understandable, well intentioned, but really bad error in the 1960s and 70s by failing to defend our retained Natural Rights, abandoning them out of concern over liberal, “activist” Judges using Natural Rights in their rulings to grant privileges they did not like. In particular, they hate *Roe vs. Wade*, a judgment that said a person's Natural Right to privacy prevents the federal government from banning abortion (but not States).

Libertarians, like Pilon, called this a grave mistake because sacrificing Natural Rights means that all unenumerated rights are in effect eliminated. Judge Robert Bork whose writings motivated the conservative “judicial restraint” movement, hated the Warren and Burger Courts’ “judicial activism,” but in urging judges to defer to Legislatures this empowered the redistributive and regulatory administrative state that conservatives hated. Far worse, “with their call for judicial deference these conservatives were turning our Madisonian Constitution on its head by privileging the right of self-government over the right of individual liberty.”¹¹² The virtually unknown (today) primacy of Natural Rights, so clear to the Founding Fathers as the top priority, with “democratic rule not as an end in itself but rather as a means toward securing liberty” was surrendered by this foolish railing against judicial activism. By denying “active” Judges the ability, the duty to protect our Natural Rights from government at all levels, and worse, prioritizing legislative laws, Bork and the judicial restraint movement enabled the Perverted Triangle to wield more power! It is the opposite of what was intended in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution: priority Natural Rights surrendered to “political majorities to rule unconstitutionally over individuals and political minorities.”¹¹³

So vital to Americans were their Natural Rights and their “guarantee” of primacy in the 9th Amendment, that in addition to protecting them in the Federal Constitution, they are in most state constitutions as well.¹¹⁴

But with the Perverted Triangle growing in power, and no effective push back from “conservatives” in Congress (too focused on re-election campaigns) the Executive (thrilled with the additional power), or State Governments (thrilled to take the “free” federal funds flowing in), the Supreme Court further emasculated the 9th Amendment in 1955 in another grossly wrong, intolerable ruling, *William v. Lee Optical*, where the Court ruled that unless a right is enumerated, spelled out in the Constitution, any legislated law will simply be regarded as “rational”—OK, regardless of any natural right or personal liberty! Like the 1937 *Helvering* decision illegally wiping out the 10th Amendment, the Supreme Court in effect amended the Constitution illegally and decided the 9th Amendment also could just be erased, completely ignored.¹¹⁵

And since Judges and lawyers love “*stare decisis*,” citing past case decisions, and arguing based on how they apply to the current case (not the laws, truths of a case, or justice for the individuals given their particular situations and motivations), one Supreme Court outrageously wrong ruling, illegally

amending/changing the Constitution, completely screws everyone in all cases to come. Natural Rights were in effect erased, eliminated!¹¹⁶

Stare decisis puts past Judges, lawyers, in the position of Gods. It favors and virtually demands use of lawyers and expensive law firms with staffs to research not the Constitution or laws, but multitudes of past case rulings--and all the angles and tricks of applying them. Laws written by Congress do not rule. Instead, past, sometimes perverted and grossly wrong judge's decisions rule. Innocent citizens, now devoid of the protection of Natural Rights, who cannot afford or do not want to suffer a lawyer are in a very disadvantaged position, likely to lose in court even when they are not guilty. *Stare decisis* does not benefit citizens or promote justice—it promotes lawyers and their egos and profit.¹¹⁷

Stare decisis makes it harder to overrule a past bad Court decision. Worse, it leads to cases decided not on truth or what is the fairest, most just decision—but which attorney is best at researching and arguing old case precedents. There is no legal basis for this practice of elevating past judicial decisions to laws, and certainly not ignoring our Natural Rights that stand above all laws in priority. But it is a fantastic practice for promoting lawyers, big legal bills, and forcing citizens to use lawyers even when completely innocent since right or wrong, just or unjust, is largely irrelevant in U.S. Courts today. You can get away with murder or any crime if you can outspend your opponent in a legal system based on case law citations, in Courts where lawyers can artfully lie with impunity, and common sense, natural rights, justice is irrelevant.

The argument that *stare decisis* provides consistency, predictability, stability, and neutrality are not actually benefits of reliance on precedent since judges may choose among precedents or choose to ignore or overrule them since there is absolutely no legal requirement to follow opinions of past judges rather than laws as written, and the particular circumstances and truths, justice in the case at hand.¹¹⁸

And it is absolutely wrong to favor the views of current Court Justices over the views of those who ratified the Constitution—as the 1937 *Helvering* case so clearly demonstrates.

Stare decisis enables the rape of our Constitution and destruction of American limited government because once the Supreme Court illegally erased the 9th and 10th Amendments, Constitutional limits to government and protection of our Natural Rights and personal freedoms in Court was eliminated. Americans, thanks to FDR, the Supreme Court, and rest of the Perverted Triangle, turned free citizens into slaves of career politicians, government bureaucrats, and lawyers.¹¹⁹

The original Constitution, even with the vital Bill of Rights (Amendments 1-10, which the Anti-Federalists forced and were agreed to in order to get State ratification and approval of the Constitution), still had major shortcomings in protecting freedom and liberty, beyond the obvious slavery contradiction. The Civil War and 13th Amendment ended slavery, but it also took other Amendments to restrict state and local government abuse of freedom:

- The 14th Amendment extends Constitutional protection of individual rights of life, liberty and property to State and local jurisdictions
- 15th Amendment prohibits federal/state governments from denying citizen's right to vote
- 19th Amendment protecting right of citizens to vote “shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex”
- 26th Amendment reducing mandatory voting age to 18 years.

The great defect of the Constitution, slavery, was finally corrected with the Civil War and the 13th and 14th Amendments. If Natural Rights had been defended by the Supreme Court as they should have (overriding the Constitution in preeminence), this abuse would have been solved in the 1800s. Government and Courts that respected and obeyed our Natural Rights—which are supreme, above the Constitution in priority and authority, far above positive laws passed by legislatures—would also have stopped the lies and theft and abuse of Native Americans. Chief Standing Bear said all he needed to in court when he raised his right and said: “That hand is not the color of yours, but if I pierce it, I shall feel pain. If you pierce your hand, you also feel pain. The blood that will flow from mine will be of the same color as yours. **I am a man.** The same God made us both.”¹²⁰ As a human being he had Natural Rights that trump every law, government bureaucrat, and regulation in the land. But because Natural Rights to personal freedom are wrongly ignored in U.S. Courts, discrimination that plagued African, Chinese, Japanese, Native Americans continued, and in some instances, still occurs.

How could this happen when the Ninth Amendment is so absolutely clear, both in its text and legislative intent: “The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people”?

Of course, when people disagree, and court cases occur, Judges (and ideally juries) need to judge and decide what unenumerated Natural Rights should be protected, and whether a law or some other conflicting right should take priority. It is pointless, a fool’s errand to try and legislate every possible right and stupider yet to try and argue what is right or wrong based on arguing past case decisions by other judges. What makes sense is for Judges and Juries to decide—guided by the Declaration and the Constitution, the priority of Natural Rights and personal freedom, sacrificed only when we are interfering with other’s Natural Rights, imposing harm or a huge risk of causing great harm to others. And as Pilon points out, “the principles of adjudication are the same with all rights, enumerated and unenumerated alike. Thus, from both a textual and an adjudicatory perspective, judges must uphold our written Constitution by discovering and securing unenumerated rights, just as they must and do with enumerated rights.” What is completely unacceptable is ignoring our Natural Rights to maximum freedom and the absolutely key American principles of limited government.

“It was the doctrine of enumerated powers that was meant to constitute the principal defense against overweening government.” The problem wasn’t lack of votes in Parliament (which as a minority, would have had little or no effect) but rather the “unrestrained majoritarian regime, as the Founders knew from their experience with English rule.”¹²¹ The Boston Tea Party participants objected to the tax on tea, not the fact that they didn’t have a representative in Parliament to vote on it. The Revolution was not launched to gain seats in Parliament, but to proclaim a totally new type of government where The People had Natural Rights that were above and superior to any legislatures, God or king’s claim of authority. But its far better for the Perverted Triangle to have a docile, subservient population that blindly obeys and submits, so they teach in public history books that the Revolutionary War was just because of “taxation without representation,” and now that Americans can vote, government is good, FDR was the greatest American ever, businesses and greed and rich people are evil. The Perverted Triangle would love citizens to limit their involvement to voting, with elections limited to the Democratic Party and GOP, and blindly obey all laws. They champion “rule of law”—but most federal laws are unconstitutional, and a massive, ever-growing avalanche of laws and regulations have destroyed most of our freedom and are ruining our country.

The 9th and 10th Amendments are still there; but Congress, the Executive Branch and Courts are free to ignore them whenever they want. Worse, with the perversion of *stare decisis* and lawyers über alles, Judges follow and weigh past case decisions over both our superior Natural Rights and the Constitution! Most Americans know our government and judicial system are grossly wrong, but have no idea how the Perverted Triangle took most of their liberties and protection from Big Government.¹²²

Our Legal System has been corrupted by the Perverted Triangle, lawyers allowed to lie in Court, justice subordinated to case precedents, and must be reformed to prioritize truth, Natural Rights, and Justice

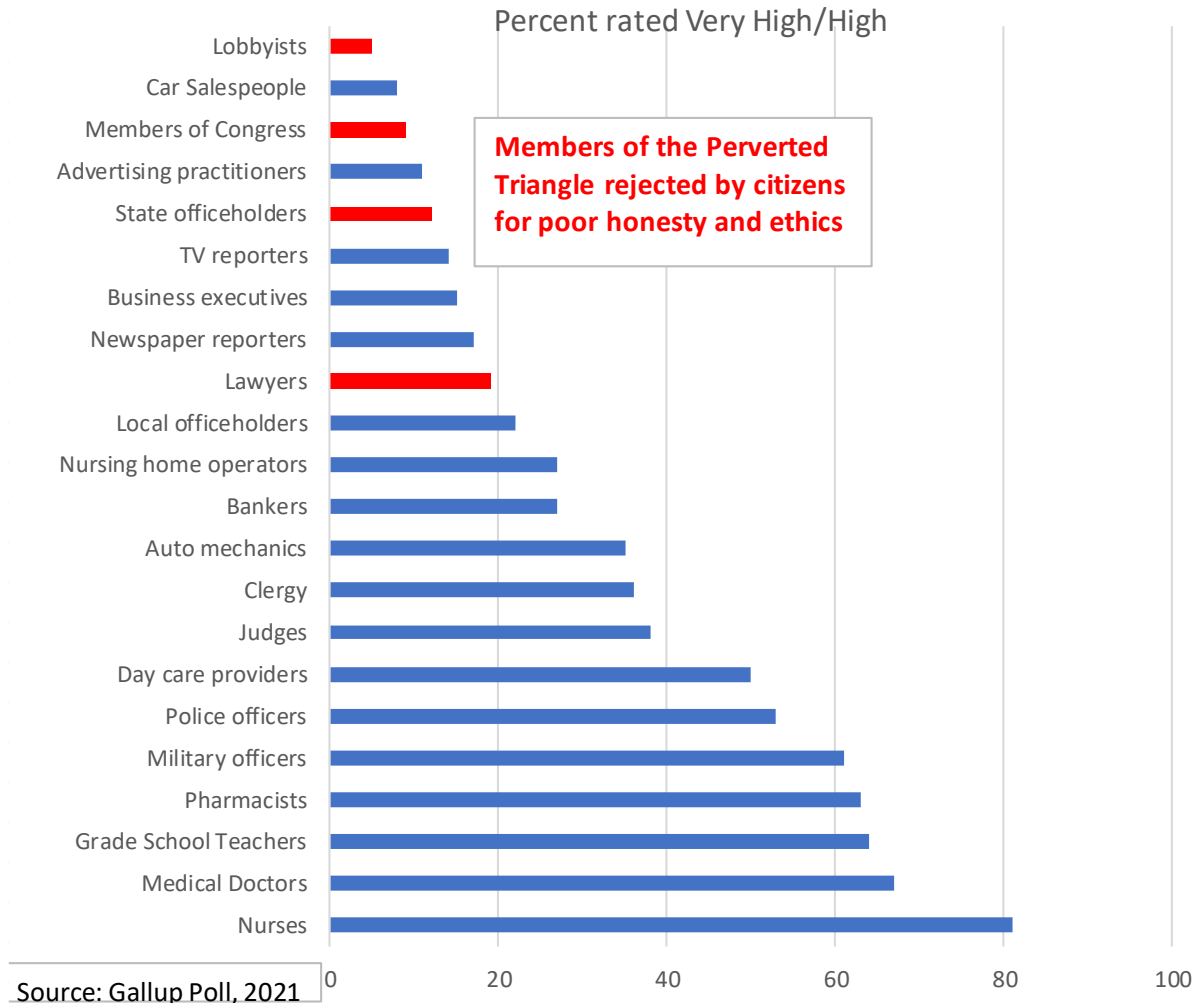
If more laws and government spending was going to solve crime, it would have ended decades ago. Our uUS government has failed in its War on Poverty and War on Drugs, and is not going to ever stop bad people from committing crimes. Gangs and flash mobs can openly shoplift from stores today with employees barred from trying to stop them (too much risk of a shyster lawyer lawsuit), little prospects of being arrested and less chance of being punished in court. In Big Government states like California where the Perverted Triangle has undisputed control, stealing merchandise worth under \$950 is now judged a misdemeanor, not worth arresting or prosecuting, “shoplifting is now de facto legal.”¹²³

The U.S. has the highest liability costs as a percentage of GDP of the advanced industrialized countries, with liability costs about three times the average level of European countries.¹²⁴ Because of the Perverted Triangle, the U.S. is plagued with one of the highest rates of lawyers per capita in the world, more imprisoned people per capita than other country, and an obscenely expensive and ineffective legal system, that prioritizes lawyers and their income, not justice or the Natural Rights we fought a Revolution to obtain.¹²⁵ Lawyer’s costs are obscenely high, and courts encourage or require use of lawyers. Most citizen cannot afford expensive defense counsels, and enter guilty pleas without interviewing any prosecution witnesses—it is cheaper to plead guilty than risk an expensive legal battle where innocence and guilt is subordinated to lawyers income, case citations and loopholes, and the lawyer-enriching process that allows wealthy parties to endlessly delay and pile on legal costs to bury a poorer opponent. Laws written and passed by lawyer politicians (the Perverted Triangle) bar non-lawyers from giving legal advice—forcing citizens to get abused and fleeced by attorneys. Americans have been abused by the Perverted Triangle’s new legal system, with personal liberties and Natural Rights erased, lawyers über alles. We are no longer the land of the free.

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.”¹²⁶ 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.¹²⁷

Lawyers are rightfully at the bottom of the heap in public opinion polls, with other members of the Perverted Triangle, politicians and government bureaucrats. Nurses and military officers command the highest public respect since they do not lie and protect citizens rather than swindle them.

Gallup Public Opinion Poll of "honesty and ethical standards" of Professions, 2021



The lowest ranked profession—lobbyists—is composed of former politicians and government bureaucrats, and lawyers—a mix of all 3 parts of the Perverted Triangle.¹²⁸ Washington D.C. is full of lawyers who got elected to Congress, passed laws to generate regulations and business for law firms, then left political office to serve as lobbyists helping clients pass more laws and regulations to benefit their cause. If lobbyists and politician “officeholders” are a profession, so are prostitutes—and they would likely rank much higher in honesty and ethical standards if Gallup included them in their poll of professions.¹²⁹

Unfortunately, many lawyers are no longer disciplined and principled professionals, certainly not champions of justice. Look at the *Better Call Saul* style lawyer TV commercials and billboards that plague us, and the latest new line of business for scumbag attorneys: defending people who are

charged with fraud, stealing hundreds of billions of dollars in COVID-19 relief funding.¹³⁰ 80+% of American rightly rate the honesty and ethics of lawyers as poor.¹³¹

We do not want judges inventing laws—but what we largely have in our legal system today is judges following precedents of past judicial rulings—not weighing the law in light of the case before them in an effort to achieve justice, and completely ignoring our Natural Rights. We have laws to reduce the abuse of monopoly power by big businesses, but since it is not laws or justice that matters but legal precedents, corporate attorneys can craft policies that exploit precedents and a legal system that ignores justice. Thus Apple can rob App developers that have no option but their platform with an exorbitant 30% fee.¹³² Judges know it is unjust abuse of monopoly power, but as the judges in a Federal Court of Appeals recently wrote in a case favoring Apple: “There is . . . debate about the role played in our economy and democracy by online transaction platforms with market power . . . [but] our job . . . is not to resolve that debate . . . Instead, in this decision, we faithfully applied existing precedent to the facts as the parties developed them . . .”¹³³ Whether or not Apple is abusing monopoly power, abusing companies and users, justice is irrelevant—just the past rulings of Judges matters. *Stare decisis* (Judges) and lawyers über alles.

Philip Howard has long campaigned to try and fix our horrible legal system, with books and reform policies laid out in *The Death of Common Sense* and *The Collapse of the Common Good*. Howard explains how “A culture of legal fear is not what our founders had in mind when they created the legal framework for a free society. Law is supposed to support free choice, not impede choices all day long.”¹³⁴ A card-carrying member of the Perverted Triangle, a Washington D.C. lawyer and administrative law judge, sued his dry cleaner, run by a Korean couple, for \$54 million because they allegedly lost a pair of his pants. “What was most shocking about the case was not the idiotic claim, however, but that the case was allowed to go on for more than two years- complete with sworn testimony . . .”¹³⁵ Hundreds of books about our wretched legal system have been written, and 90% of Americans know, according to poll data, that guilty people can get away with murder, justice is for sale in America in our perverted legal system.¹³⁶ *Stare decisis*, past case decisions by lawyers turned Judges rules—truth, right and wrong, public good, individual freedom, retained Natural Rights, justice—not important.

In *Life Without Lawyers: Restoring Responsibility in America*, Phillip Howard, explains how “Judges are stuck in the rut of objective justification, avoiding any ruling they can’t prove by external criteria.”¹³⁷ While our natural reaction is to reject empowering individual Judges to exercise their subjective judgment and common sense, it is in fact the best alternative as Howard explains: “Judges must affirmatively protect reasonable social norms of right and wrong. In the \$54 million lost-pants lawsuit, the judge should have called in the parties and said something like: “Maybe you have a claim for a few hundred dollars in small claims court, but you have no right to use justice as a tool of extortion. Case dismissed.” And so the lives of the Korean immigrants were turned upside down because, in the name of neutrality, the judge refused to do what everyone knew was right.”¹³⁸

Charles Murray from the American Enterprise Institute rightly argues that we have no legitimate or just rule of law: “When the legal process is more costly than you can afford, it is indistinguishable from lawlessness. . . . When defending yourself against a wrongful allegation is not financially feasible, in what sense are you protected by the rule of law?”¹³⁹ It is impossible for an average person to even know the laws. Ignorance of the law is no defense in court, but with thousands of laws, many hundreds of pages long, there is no feasible way to comply and avoid getting abused by the Perverted Triangle and our unjust legal system run by lawyers for the benefit of lawyers. There

are so many laws, including ones repealing or modifying old ones, that we have no idea how many laws there are. The Justice Department has tried several times to count them and failed.¹⁴⁰ There are over 3,000 criminal offenses, and many more civil offenses you could unknowingly commit in an estimated 23,000 pages of just federal laws. Add to this state and local government laws, and the honest answer is that every citizen is likely violating laws every day.¹⁴¹

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.”¹⁴² 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.”¹⁴³ 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.”¹⁴⁴

As a result of Perverted Triangle promotion of laws, regulations and business for lawyers, the U.S. 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 state¹⁴⁵ 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 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.”¹⁴⁶ 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.

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 official 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.¹⁴⁷

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 losses with the added costs for products and services. The Perverted Triangle is the beneficiary.

The Democratic Party liberals rail against high business salaries, since businessmen vote GOP, but don’t complain about the obscene \$2,000 hourly fees of attorneys.¹⁴⁸ An expensive product doesn’t cause a citizen anywhere near the harm as an unaffordable lawyer in a system that favors lying lawyers and case ruling loopholes--not finding the truth and dispensing justice. In *Griffin v. Illinois*, the Supreme Court observed that "there can be no equal justice where the kind of trial a man gets depends on the amount of money he has." The system is so perverted for the benefit of lawyers that they can both lie and sleep during court hearings and get away with it. Expensive lawyers spending fortunes researching past case rulings to battle over case precedents determine the outcome more than the laws, truth, guilt or innocence, or justice.

Most Americans do not know that lawyers in the U.S. are allowed by Judges (former lawyers) to knowingly lie in court. “In France, evidence is not concealed and lawyers are not allowed to use artful lies to pollute the truth. The innocent are rarely charged; 95 percent of guilty defendants are convicted. Public confidence in the system is high.” But in our Anglo-American common law system, “lawyers are encouraged to obfuscate the truth and use sophistry to besmirch the integrity of honest witnesses.”¹⁴⁹ Justice and strict adherence to the truth are irrelevant in Americas perverted legal system. Dueling old case citations, past judicial rulings, and the lies and tricks of outrageously expensive lawyers rule. Justice, what is “right,” is largely irrelevant to the decision and outcome in U.S. Courts today. Former NY Governor Andrew Cuomo complained that "The trial lawyers are the single most powerful political force in Albany."¹⁵⁰ The Perverted Triangle has

not just ruined American Government, but our legal system too. At the USAF Academy I lived by an honor code that politicians and lawyers violate daily.¹⁵¹

Some lawyers recently used AI tool ChatGPT to argue non-existent judicial opinions with fake case citations, and “continued to stand by the fake opinions after judicial orders called their existence into question.”¹⁵² The lawyers were not disbarred for inventing false evidence and lying, just issued a small \$5,000 fine so still able to generate a big profit on their losing case. In our lawyer-run legal system, with non-lawyers banned from providing legal advice and citizens often required to use lawyers, the courts serve lawyers, not justice, not citizens.

Factual proof that our legal system has been ruined by lawyers is the explosive growth in mediation and arbitration as a way to escape the tyranny and injustice of courts and lawyers.¹⁵³ The fact that lawyers hate mediation and arbitration is more proof that avoiding our currently unjust, unaffordable, corrupt legal system is best for citizens.

As millions of citizens abused by honest errors or laws and regulations they could not fathom have experienced, “the fact that the IRS says you owe them money doesn’t mean they’re right and you’re wrong.”¹⁵⁴ But unless you can afford expensive attorneys and accountants to fight the IRS, you’ll have to pay to limit your losses. It is impossible to know, interpret and correctly apply all the laws, regulations and tax provisions without a team of expensive lawyers.

The uS legal system must be changed from focus on following past judicial rulings, many of which are based on illegal ignoring of the 9th and 10th Amendments and retained Natural Rights, to the priority of providing justice. Judges and juries should not rule based on which party most closely followed the law or past court rulings, but which party was wrongly harmed. The system, including administrative courts, must never force anyone to employ a lawyer or ban nonlawyers from offering legal advice. A Constitutional Amendment banning these lawyer serving, citizen abusing practices must be passed.¹⁵⁵

Judges and Sheriffs must have broad leeway in doing the right thing to achieve justice and protecting individual liberty. Individual freedom is the top priority--not adherence to a law or past court ruling that is unconstitutional or instituted to favor a business or special interest group or political party and the Perverted Triangle’s wealth and power.

Judges and Law Enforcement Officers must obey the Constitution, and Judges and Sheriff’s should be elected positions, subject to recall by citizens when they act improperly. Justice should be local, at the county level, so local citizens have more opportunity to know and judge them, influence them, hold them accountable.

Won’t it hurt national and multinational big companies if they can face lawsuits at local level for any complaint about injustice? Yes, it will hurt them and favor local companies who are both more just with their customers and can more easily defend themselves in a local court. That would be a net plus, not a negative. The only big companies we must have are defense manufacturers, but their customers are the federal government, not likely to be harmed by this shift to a more just and good for personal liberty, more local legal system, accessible and affordable for all citizens, unencumbered with lawyers as much as possible. Eliminating the financial limits on Small Claims Courts, letting these largely lawyer-free courts cover the vast majority of lawsuits would be a big improvement.¹⁵⁶

We need a Constitutional Amendment that gives us control over our homes, cell phones, anything we buy—a right that no big company or Big Government can violate. If you do not want Microsoft’s One Note on your computer or the cell phone company software on your phone you own, then any means that denies you the ability to delete out things you do not want are wrong—a violation of your Natural Right to private property. No business or bureaucrat should force you to decide what outlets you want in your house or software you want on your devices. No business or bureaucrat should ever have the right to enter your private property or dictate your personal conduct. We have Natural Rights to be left alone when we are not harming others—and, especially in our home, government officials and lawyers have no business bothering us!

Laws at federal and also the state level, must be greatly reduced. The 10th Amendment must be absolutely enforced at the federal level, and similar limits are needed where Big State Government abuses power in states like New York, California, Illinois, Colorado and, unfortunately, a growing number of states where the Democratic Party and state Perverted Triangles rein.

Americans must openly reject and violate a majority of the laws on the books that are not in our interest, not justified for national defense or negative externalities (like pollution). Laws impacting our personal freedom, spacing of balusters on our stairs, toys our kids play with, food and drink we choose to consume, where and how we spend our money, must be abolished. The politicians, government bureaucrats, and lawyers who oppose this must be ruthlessly fought. The citizens’ right to enjoy and protect their home is absolute and should be defended by violent force when necessary.

No attorney or prosecutor should be allowed to lie and mislead and cheat for a ruling that he or she knows to be wrong. A defense attorney should not be allowed to help a client evade conviction for a crime committed, nor should a prosecutor attempt to convict someone when he has convincing evidence of innocence. An attorney who lies in any legal proceeding or knowingly works to help a guilty party escape justice should be disbarred and banned from legal practice.

In sum, the U.S. legal system is completely FUBAR¹⁵⁷, and can only be fixed when citizens have constitutional rights protecting them from lawyers (since our Natural Rights to be left alone are completely ignored in our perverted legal system). Our legal system needs massive reform, led by a group of citizens who are not lawyers.

The legal system must not be ruled by the Perverted Triangle of professional politicians, many who are lawyers, passing laws to generate business for themselves and a plague on society.

The new legal system America needs must have far less laws and regulations, less lawyers, and more use of arbitration, Small Claims Courts without financial limits on suits, and never a requirement to use a lawyer or Judges deciding cases based on case law while ignoring truth, right and wrong, Natural Rights and basic justice.¹⁵⁸

Case Study: unconstitutional, failed, devastatingly bad Big Government “War on Drugs”

The federal government’s “war on drugs” is a good example of an absolutely unconstitutional, disastrously bad effort. It was not a democrat, but a Republican President, Nixon, who launched the “war on drugs” in 1971. Then a new government agency, the Drug Enforcement Agency, was formed. Half a century and one trillion dollars in spending later not only are illegal drugs still widely available there never was a period when the “war” succeeded.¹⁵⁹ Estimates of what percent of Americans are in jail from drug offenses vary from most (about a million) to 350,000. Instead of

spending time on serious crimes, police still arrest over 1 million Americans annually for drug possession, with many of them then clogging up our Courts, enriching lawyers, and ending up in prison (at our expense, with on-going profits to lawyers).¹⁶⁰ The worst impact that good, non-drug using citizens suffer from is the higher risk of getting robbed and killed because of the asinine war on drugs.

Making drugs that people want to take, and get addicted to, illegal guarantees a high-priced black market for them, enriching gangs and criminals eager to sell. Worse, the high prices drive many addicts to crime, breaking into your house, or mugging your daughter to get money. Non-drug users are also punished from the war on drugs with higher taxes to pay the high costs of all the government resources squandered on this war. The drug war's damage is far worse than this for Americans, especially poor urban Americans who live in areas where the black-market drug trade operates.

The War on Drugs has failed consistently for half a century to stop or even reduce illegal drug use, and certainly not reduce deaths from drug abuse. Dr. Liberty Vittert a professor of data science at Washington University reacted to President Biden's demand that new laws be passed to deal with gun violence by pointing out that "Americans are dying, but it isn't gun violence that is the leading cause, it's opioids." She presented these "hard facts:"

- "Illegal fentanyl, a significant amount of it coming from China and through our Southern border, is now the leading cause of death in 18-45 year-olds in the United States
- Guns don't come near to opioids in terms of the numbers of dead Americans — and unlike guns, opioid deaths are only increasing.
- However, deaths by drug overdoses, have more than doubled since 2015 and are increasing exponentially, with over 100,000 Americans dying in the past 12 months — and this is all while we have been spending billions of dollars fighting the "opioid epidemic."
- Between the federal government shelling out to solve it, the cost to the economy, the lost productivity, healthcare costs and criminal justice activities, the opioid crisis cost the U.S. economy . . . over \$1.2 trillion.
- And guess what? We are losing, big time."

Her recommendation is to eliminate all the drug approval red tape and cost and let drug companies try hundreds of drugs to treat addiction, likely finding one much faster if freed from the Perverted Triangle regulatory morass.

Federal and National Guard troops were employed, and still are in this completely counterproductive Perverted Triangle War on Drugs boondoggle. In just one year, National Guard forces from 53 States and territories supported 1,811 drug interdiction and eradication operations.¹⁶¹ My Nebraska Air National Guard unit fought in this war to protect Americans from this deadly threat, using our RF-4 Phantom reconnaissance fighters to take infrared photos to find marijuana fields the evil enemy was hiding.

Countless studies have shown criminalizing drugs yields higher prices, more gang and criminal profits and activity, more thefts to afford the higher cost of drugs from the Black Market and damage to innocent, non-drug using citizens.¹⁶² Yet the government publishes formal reports saying just the opposite, that “Drug-related crimes may decrease with legalization but other crimes, especially violent crimes, may increase.”¹⁶³ We cannot trust a government report to be honest; serving the Perverted Triangle is the top priority of government employees, even when the policy is killing Americans, not helping them.

An American Civil Liberties Union staff member reported how the War on Drugs and the massive number of lawsuits it generates resulted in the “Supreme Court effectively declared an end to the free practice of any religion” in a 1990 case brought by Native Americans using peyote for religious purposes in violation of federal drug laws. “The Court dismissed the longstanding rules protecting religious freedom, requiring instead that all religious practices yield to laws of general application, even if the law has a decimating effect on the religion.”¹⁶⁴ Property rights have also been trampled by unconstitutional federal drug laws and the Perverted Triangles greed for power, championing regulations and laws over Natural Rights and personal freedom:

“in this war under the strange fiction that property could be “guilty” . . . assets suspected of “participating” in a crime can be seized and sold, with the profits flowing to law enforcement budgets. The burden of proof for demonstrating the property’s innocence falls upon the rightful owner. Often without even accusing any individual person of a crime, the police confiscate the homes of innocent people rumored to have some relative who uses drugs, and seize the money of unsuspecting bystanders whose only crime is to carry an unusual amount of cash.”¹⁶⁵

Drug laws are a financial windfall for lawyers and Government/Court jobs, and a disaster for American citizens.

A failure from the start, the War on Drugs continued under all Presidents and remains our idiotic policy today—though most states have rightly nullified some aspects of it. It is not just its failure in

The Drug War, Mass Incarceration and Race

June 2015



United Nations

Office on Drugs and Crime

With less than 5 percent of the world’s population but nearly 25 percent of its incarcerated population¹, the United States imprisons more people than any other nation in the world – largely due to the war on drugs. Misguided drug laws and harsh sentencing requirements have produced profoundly unequal outcomes for people of color. Although rates of drug use and sales are similar across racial and ethnic lines, Black and Latino people are far more likely to be criminalized than white people.²



Source: International Centre for Prison Studies, World Prison Brief.³

The Drug War Drives Mass Incarceration and Racial Disparities in U.S. Judicial Systems

There were more than 1.5 million drug arrests in the U.S. in 2013. The vast majority – more than 80 percent – were for possession *only*.⁴ At year-end 2012, 16 percent of all people in state prison were incarcerated for a drug law violation – of whom nearly 50,000 were incarcerated for possession alone.⁵ More than 50 percent of people in federal prisons are incarcerated for drug law violations. About 500,000

reducing illicit drug use (which is much higher now), but with more Americans dying of overdoses than any point in modern history.

Even when critics on the right (including Milton Friedman, William Buckley¹⁶⁶) joined those on the left opposed to this asinine effort, it was impossible to stop once the Perverted Triangle realized the budget, wealth, and power in this war on drugs.

Our ongoing war on drugs is so bad, even the United Nation condemns and ridicules the stupidity and disastrous results.¹⁶⁷ How in the world could the nation that championed liberty and freedom have the highest per capita rates of incarceration in the world?! It's quite simple—the Perverted Triangle and Big Government benefit from this war. Lawyers love the huge business defending and prosecuting the millions of Americans accused of or jailed for doing something they have a Constitutional right to do. The Perverted Triangle wins, citizens lose.

Again quoting an American Civil Liberties Union staff member, “A significant part of drug enforcement efforts have shifted from prosecuting drug crime to seizing property; indeed, by the late 1990s, many drug enforcement agencies were taking in more money from asset forfeiture than they received from their budgets. Self-financed police groups need not justify their activities through any regular budgetary process, and accordingly, such groups have constructed a veil of secrecy, thus enjoying freedom from legislative oversight and setting an agenda accountable to no one.”¹⁶⁸ Jobs, patronage, money, uncontrolled power—no way the Perverted Triangle will give this up. We need a war on the Perverted Triangle to stop the war on drugs.

And what a simple problem to solve: The 10th Amendment is crystal clear in its wording and legislative intent: the federal government may not pass any laws or act on any issue unless it is “enumerated”—specifically mentioned—in the Constitution. The federal government has no enumerated power, no right to force Americans to use or not use a drug, cigarette, drink or food. The Constitution grants us the solution to end the Perverted Triangle's War on Drug spending boondoggle and crime disaster with any one of three means—declare it unconstitutional (Supreme Court), nullify it (State Legislatures), or refuse it (American citizens). If some idiot wants to use addictive, damaging drugs we can't stop them and have no right to. If Big Government stays away, a market for their drug will provide it at the lowest possible price, reducing our likelihood of being robbed by an addict or the gang illegal drugs support, and we will avoid the tax bill of a Perverted Triangle government anti-drug program.¹⁶⁹

The War on Drugs is also proof positive that the Supreme Court's obscenity in the *Helvering*, decision, erasing the 10th Amendment was absolutely wrong and illegal. When the federal government outlawed alcohol they had to pass a Constitutional Amendment to do it because the Constitution does not mention and thus does not allow such federal policies. Then another Amendment was passed, repealing Prohibition after its miserable failure (just like the War on Drugs, though we're still wasting money and lives on it today). What changed in the Constitution to make it constitutional to ban drugs, but not alcohol? Nothing. What changed was the Supreme Court in 1937, threatened by FDR and then rewarded by the Perverted Triangle, illegally decided to ignore and erase the 9th and 10th Amendments.

Could it get any worse? Yes, just wait for a real pandemic, electric grid down for a year plus, or other collapse disaster. When no one is willing to go to work and law and order vanishes during a collapse, the two million Americans in jail, a huge percentage for asinine drug law violations, are coming out—released or breaking out. They will have no preparations. Many who entered prison as drug users have now become gang members or learned how to be vicious to survive in jail. Two

million well trained, needy people, now marauders free to come after us. Thank you Big Government and Perverted Triangle for ignoring the Constitution and protecting us from stupid people using drugs! Thank you for your brilliant War on Drugs, War on Poverty, and other unconstitutional programs to spend our money and make decisions we are too stupid to make on our own!!! Thank you for ignoring the Constitution and limits to government power!!!! We don't need personal freedom, families, or responsibility with Big Government and the Perverted Triangle taking care of us!!!! As long as you are all safe at Mount Weather, Raven Rock, and other government facilities, we can die grateful and happy!!!!!!¹⁷⁰

We Need to Restore Personal Responsibility and Educate Youth to build Good Character

Early Americans had a Judeo-Christian point of view that human beings are inherently cruel and sinful. As John Witherspoon, a leading professor at Princeton, explained in 1776:¹⁷¹

“But where can we have a more affecting view of the corruption of our nature, than in the wrath of man, when exerting itself in oppression, cruelty and blood? . . . I see it every where, and I feel it every day. All the disorders in human society, and the greatest part of the unhappiness we are exposed to, arises from the envy, malice, covetousness, and other lusts of man. If we and all about us were just what we ought to be in all respects, we should not need to go any further for heaven, for it would be upon earth.”

Back then, churches and strong character and moral training at home from parents were the primary means of teaching youth to behave well, act morally.

Washington's Rules of Civility contained maxims, such as “Associate yourself with Men of good Quality if you Esteem your own Reputation for 'tis better to be alone than in bad Company.” Today kids are far more likely to get advice like “if it feels good, do it.”

In the initial decades of the United States, there were many guides to good conduct, and Americans generally worked to be good citizens, responsible and hard working people of good character. Some “Maxims For Young Men” were published in the late 1800s that summarize the virtues that Franklin, Washington, many of the Founding Fathers and best Americans worked to follow.

MAXIMS FOR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN¹⁷²

Never be idle. If your hands cannot be usefully employed, attend to the cultivation of your mind.

Always speak the truth.

Make few promises.

Live up to your engagements.

Have no very intimate friends unless well tried. (*“well tried” means—tested, highly trusted*)

Keep your own secrets if you have any.

When you speak to a person, look him in the face.

Good company and good conversation are the very sinews of virtue.

Good character is above all things else. (*this means having good character and “following” good character principles is more important than anything else*)

Never listen to loose or idle conversation. (*don't tell gossip about people, pass on rumors*)

You had better be poisoned in your blood than your principles. *(better to be poisoned/dead, then to give up your principles, your good character and conduct)*

Your character cannot be essentially injured, except by your own acts.

If any one speaks evil of you, let your life be so virtuous that none will believe him.

Drink no intoxicating liquors.

Ever live, misfortune excepted, within your income.

When you retire to bed, think over what you have done during the day.

Never speak lightly of religion.

Make no haste to be rich if you would prosper. *(don't try to get rich quick—make good, low risk investments that will pay off over time)*

Small and steady gains give competency with a tranquility of mind.

Never play at any kind of game. *(at the time when this was written the danger of starving to death, wars, etc. meant that “wasting” time with play was unwise—this is not really applicable today; though Americans waste way too much time on mindless TV, video games and social media)*

Avoid temptation, through fear that you may not withstand it. *(don't let yourself get into situations—which friends are likely to lead you to—where you will be exposed to bad situations like people smoking and taking drugs, someone breaking the law, etc.)*

Earn your money before you spend it. *(invest and save)*

Never run into debt unless you see a way to get out.

Never borrow if you can possibly avoid it.

Be just before you are generous. *(giving money to someone who does not deserve it may not be a wise or good thing to do)*

Keep yourself innocent if you would be happy. *(if you do bad things you'll know it—and your conscience will bother you, you won't be happy)*

Save when you are young to spend when you are old.

Never think that which you do for religion is time or money misspent. *(religion teaches some good values and behaviors like being kind to others, the golden rule, etc.)*

Let Honesty and Industry be thy constant companion.

These Maxims are from the 1800s, when times were tough, and you needed to work from sunup to beyond sun-down; with little time for games or frivolity. Some updating is needed, but we must have character training and improvement to pull society out of our downward spiral of increasing irresponsibility. Families are of course the best positioned and suited to teach and enforce good character. Since FDR's unconstitutional social and welfare programs, the influence of families has been undermined by the power and corruption of Big Government. The Nanny State and the Perverted Triangle have destroyed millions of families and subverted responsible conduct and good character.¹⁷³

The Internet and social media in recent decades have made “temptations” far worse, making the need for such Maxims, guidelines, even more important. To improve our country and achieve the goals of good government and a just legal system, personal responsibility and good character are required. We also must have responsible citizens for a good society and to keep government accountable and in check.

Groups like the Boy Scouts, Girl's Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, and Future Farmers of America do work to promote good character and responsibility in our youth.¹⁷⁴ Military academies train officers of good character with rigid adherence to an honor code. We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. But when the President and senior elected officials are professional liars and lawyers make fortunes lying and twisting laws and case citations for their clients to escape Justice for their crimes, the Perverted Triangle with its unsurpassed and largely unchecked power drags our citizens, values, and country down.

We need to teach what the "pursuit of happiness" as written in the Constitution really means. It was definitely not maximizing daily pleasure from any source, which is the norm Americans pursue today. This is another huge error we make in youth education today; failing to teach and coach kids to invest in themselves, learn responsibility and integrity and other traits of good character—and lead a meaningful life in pursuit of good and achievements. While Americans should be free to do whatever they like (as long as they don't harm others in the process), the purpose of life should not be pursuit of maximum fun/sex/pleasure, but happiness defined as a meaningful life, pursuing and living a life worth living. Raising a good family, enjoying good friends, building a business, serving a worthy cause, achieving your potential, many pursuits can yield a meaningful, satisfying, happy life. Youth pursuing this true, intended form of happiness are far less likely to engage in crime and violence, squander their talents and energy, and will lead far happier, fulfilled lives. But with families undermined, education now delegated to schools rather than parent directed, American youth today are more likely to learn "if it feels good do it" than the Maxims and pursuit of happiness defined as a worthwhile, meaningful life.¹⁷⁵

Cato's Roger Pilon explains that "the Founders were saying that each of us has a right not to happiness but to pursue happiness as he sees fit. They did not tell us how to go about that pursuit — save for the premise of equality, which entails the obligation to respect the equal rights of others to their own pursuits. Rather, the determination of how to pursue happiness is left to us, to our own subjective lights, our own values. Obviously, given the differences among people in their various interests and values, different people will take different paths. The point, simply, is that we must respect those differences as we lead our own lives."¹⁷⁶

With your innate, Natural Right to freedom you could seek happiness as Tuskegee Institute Founder Booker T. Washington recommended in *Up from Slavery*: "Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others."¹⁷⁷ Or you may follow Ayn Rand's very different approach, the "virtue of selfishness", achieving your highest goals, living your life as you alone want to pursue it, not trying to please anyone else.¹⁷⁸

Public school textbooks should be addressing issues like the above, but tend to have other agendas. The authors tend to be liberals, beholden to public school funding. They are not businessmen, and anti-business, pro-Democratic Party bias is often apparent. The Perverted Triangle and many public school history textbooks would have you believe that the only cause and reason for the Revolutionary War was so we could elect our representatives. Teaching that the American Revolution was about the right to vote for representatives and majority rule, not Natural Rights and limits to Government and tyranny of the majority, is a gross lie; one that supports the Perverted Triangle's goal of subservient, dependent, citizens who cast votes for them (limited to a choice of two parties) and then accept every law and rule that Big Government dictates. The Perverted Triangle preaches the vital, moral imperative of "Rule of Law"—another perverted lie from a group that ignores the Constitutional limits to laws and Natural Rights that are above man-made laws, not subject to government interference. FDR should not be praised for rescuing Americans from the

Great Depression he prolonged or his rape of the Constitution ignored. There is no mention of the *Helvering* Supreme Court case, even though this key horrible, grossly wrong act erased the most important part of the Constitution, removed limits to Government and undid the American Revolution. Nor should JFK be glorified as a Pulitzer price winning author for a book he did not write (ghost written by his speechwriter, Ted Sorenson, with his rich father/FDR insider pulling strings as he had throughout his life, from Navy assignments and avoiding punishment for his misconduct, thru getting elected to president).¹⁷⁹ We need alternative public school texts that cover Natural Rights, and the vital but Supreme Court illegally erased 9th and 10th amendments.¹⁸⁰

Families and private associations and groups (not government) should train citizens to stop choosing elected officials like high school prom kings in a popularity contest, or choosing someone promising the most government funded gifts. Voters should be encouraged to never elect attorneys to legislatures where they will promote laws and regulations to enhance the income of lawyers. We must choose elected officials as we would hire someone for our business, based on having the right job skills needed, relevant experience, good honesty and character. We need to be electing our most outstanding, responsible citizens of character to government, and we are not. We need George Washingtons and George Marshalls, with sound business skills at local levels, and military experience at the federal level. Instead we find ourselves stuck with choices between Clintons, Biden, Trump—politicians and lawyers with polished lying skills, no integrity, zero military experience.

Phillip Howard rightly pointed out that “Accountability, not law, is the key to responsibility. Bureaucracy certainly doesn’t get us responsibility. The legalistic mind-set encourages compliance with rules instead of doing what’s right. Legislating individual rights, as with special education, is even worse. Rights promote selfishness, not responsibility....”¹⁸¹

Former Democratic Governor, Public Policy Professor, Richard Lamm cited historian Arnold Toynbee’s warning that all great nations fall when they lose their original virtue, work ethic and drive and “commit suicide.” Lamm warns that “We want education without study, wealth without work, freedom without participation, and democracy without citizenship. We must self-correct or perish, for this is hardly a sustainable agenda. . . . Americans . . . have forgotten that rights and privileges require duties and responsibilities.”¹⁸²

Another character development problem (not one in colonial times) we must address is our country’s glorification of violence. Hollywood movies and rap music promoting gratuitous murder, video games, gangs (an estimated million gang members in the U.S.¹⁸³), have been bad for decades—and far more lethal today with the impact of social media pressure. Youth trained to be responsible would focus on protecting their family and the innocent, not committing violent crimes.

To offer a great mission for youth, valuable training, and a venue for teaching good character and responsibility, the Army National Guard should immediately set up a “Civil Ground Patrol,” modeled on the USAF’s Civil Air Patrol.¹⁸⁴ This volunteer group, linked to the National Guard, would also be a very valuable asset for homeland disaster recovery operations.

We should teach Maxims of good conduct and character. But the most important thing to promote individual responsibility is to abolish Big Government and the Nanny State, that undermine family and individual responsibility.

Elected Officials violating Laws without Penalty and Lawyers Lying in Court must end

It is very difficult to promote responsibility and good character in our youth and citizenry when elected officials, even Presidents, are chronic liars, violate laws without penalty, and lawyers lie in Court with impunity. The fall in morals and honesty from Abraham Lincoln to Bill Clinton is truly appalling.

Our past two Presidents and leading candidates have broken multiple laws designed to protect classified information, vital to national security. Top government officials must be held accountable and punished in the same manner as lower level government officials, military members, and citizens.

I was an intelligence officer in the Air Force, and then worked in the Department of Defense and with the top DoD think tank, with top secret, codeword clearances. If I had done just one percent of the violations of intelligence information handling that Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, and Donald Trump did, my career would have been ruined and I would have been severely punished, serving jail time. What these two Presidents and Secretary of State did was absolutely wrong, dangerous for national security, and deadly for human intelligence assets. Hillary Clinton's illegal private email server contained information that was classified at a higher level than "top secret," with special access program information. They got away with it because top officials in government are not held to the same standards as citizens. They get special treatment, not punished for violating laws, not held accountable for their crimes. They should be imprisoned at Fort Leavenworth, ideally in adjoining cells with an open wall with metal bars between them so they can antagonize each other for additional just punishment.¹⁸⁵

Contrast how these politicians dealt with their illegal misuse of intelligence information with how former Army general and CIA Director David Petraeus dealt with accusations that he released classified information to his biographer and mistress, a former US Army officer. Not released to an enemy or the media, but Petraeus immediately took responsibility for the offense, apologized, resigned, and took punishment for the offense. He is an honorable man of integrity. But most leading politicians and government officials are not. They lie, blame others, and escape punishment for crimes that would land the rest of us in jail. It is corrupt, it is criminal, it is dead wrong.

Congressmen should also be severely punished, removed from office and imprisoned, when they release classified information. Their overriding objective is media coverage for more re-election votes, so they are tempted to release classified secrets, and often do so. In 2001 President George W. Bush complained of Congressmen leaking classified information that put U.S. troops at risk. But there was no action taken. Like so many laws, they are not enforced against top members of the Perverted Triangle.¹⁸⁶

Serving in Iraq, I vividly recall reading secret information in a classified document—and days later, seeing the exact information in U.S. newspapers, released by the Administration. This does not happen to benefit national security, and it's always bad for intelligence collection when we reveal information, letting them track down and stop the source of this intelligence. Politicians love to take credit for intelligence or military success—regularly releasing classified information and talking about military operations to boost their image. Perverted Triangle politicians prioritize their prestige and power and reelection votes--not national security. They are traitors to citizens and the nation, loyal only to themselves.

Americans should unite behind the priority goal of protecting the country — and this means punishing all people when they violate regulations protecting our confidential national security information.

We cannot pass or enforce laws to fire and imprison elected officials for lying, but we can and should ban government officials from escaping penalties for laws they violate and ban lawyers from lying in court.¹⁸⁷

With growing threats from new technologies and enemies, fixing our government and getting Federal and State governments focused on their proper, limited mission of protecting citizens against threats they cannot handle on their own is vital in the “Age of Collapse”

With a future of deadly bioengineered pandemics,¹⁸⁸ a vulnerable electric grid our irresponsible federal and state governments refuse to harden, and other threats from old natural phenomenon 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 top priority of protecting citizens from external threats they cannot handle on their own.

We need responsibility now more than ever, not just to recover personal liberty, 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.¹⁸⁹ 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.¹⁹⁰ 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, and the collapse that results could kill far more than the initial trigger event.¹⁹¹

I founded Fortitude Ranch because new technologies and increasing urbanization and complexity in our economy are accelerating the likelihood of disasters and collapse, while our irresponsible, illegal Big Government ignores vital preparations we need to survive because they don't yield campaign donations for politicians. Government increases the difficulty and cost of preparedness with outrageous regulations and is the biggest, most difficult barrier to prepping.

The vulnerabilities of our fragile electric system have been known for decades, published in Congressional reports, with the Chair of one of these Congressional EMP study commissions, a former Admiral and CIA Director, warning that 90% of Americans could die when our grid is destroyed.¹⁹² When the grid goes down, nothing gets produced, municipal water systems do not work, gasoline cannot be pumped, and millions die in the first month. Law and order will quickly vanish as people desperate to survive, including gang members and millions released from prisons that cannot operate without electricity, steal and kill to obtain food and water.

There are national, citizen-led efforts across the U.S. to try and force elected officials to harden the grid, but thus far they continue to fail in the face of the Perverted Triangle's unmatched power.¹⁹³

<https://GridDownPowerUp.com/>

Our enemies know about these electric grid vulnerabilities. Our easy to knock out electric grid is our Achilles's Heel. It is not just Russia and China that could launch such an attack, even North Korea's tiny, inaccurate nuclear arsenal is sufficient to destroy our grid. A dedicated terrorist group could take it down with coordinated physical attacks on key nodes. Yet elected officials refuse to force utilities to harden our grid from EMP, cyber, and physical attack because they fear losing votes for utility rates going up, and they prioritize donations from utility company lobbyists for their re-election campaigns over protecting citizens. Nor do they face the risk of death when the grid 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.

When the grid goes down and most Americans die, the survivors will be big marauder group members, Fortitude Ranch and other extremely well protected preppers, and top government officials who shelter at Mount Weather, Site R and other FEMA and military facilities across the U.S. When, if, we finally recover, the major criminals I want to bring to justice and execute will not be the marauders, but the shit politicians who for decades have prioritized reelection and utility company donations over protecting our lives. Elected officials in Congress and state government deserve the worst for their irresponsible, criminal failure to fix this catastrophic disaster waiting to happen.¹⁹⁴

The December 2016 issue of *The American Interest* policy journal warns that we will soon enter the “Age of Bioengineered Viral Pandemics and Collapse.”¹⁹⁵ 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. 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.¹⁹⁶ 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.¹⁹⁷

This video explains how new technologies, irresponsible government, and economic/demographic changes make collapse disasters inevitable. We have entered “The Age of Collapse,” an era where our economy and population is so vulnerable to disruption that law and order vanishes as starving people struggle to survive:

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

When a big disaster strikes, law and order may quickly vanish in cities, and eventually everywhere. When the availability of food and water is threatened, widespread marauding will occur. In 1977, New York City suffered a lightning strike that caused a power failure for one night. Over 3,000 arrests were made for looting, 400 policemen were injured, and 500 fires were started. After Hurricane Katrina, looting spread rapidly throughout New Orleans, often in broad daylight and in

the presence of police officers. Many of the city's police officers deserted their posts. The ensuing violence scared truck drivers, with many refusing to go into New Orleans without military escort.

This is why you need military-capable weapons. If an MS-13 gang is ransacking your neighborhood, with no police available — your double barrel 12-gauge shotgun is useful, but you need far more firepower. President Biden and CA Governor Newsome have called for a ban on “assault rifles.” The compelling justification for military-capable rifles is not “normal” self-defense, but survival after a major disaster that leads to a collapse in economic activity and widespread, long-lasting loss of law and order.¹⁹⁸

The 2nd Amendment of the Bill of Rights (all 10 of which were deliberately adopted to add checks on federal government abuse of power) gives no wiggle room for lying lawyers and politicians to limit or control citizen's essential right to have weapons: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

The argument that the Second Amendment's writers intended to restrict individual gun ownership but not gun ownership by militias makes no sense in the historical context. Farmers (90%+ of the population) and many town, urban dwellers owned rifles and pistols for hunting and self-defense, most not militia members. The motivation for the 2nd Amendment was not just defense, but also offense--the ability to threaten government with force, rebellion, to preserve a “free State” since the biggest perceived threat to freedom in the founding era was a powerful national government that might try to abuse power as the “anti-Federalists” and many Federalists feared. As the Father of the Constitution, James Madison pledged in Federalist #46, citizens bearing arms have the ability to fight tyrannical government and “shake off their yokes,” “overturn” tyranny. Armed citizens form “a barrier against the enterprises of ambition, more insurmountable than any which a simple government of any form can admit of.” Writing to convince people to support the Constitution, not fear federal government abuse of power, Madison's clear point is that armed citizens and militias are a means to fight and thus deter Big Government abuse of power. Anyone today who argues that Madison would make these arguments and yet support the right of the federal government to ban or control citizen's ownership of weapons is delusional or a blatant liar. As a Heritage Institute researcher and writer explained, “The notion that the federal government has the power to impose gun-control laws is an invention of the 20th century, when progressive judges, rather than applying the law as it had always been understood, decided to rubberstamp unconstitutional gun restrictions in the name of public safety.”¹⁹⁹

The crystal clear Constitutional right to bear arms was never challenged by the federal government until the boldest, strongest, most skillful liar of the Perverted Triangle, FDR, got the first federal gun-control law passed in 1934. He could have pursued an Amendment of the Constitution, but FDR's actions prove his contempt for the Constitution and any limits to his uncontrollable lust for power. Gun control laws are a proper subject for state and local governments, and reasonable restrictions on convicted criminals or deranged individuals having weapons are reasonable for public safety—an external threat that citizens cannot handle on their own. Unless the Constitution is Amended to allow federal control of weapons, such laws are unconstitutional, null and void.

Citizens have a legitimate, increasing, life-saving need to maintain military capable weapons like AR-15s, but laws limiting the right of individuals to bioengineer a virus that could kill millions, build their own nuclear weapon, or other “arms” capable of massive damage do justify amending the 2nd to restrict weapons of mass destruction, and limit the right of a mentally incapacitated individual or dangerous convicted criminals to bear arms.²⁰⁰ If we do not amend the 2nd to allow

limited, reasonable restrictions, then we will be left with the current mess of people wrongly convicted of non-violent “felony” cases (under laws, rules to enrich lawyers and other members of the Perverted Triangle) having permanent loss of the right to bear arms, defend their families in a collapse, or keep tyrannical abuse of government power in check.²⁰¹

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 expense.²⁰²

Even in rural parts of Colorado, Big Government has banned or limited wood stoves, the most important, often only source of energy for heating and cooking that Americans will have during a collapse. At our Fortitude Ranch locations we have lots of them because our electric grid is extremely fragile and unlikely to operate in a collapse, and there will be no gas or coal deliveries. A survival facility needs lots of wood stoves—that are banned by big government regulatory overreach and a complete disregard for both personal liberty and survival. Many people have switched to pellet stoves, some great wood stoves we used to buy are no longer produced because irresponsible and illegal government regulations have driven wood stove manufacturers to switch to pellets or shut down. These pellet stoves require electricity as well as pellets that you can’t manufacture or resupply in a collapse.²⁰³

We need to stockpile antibiotics and prescription drugs since there will be little or no production or distribution of drugs in a collapse, most hospitals will be inoperable. But government drug laws make this impossible. You can only get a prescription for an existing and short term supply of antibiotics and drugs. Preparedness requires stockpiled drugs.

Overall, the morass of government regulations, more than any person could hope to read in a lifetime, raises the cost of everything, decreasing money available for preparedness and making stockpiled supplies more expensive or impossible.

The biggest threat to your survival today is Unconstitutional Big Government. They are not protecting us from external threats we cannot handle on our own (their priority job) and make it far more difficult or impossible for self preparedness.

Elected politicians and top government bureaucrats do not need AR-15s because in any crisis or collapse situation, they will be protected by police and the military who have them. The rest of us are on our own.

When a disaster occurs, the #1 priority of government is not protecting its citizens. The top priority of government officials is “Continuity of Government”—keeping themselves and their families alive and government functioning.²⁰⁴ 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 Fortitude Ranch tracks occurs and yields a collapse, your need for police protection will go way up while their availability goes down. Look at your Governor next time you see him or her, and notice the security detail always with them. 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

In sum, government is not only failing in its primary mission of protecting citizens, they are making it more expensive and difficult or impossible for you to prepare and protect yourself! You are taxed to pay for government survival facilities while nothing is done for you. And when a collapse occurs, they will do nothing to protect you since their priority is Continuity of Government, protecting themselves.

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 a thousands of law enforcement officers quitting or retiring early--resignation rate in 2020-21 increased 18% and the retirement rate rose 45%.²⁰⁵ 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.”²⁰⁶ 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.

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. In the interests not just of personal property rights and liberty, but survival, Americans need to ignore Big Government regulations that violate our Natural Rights to be left alone and to protect our families from the coming collapse that Government is supposed to be preventing but is not.

The right of personal use of your private property that has no impact on neighbors (often none, or not in view or even shouting distance) is increasingly restricted or completely denied by Big City regulations that Democratic Party controlled Big State Government has forced into county government and rural areas. In the interests of survival, preppers looking to build their bug out facilities and survival communities in rural areas should ignore the zoning and building code barriers that stand in the way.

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 Big Government 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 uUS 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.²⁰⁷

The unconstitutional U.S. Government and Big State Governments are violating our Natural Rights, destroying individual responsibility and families, ruining America – and failing in its primary mission of protecting citizens from external threats we cannot handle on our own

Of course, the United States of America has never been perfect. Far from it in the case of slavery and constant lying and cheating Native Americans. The moral and Natural Rights failure of the Constitution and many Founding Fathers in tolerating the continued existence of slavery and abuse of Native Americans is a stain on our country's honor.

We banned slavery and theoretically extended Constitutional protection from abuse of retained Natural Rights with the 14th and other Amendments (though our Supreme Court and legal system largely fails to recognize or enforce these Natural Rights).

Overall, the American Revolution and Constitution succeeded until the disasters of the Franklin Roosevelt Administration and loss of key parts of the Constitution and launch of the Perverted Triangle. The exhibit on the following page contrasts America before and after the Perverted Triangle destruction of our country. Some additional details beyond those laid out in the text of this paper are provided in this webnote.²⁰⁸

America Before and After Natural and Constitutional Rights Erased, Perverted Triangle Takeover

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BEFORE	AFTER
Natural Rights, Limited Government	No Natural Rights, unlimited Government
One Nation united to fight and win World Wars	Nation divided by two waring political parties and social policies
100s of lobbyists	12,644 registered lobbyists, \$4 billion annual spending
231,000 federal civilian employees 1900	2.3 million federal civilian employees toady
Limited # laws, <3,000 pages Code of Federal Regulations 1930s	Unlimited # laws, >90,000 pages Code of Federal Regulations, 30 fold increase in less than a century
far less than 5% of workers require occupational licenses	30% of America workers require occupational licenses
neglibible negative impacts from few gov't regulations	\$7,000 per person cost of government regulations
Just Courts, Reasonable Laws	Unjust Legal System to benefit politicians, lawyers and wealthy
114,000 lawyers in 1900	1.3 million lawyers, largest # lawyers per capita in world
93,000 American in jail 1925	1.8 mm American in jail , 2023
small percent of population with criminal records	one third adult working age population has criminal record
You can repair and maintain and control your personal property	Businesses ban repairs, Users have software on devices they can't remove
Slavery ends with Civil War/13th/14th Amendments	State Laws, Supreme Court allow violations of Natural and Constitutional Rights
Congressional campaign costs in 1000s of \$s	\$1.3MM avg cost of House campaign, \$9MM Senate race
Leading good citizens elected to office	Career politicians
1958: 75% of Americans trust federal gov't to do right thing always/most time	1% of Americans trust federal gov't to do right thing always, 15% most time--most do not trust
Respect for Supreme Court	60% American say Supreme Court motivated by politics, only 32% believe they rule based on law
Federal spending 6% of GDP in 1920	Federal spending 30% of GDP today
Government Spending Known, Accountable	Levels of Debt not honestly reported, Spending unclear; Dept of Defense has never had a clean audit opinion
\$18 billion in government debt in 1928	over \$100 trillion in U.S. government debt
Family is Basis of Society	Nanny State, Big Gov't cares for people
9% children raised without father in 1960	highest rate of single parent families in world, 23%, more than 3X world average
7% American children born out of wedlock 1964	40% American children born out of wedlock today
Youths committing crimes rare	About 40% of American youth arrested at least once for a non-traffic offense by age 23, committing 8% of violence crimes and 15% of property crimes
Honesty and Industry vital	Truth is Relative
Maxims for Young Men, Good Character important	If it feels good do it
Largely Responsible behavior	Not your fault, Blame Society
Pursue meaningful, worthwhile lives	Pursue pleasure
Families teach values, responsible for children	Teachers, Government Welfare Programs, Social Workers
	54% US adults rate moral values as poor, just 11% rate moral values as good or excellent
	Most Americans receive welfare benefits, 60% receive more than pay in taxes
	40% families with children receive means-tested welfare benefits
0.15 bankruptcies per capita, 1920s	3.0 bankruptcies per capita, 2000
Americans rarely die from drug misuse	Over 100,000 American deaths from opioids annually
American happiness peaks in 1920s	For first time ever, more Americans not happy than very happy
very high trust in government	only 4% of Americans say the political system is working well, three-quarters say it is not
Government focused on national security and foreign policy, interstate transportation infrastructure	Government focused on regulating people's homes, consumption, personal affairs
1920s: 1 million illegal immigrants	17 million illegal immigrants
Homeland Secure, Protected from Dire Threats	Dereliction of Duty in failing to protect fragile electric grid, prepare for pandemics, other collapse threats
Pledge of Allegiance, great faith in our country	majority of Americans have little or no confidence in future of U.S. political system

Sources for exhibit: Webnote²⁰⁹

The diagram on the right from a Pew Research report summarizes the disaster of American Government built by the Perverted Triangle after erasing the 9th and 10th Amendments: “divisive,” “corrupt,” “bad.” When asked to name a “strength of the political system today” in a Pew Research Center study, the top answer was “unknown/refused” (34%), followed by “the system lacks a biggest strength” (22%) with third place going to 12% listing “the structure of political institutions and the principles that define the constitutional order.”²¹⁰ In other words, our political system as it exists is hated by most Americans, with respect remaining only for the Constitution which is overwhelmingly ignored. The electoral appeal of Donald Trump is that he loathes and trash talks establishment Government and the Perverted Triangle.

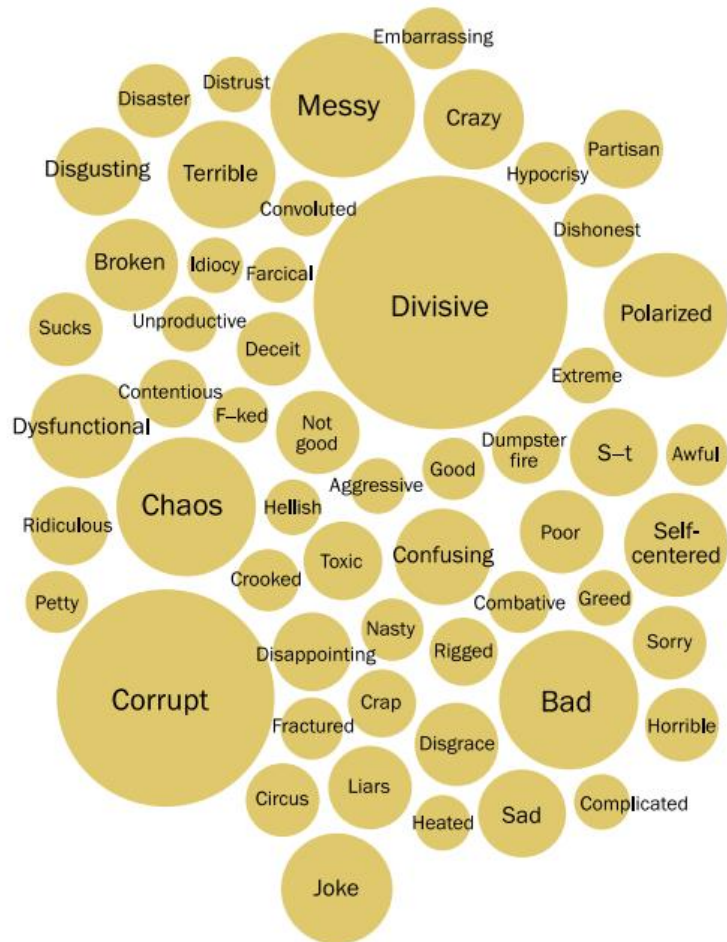
There is no more government By the People or Natural Rights that we fought a war of independence to achieve. We are wards of the Nanny State and victims of the Perverted Triangle.

Unconstitutional, Big Government is destroying America and we must exercise our retained Natural Right to rise up in revolution, do our duty as Americans, to stop the Perverted Triangle.²¹¹

To Fix the uUS, stop the Perverted Triangle and destruction of families and personal responsibility, and reunite our country, we must restore Natural Rights and Constitutional limits, add term limits and other reforms, keep national and state governments out of divisive social welfare programs, allowing diverse local governments and voluntary associations to provide adaptive, responsive services that citizens want subject to limits protecting Natural Rights

‘Divisive,’ ‘corrupt,’ ‘messy’ among the words used most frequently to describe U.S. politics today

What one word or phrase would you use to describe politics in the U.S. these days? [open end]



Note: Circle size indicates relative frequency of a word in responses to an open-ended question. Words with the same root are combined (e.g., “divisive,” “division”). Top 56 words shown. For more details, refer to the survey topline. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023. “Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

With American in sharp, irreconcilable disagreement on issues like abortion, gun control, social programs, welfare benefits and many other issues, if we want to stay united on foreign affairs and national security, we need to divorce on social and domestic policy at the national and state levels.

The federal government must obey the 9th and 10th Amendments and limit its activities to national security, foreign policy, settling trade/economic disputes between states (when states ask for resolution—not initiated or dictated by the Fed) and the very few Constitutionally authorized actions like the Post Office. States should also abandon Big Government social policies at the state level that divide and violate our retained Natural Right to be left alone. If we are to avoid secession, counties refusing state laws, dissolution and civil war, the way ahead must be limited government at the national and state level, with only local governments allowed to legislative on divisive social issues. The status quo and the prospect of continued Perverted Triangle and Big Government control is unacceptable to a majority of Americans.

An Arizona Supreme Court Justice wrote that “The provisions of the Ninth, Tenth, and Fourteenth Amendments demonstrate a clear preference for leaving decision-making with local governments as long as that doesn’t result in threats to individual autonomy. Each level of government is empowered to check the other whenever that other exceeds the boundaries of its power and infringes on individual rights.”²¹²

It is divisive, senseless and unconstitutional for governments to be ruling on teaching critical race theory, intervening in teen age gender sex change operations, religious-based views on abortion and assisted suicide, gay pride, what if any is the right level of welfare to provide someone, what people want to eat or drink. Deciding these issues in arenas that the Perverted Triangle, political parties, and wealth control (Courts) is especially asinine and disastrous. Government, especially at national and state levels, should have no involvement in such disputes and decisions; leaving it to families, individuals, charities, churches and non-profit groups, and, if absolutely necessary, local governments and school boards to decide (without any coercion or bribes by federal or state polices or funding). There are enough debates and difficulties deciding how to best conduct foreign and defense policy at federal levels, security and infrastructure at state levels—far more important issues that must be handled correctly and prioritized.

When there are no limits to government, you have perversions like taxpayers funding an expensive sex change operation for a convicted, imprisoned traitor. 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 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 brought suit on Manning’s behalf.

His request for government funding of a sex change operation should have been dismissed with laughter and disgust, but the Perverted Triangle, unencumbered by the Constitution or common sense or justice or any limit granted the request. Not wanting to risk a politically incorrect action that might lose gay 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—no limits that require the government to take our money only when they have both Constitutional rights to perform some action and have proven a compelling need in the particular case justifying the violation of our Natural Rights to steal our personal property (money) for the compelling, authorized national need. If you have any doubt about how perverted our government and legal system is—explain how our government and courts can take your money to pay for a traitor, a convicted criminal in jail, to have a sex change operation.

Anyone who thinks that abortion is absolutely right or wrong, or that a solid majority of Americans would agree with their position, has not thought it through. Since many/most of the strongest pro-life adherents oppose abortion based on their Christian faith, it is not possible to reason with them. The Catholic Church says life begins at conception. The Jewish view is that life begins at birth when a baby draws its first breath.²¹³ Americans who prioritize individual freedom and abhor government involvement in such a personal decision likely oppose any laws restricting abortion. Forcing people to follow laws for or against abortion, or taxing them to pay for an abortion, is objectionable to a majority of Americans.²¹⁴

Abortion is not an area where government should step in and take action to dictate individual decisions. There should be no government funding of abortions—it is 100% unconstitutional at the federal level, and not a proper government function at the State level either, far too objectionable to many citizen’s morals. The question of when life begins is inherently uncertain and a religious issue for many. Limited government includes keeping government out of the bedroom and areas that are clearly an individual’s or family’s responsibility. If local governments have a strong majority of citizens for or against abortion, for or against local taxation to pay for abortions, they might want to legislate on this issue; but federal and state governments should not be legislating morality or dividing citizens with abortion policies and programs. Politicians, government bureaucrats and lawyers should also never be involved in a person’s decision on their medical care or decision to end their life.

Small is Beautiful²¹⁵ and Big Government is the enemy of good and diversity. Big, powerful, central government, at the federal or state level, dictates regulations and conformity empowering bureaucrats, politicians and lawyers to bribe and manipulate the populace. Where local, small groups and individuals can choose, liberty and diversity and happiness are far more likely to rein. People have far more ability to shape and tailor local policies or move to areas with better local government and social policies they prefer.

Throughout American history, citizens have experimented with living in communes with no personal property, moving to big cities, abandoning them for the countryside, living alone like Thoreau. There are many communal living, co-housing, commune village and neighborhood communities in the U.S. today that practice socialism, do income sharing, even co-parenting of children. As long as people pay taxes for national and local security, and undertake no actions that can harm immediate or downwind/stream neighbors, let people live as free as possible, lead lives they choose, step to the music they hear, live under local governments they can more readily shape

and choose. If Bernie Sanders wants to form a commune in Vermont, with socialist welfare programs and high taxes a majority of citizens in the area want, let him. If this community wants publicly funded hot tubs for naked group hugs, go for it. But don't force social and moral practices on others at national or state levels where those who don't like them cannot readily evade them.

If local groups and organizations work to help the needy by volunteering time and skills or giving donations, no one's rights or freedom are harmed. We should be free to voluntarily pursue social causes and support charities we choose. But when Big Government is leveraged to pursue social agendas that some citizens oppose, our personal liberty is violated, Natural Rights violated, freedom of choice destroyed. When Big Government gets involved in social welfare programs, we have huge waste and costs, high taxes that can ruin lives, stress and destroy marriages and families.

All States should have their version of the 10th Amendment, remove social and welfare programs, and do a big clean up and elimination of state statutes. Many more businesses and individuals should vote with their feet to leave bad Big Government states in favor of those that respect liberty and local choice. This has been happening in California and other states and cities where the Democratic Party, the worst of the Perverted Triangle, rules.

State laws banning education of slaves prevented counties, towns and individuals from helping them prepare for freedom. George Washington freed slaves he owned, but many States banned manumission, freeing slaves. Slavery in America was promoted by the Perverted Triangle and the Democratic Party and government. Many in the South did not support slavery. If states had not passed and enforced slave laws, some counties and villages in southern states could have phased slavery out and banned it. Big State Government, like Big Federal Government, is the enemy of personal liberty. Many minority activists today see Government as the champion of freedom, forgetting that Government organizes and executes or enables abusive attacks on individuals. Even after the 13th Amendment banning slavery, lynchings were commonplace because police, controlled by government, refused to protect. The Tulsa Race Massacre, an entire neighborhood burned down, 300 murdered, was possible because of white mobs deputized and armed by government officials.²¹⁶

There are 3,143 counties in the U.S., and over 300 cities with population's exceeding 100,000. Having social/welfare/education/abortion practices that vary by local government would greatly benefit individual freedom, and not impact the vast majority of business operations. If it is more difficult for huge corporations to do business with laws that vary by local area—that would not necessarily be bad. Big businesses have huge advantages over small in dealing with Big State and Federal governments, exploiting monopoly power in many situations; so if more local, diverse government rules harm their national operations and favor local firms, that should be beneficial. Many, probably most local governments will offer far fewer social spending programs and regulations when they have to pay for them. All companies and responsible individuals will be better off with lower taxes and fewer laws to deal with.

Many Americans deny global warming and other problems not because they believe the data is lacking, but because they know that it will just be an excuse for the Perverted Triangle to add more taxes, bureaucrats, laws and regulations, and lawsuits. If citizens did not fear Big Government and lawyer abuse of power, there would be more support for reasonable actions to address these problems.

If we can get the Federal Government to obey the Constitution and focus on foreign threats, reign in Big Government at the state level, then we will all be free to pursue a wide range of governments and live in societies that best suit us. There are many on the left, socialists, communists, who want

to pursue their version of government and society—let them! Give people freedom at town, city or county levels to build the kind of social programs and society they want. Those there now that can't tolerate their laws and government can leave, hopefully not having to move far to find a government that suits them. This is the government of the people, by the people that our Founders envisioned, with diversity--not the rule of Big Governments squashing personal choice and freedom, trampling Natural Rights, forced to pay for and follow policies that half the population detests.²¹⁷

Our Country is bitterly divided today, falling apart, because the Two Dominant Political Parties and uS/State Government Social Programs have divided our nation

A contributing factor to the sharp, irreconcilable divides 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.

Our government is so ridiculously irresponsible and operated for Perverted Triangle/political party benefit that the mayor of a small city who gets traction in a presidential election due to being openly gay gets the political reward of the Secretary of Transportation position, despite zero qualifications for such work. Ambassadorships are handed out as payments for political party donations and support—with no objections. Trump's huge success is not due to his integrity or policies, but 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.”²¹⁸

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. He may well be a lying bull in a china shop; but most Americans are eager to see Big Government destroyed.

The candidates of the two big political parties prioritize promoting their party and winning elections, sacrificing principles and the benefit of citizens and the country whenever needed to get 50% + 1 vote. Parties are not a necessary evil, especially today with far better access to and variety of information. Citizen's Advisory Associations (described later) can recommend candidates to support or provide relevant comparisons to help voters decide. Parties are not needed to educate voters about candidates and have zero Constitutional authority to be involved in elections or government. All election laws that recognize and support political parties should be eliminated, outlawed, so parties have no power to limit candidates for office. A preferential voting system (ranking candidates so a process of elimination continues until one candidate wins an absolute

majority) can handle elections with more candidates. Andrew Yang and his Forward Party back this type of voting to reduce the Big Political Parties perverted lock on government.²¹⁹

The right to vote is of little to no value, an exercise in frustration, when the choice is between professional politicians from the stupid or evil party, lawyers devoted to passing more public laws for professional profit, conservatives pledged to pass laws to mandate their moral values, or all the above. But the Perverted Triangle's strongest supporters loudly trumpet the big lie that as long as you get to vote and majority rules that's all you need for democracy. American democracy prioritizes Natural Rights, not majority rule, which can lead to terrorizing and abusing minorities. Voting is not enough, not democracy, when our system of government and courts have erased many Natural and Constitutional Rights, and political parties and the Perverted Triangle have a stranglehold on a horrible system that will not change.

While top Democratic Party leaders were the worst creators of the Perverted Triangle, FDR and LBJ especially, Nixon and George Bush 2, both political parties, government union leaders, and lawyer lobbyists, also deserve condemnation for growing the corrupt Perverted Triangle into the disaster we are saddled with today. The two controlling political parties agree only on the goal of opposing each other, the system cannot be fixed—it must be dismantled, destroyed.

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.”²²⁰

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.²²¹

Leveraging the Constitution, Natural Rights, Voluntary Associations, and Local Governments to Limit Big, Bad Government

The cancerous growth of Big Government is not just the fault of career politicians, bureaucrats and lawyers. It is also a failure of Governors and State Legislatures to fight unconstitutional federal laws, and a failure of citizens to fight and refuse unconstitutional laws and government overreach at all levels of government. Since the 1913 national income tax, and with the huge growth in unconstitutional federal grants of money to states and cities, many state and local governments are to a large degree bought, directed, and owned by the uUS and the Perverted Triangle. FDR deliberately, ruthlessly, and effectively exploited and extended the Great Depression, stealing gold from citizens, illegally using federal aid to buy Governors, state legislators, and elections.²²² Most States are no longer a check on the federal government—they are part of the Perverted Triangle, buying re-election votes with federal funds requiring taxes and fees they are not responsible for. In many states, only citizens are left to force the uUS federal government to obey the Constitution.

In 2023 when Illinois passed a state ban on “assault rifles”, at least 74 Illinois county sheriff's departments (vast majority of counties in the state) publicly vowed to defy the law and not check for

compliance or enforce the ban.²²³ Nationwide, most counties have Sheriff's and other local officials who refuse federal and/or state gun laws, insisting they violate the Constitution.²²⁴ This is a critical point and precedent for State Governments, who need to be refusing, nullifying unconstitutional federal laws, and all American citizens who should refuse to obey unconstitutional state and federal laws.

County Boards need to join County Sheriffs in standing up to Big State Government's unreasonable infringements of personal liberties, retained Natural Rights. There is a growing "Constitutional County Movement" where county boards pledge to follow the Constitution, and like the hundreds of Sheriffs refusing to enforce gun laws they believe violate the Constitution, not enforce any federal or state laws they judge to be improper and unconstitutional. Rural County Boards need to refuse state laws passed by solid Democratic Party majorities in big cities with legislatures controlled by urban voters, that do not fit with or best serve rural citizens and violate their Natural Rights to personal property and freedom. What is happening across the U.S., especially in state governments controlled by urban Democratic majorities, is members of the Perverted Triangle passing laws that violate basic American rights, including Constitutional rights and use of personal property. County Boards need to start passing resolutions refusing Big State Government laws that they find inappropriate, unreasonable and offensive. Federal and State Governments can't force county Sheriffs or County Commissioners to enforce laws they refuse to support.

Citizens have both a right to keep their private property and use it as they see fit when such use does not severe harm or risk harm to others.²²⁵ These retained Natural Rights are not subject to violation by a majority vote—contrary to what the Perverted Triangle says.

Unlike widespread contempt for Congressmen, 56% of Americans polled by Pew Research say their local elected officials are doing a good job.²²⁶ While local governments can also ignore and violate Natural and Constitutional Rights, it is far more feasible to change and fix, or if necessary flee, bad local government than leave the country or move to a different state.

If the 9th and 10th Amendments are again obeyed, the vast majority of the HHS department, programs, and spending can be eliminated. Programs that are vital for national security—like biological defense, some aspects of CDC work for example, that are constitutional, vital for defense and security, can be continued in the Dept of Defense or Homeland Security. Tax bills would plummet and we could end the budget deficit and within a decade pay off most of our debt. Similar savings can be achieved in Big State Governments in CA, IL, NY and many others if states also get out of expensive, divisive social programs. Citizens who want welfare programs can lobby for them and adopt them at their local level—tailored to their needs, with far lower cost and less regulatory mess since more tailored and better controlled and managed. If run by charities, churches, and nonprofits, the savings and improvements in service would be better still.

Because the hundreds of federally created independent regulatory agencies have tremendous abusive power, and the Supreme Court in a 1983 ruling stopped Congress from nullifying federal regulatory actions, a Constitution Amendment is needed to give Congress the constitutional power to enact legislative vetoes to nullify executive and regulatory actions.²²⁷

Many Constitutional Amendments are needed to force the Supreme Court to enforce existing Constitutional limits to Government and increase the power of citizens to check the inherent, insidious growth in Government power at the expense of personal freedom and income. They are listed in the *Declaration of The Constitutional Alliance* later in this paper.

We live in a democracy, so when the Pew Research Center reports an overwhelming majority of adults (87%) favor limiting the number of terms that members of Congress are allowed to serve, term limits must be passed. This includes a majority (56%) who strongly favor this proposal; just 12% are opposed.²²⁸ It is time to fight the Perverted Triangle with all we have and get career politicians, the leaders of the Perverted Triangle, out of government. We must outlaw career politicians with term limits. The Founding Fathers were not full time politicians. Most were farmers, still, along with military and law enforcement, the most important, honorable line of work.

A Constitutional amendment should be passed requiring sunset provisions for all laws, and sunset provisions in all regulations to force review and elimination of onerous, out of date, and ineffective/counterproductive laws. Reviews should also be required to compare the original promises (including who promised them) to the actual results of any programs that are retained.

All laws, bills passed in both houses should be read in full, while at least 80% of members are present and attentive, as judged by a Federal Watch Officer, a new appointed official (by state legislature vote) charged to ensure that this requirement to read and know federal laws before passing them is complied with. If listening requirements are not met, the Federal Watch Officer is empowered to halt the session and label a bill null and void for non-compliance with the reading requirements. State constitutions should also have this requirement, with state watch officers appointed by counties.²²⁹

Americans need protection from a growing multitude of outrageous laws and regulations that infringe on property owners right to keep their private property and right to use it as they see fit when such use does not risk severe, likely harm to others. Americans also need protection from Big Government regulating their eating and personal behavior in their homes. Zoning restrictions, building codes, rules on use of private property should only be permitted when they pose a clear and serious risk of external harm, and grant citizens an easy, fast, cheap way to appeal abuse of any regulation impacting their private home. Governments should not force regulation of private property unless a clear risk of substantial harm to the public and convincing evidence that there is no alternative means of protecting the public.²³⁰

Some counties and cities may want to abandon our perverted legal system for Mediation/Arbitration and People's Courts—a system like Small Claims Court but without the limit to just low dollar claim civil cases, with no requirement to use lawyers as many civil and administrative courts require. In all legal proceedings, we need to trust (and be able to remove by vote) judges, empowering them to prioritize justice for the parties in their case--not favor past case rulings, removing all requirements to use lawyers or favor legal maneuvers over the truth, and switch to the French legal model that prohibits lawyers lying in court.

It will be easy to pass a Constitutional Amendment to prohibit exemptions or special treatment of current and past elected officials for violating laws that the public is subjected to. In particular, elected officials who have access to classified national security information and violate laws and regulations to safeguard classified information, must be removed from office and given the same punishment (including imprisonment) that others who violate classified information and jeopardize national security are subjected to.

Common sense and personal experience convince most Americans that a social program run by a non-profit or a government contracted business will be far more effective and much less expensive than one by government employees that are difficult to impossible to fire. Proof positive of this, is the lessons of David Mastran, a West Point graduate, Vietnam War Veteran, who experienced Big

Government, and fought the Perverted Triangle working to improve social services. This webnote explains how his privately run business did far better in providing welfare services (in both cost and quality) but was ultimately shut down by the Democratic Party and the government employee union.²³¹

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 little 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.

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), 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 Underwriter's 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 externality²³² 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 millions²³³ 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 the 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 citizen's 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.

CAAs should have very powerful, independent, multiple member review committees that get member complaints, investigate allegations and rumors of misconduct, and hire/fire key staff. These boards must be active “watch dogs” of the CAA, not rubber stamp supporters appointed by the CAA CEO. Many School Boards and many Association Boards are worthless rubber stamps, friends of the administrators, not serving as watchdogs who remain suspicious and on the lookout for bias or misconduct as they should. Reject “Carver” type rules limiting the involvement of citizen directors.²³⁴ CAAs need active boards, not “just hire a great CEO and let he/she do a great job,” along with lots of means for association members to make inputs and question/criticize CAA recommendations.

Like corporations and non-profits (many of whom really do care about profits or big salaries), CAAs can be bribed. But government politicians are openly bought and sold with campaign donations and union worker support. With CAAs, guilty parties can be easily fired (not so with government employees or elected officials) and, more important and powerful: citizens can quit a CAA to punish and stop misconduct. We are coerced into obeying Government, no matter how incompetent, bribed, or evil their laws and regulations. We must minimize rigid laws and regulations, applying them only when grave, unavoidable threats to public health and safety. Nuclear power plants need federal regulation because of their severe, cross-state environmental impacts (we a Constitutional amendment authorizing federal environmental laws) and big risks of harming people. The vast majority of federal regulations have no such compelling need or legal basis.²³⁵

Where “externalities,” costs that are not included in the price are involved, like pollution, there may be a need for government regulations against (or taxing) the pollution or “green standards” or a CAA advising for or against products based on considerations beyond price and product quality. The strong preference should still be voluntary standards and consumer (influence by CAAs they choose and trust) choices—not the expensive, counterproductive, inflexible and often wrong dictates of pandering politicians enforced by bureaucrats and lawyers and a horrible legal system.

But the Perverted Triangle prefers Governments, regulations over voluntary standards to promote their profit and power. The Democratic Party in particular hates the idea of voluntary or industry standards that are not based on government power. They want the jobs, budget, campaign donations from the public employee unions (who vote █% for the Democratic Party).

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.”²³⁶

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 \$3,000.²³⁷ 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 U.S. while the product shifts to overseas production where the U.S. government regulations can be avoided.²³⁸

The phenomenal surge in U.S. defense production during WWII that won the war for us 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.

Some Democratic candidates want to regulate business CEO pay and add wealth taxes beyond the higher income tax rates on wealthy. CAA's can judge and decide if they want to publicize information on CEO pay for consumers to decide or weigh in with recommendations that consumers not use companies judged to have overpaid CEOs or bad products and services. CAA recommendations that are judged to have good effects can be rewarded. If a CAA's recommendations and campaigns don't work well, the efforts can be very quickly changed--and no one gets taxed or arrested by government. This is bad for the Perverted Triangle. No opportunities for campaign donation bribes for political officials. No jobs for government bureaucrats. No new laws to generate lawsuits for lawyers. This is great for citizens.

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.²³⁹ 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.

With the dire security threats we face today, worse than in the past, rising due to advances in biotechnology, new means to produce nuclear fuels, nanotechnology risks, and other “Black Swan”²⁴⁰ threats we may not recognize until they hit, Congress, the POTUS and all federal agencies need to be focused exclusively on national security—military and foreign policy, public health threats, environmental protection, and domestic recovery from collapse level disasters. Get the federal government out of social and economic policy and regulation so they can focus on threats that could take our lives. Do not violate personal liberty and our Natural Right to decide how we lead our lives.

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.”²⁴¹

Another big lie of Big Government and, especially, the Democratic Party, is their alleged commitment to diversity. The more rules and government codes and social programs you mandate, the more you force compliance with one standard. Real diversity means allowing people to build and equip the kinds of houses they want, live in communities with vast or no social programs, small schools or big school bureaucracies as they prefer. We could have had hundreds of thousands of flying cars in the U.S. long ago if manufacturers had the freedom to build without mountains of regulations, and consumers had the liberty to choose whether or not they wanted a flying plane without the huge list of government mandated auto safety features. Government rules are the enemy of diversity, personal liberty, economic prosperity, and happiness.

When political parties are removed from all aspects of election law and processes, they can still give advice on what candidates they recommend running for office. But CAAs and all kinds of groups can also advise on who they recommend for office, with citizens able to compare a variety of recommendations. The Catholic Church has long used “voter guides” (often based just on a candidate’s stand on abortion, even for offices having absolutely no vote on or involvement in any abortion related issue).

Consumer Advisory Associations can also come up with a plan to fix the Social Security disaster FDR created. In his speech signing the blatantly unconstitutional Social Security Act, FDR, as usual, told a typical career politician’s pack of lies, claiming the program would avoid debt, stop inflation, improve the economy.²⁴² The whole program was based on a deliberate lie, calling it a government run retirement program, complete with your social security number to hold your personal payments into the system and investment earnings on your retirement investment in your private account with your personal social security account number.

Social Security is an unconstitutional, unsound system, a Ponzi scheme and sham from the start. It was designed as a deliberate deception to make people think that their money gets invested in their account with their social security number where it earns interest and eventually gets paid out to them from their retirement account. If was openly explained as a wealth transfer, welfare program it would have not have been passed or accepted—FDR lied. The social security number created with the act was a deliberate act of deception—an attempt to make it seem like this was a private bank account for your deposits and earnings, disguising the fact that Social Security was also a welfare program--public benefits paid to subsidize and redistribute income—not real investment earnings on your private account.²⁴³ The truth is:

1. There is no private account with your money invested in it, growing in value, reserved for future payout to you (the big lie of FDR)
2. The money is not invested, it is immediately paid out in the Perverted Triangle social security Ponzi scheme that is completely dependent on whether or not future politicians will vote to tax current voters/workers to pay out decades old promised payments
3. Rather than “avoiding “the necessity of going deeply into debt to furnish relief to the needy,” Social Security has built up a debt of trillions with nothing invested to fund future payments
4. Social security is used as a welfare payment program for Perverted Triangle politicians to buy elderly votes; paying out far more in benefits to this highly likely to vote population at the expense of future workers (many not voters) who will be taxed to pay into a system at ever higher rates likely to pay them far less or nothing
5. This federal program is blatantly unconstitutional, a crystal clear violation of the 10th Amendment

Nobel prize winning economist Milton Friedman summarized a government social security booklet by writing “it would be hard to pack a greater number of false and misleading statements into a single paragraph.”²⁴⁴ The pamphlet is deliberately designed to deceive citizens into thinking they will get retirement benefits based on their contributions. For decades since the original big lies about Social Security told by FDR, the Perverted Triangle continues to mislead citizens into thinking this is a real personal retirement savings program with your private account. Like the SEC’s “accredited investor” rule, Covid relief “loans” you don’t have to repay, Bill Clinton “not having sex with that woman,” the Perverted Triangle deliberately lies and deceives. The reason Donald Trump supporters, who know he is a habitual liar, back him is that Americans are so sick of the decades of outrageous, professional lies from the Perverted Triangle it’s refreshing to have a blatant liar who at least doesn’t pretend he’s telling the absolute truth. As Paul Fanlund, an old school (integrity mattered) journalist put it, “Many of Trump’s backers have become so angry and alienated that they . . . regard this as a time of war, one to be fought day-by-day by a superhero who uses lies as an acceptable weapon.”²⁴⁵

Social Security has always been a Ponzi scheme, a pack of lies and tool of the Perverted Triangle to buy votes. It is a welfare program, taking money from current workers to pay folks who retired and have no investment account that built up funds because there never was any investment. Before 2010 there was more social security tax coming in than benefits being paid out, but since then the “trust fund” built up has been getting smaller and will be depleted by 2033. The age at which benefits payout has already been extended from 65 to 67. The Social Security payroll tax rate has increased, and the government now taxes social security benefits received by higher-income retirees.

Financial planners advise clients not to rely on social security because it is not real investments yielding returns, but an underfunded welfare program that will require increasing subsidies, changes, and political support this is not guaranteed and not affordable.²⁴⁶

And yet this unconstitutional, pack of lies program is defended by both political parties and the vast majority of Congressmen, Trump and Biden, because they don’t have the honesty to tell citizens that Social Security is a welfare program and cannot keep paying great benefits to young workers paying into the Ponzi scheme system.

For decades we have had reasonable proposals to privatize social security and turn it into a real personal savings program versus the sham welfare scheme. Martin Feldstein, a professor of economics at Harvard University and president of the National Bureau of Economic Research developed a plan to both fix Social Security and spur economic growth and raise real wages.²⁴⁷ But these reforms go nowhere because the Perverted Triangle does not want to give up the political power and government jobs of government welfare programs.

Only local, city or county governments should have the ability to tax people or require social and welfare programs--and only if the local people approve of it and pay the taxes for it. Those who dislike the level of government services can then more easily take action to change the laws or officials or move. A country where people could choose to adopt the rules they want and live in places that best meet their particular preferences, would have far more diversity and much happier citizens. Over time, there would probably be some convergence on some overwhelmingly more successful practices. But they would be chosen by the people in the marketplace of liberty and competition, constantly adapting and improving to meet changing needs--not dictated by lobbyists and the Perverted Triangle.

With the power of the Internet and Consumer Advisory Associations, if we can get Big Government to stop violating our retained Natural Rights, regulating and taxing us to death, bankrupting the country, we can enjoy the greatest growth in personal freedom and happiness this country has ever experienced.

When politicians, lawyers, judges, and government bureaucrats claim that we have a “living Constitution” that they can unilaterally reinterpret, change or ignore despite the Constitution’s clear meaning and intent, citizens must proclaim: “it is our country, we can read, we have guns, and we will refuse to obey unconstitutional laws that violate our Natural and Constitutional Rights.” The 9th and 10th Amendments wording and legislative intent, and the Federalist Papers that explained the Constitution to citizens, are clear. The Supreme Court’s decisions erasing these fundamental, vital parts of the Constitution were absolutely wrong. States, military officers, and citizens have not just the right, but an obligation to protect and enforce the Constitution by refusing unconstitutional federal laws—including Obamacare, welfare programs, drug laws, and many more.²⁴⁸

This is The Way: The Constitutional Alliance plan to fix American Government and our Legal System, Restore the Constitution and Liberty

The uUS Big Government today is horrible, bankrupting the nation, pushing the nation towards a split that could lead to civil war, destroying good values and conduct, promoting irresponsibility and destruction of families to yield dependence on and profit for the Perverted Triangle. We must have huge changes that a large majority of citizens support and do not try to pick winners/losers on the many divisive social issues that divide us.

Revolutionary changes are needed and can be done within the framework of the U.S. Constitution. Indeed, the most important reform is to reinstate the illegally erased 9th and 10th Amendments so Constitutional limits to government interference can work. Washington DC and many state governments are impossibly corrupt and controlled by the Perverted Triangle and political parties. Citizens must fix the mess to restore the Constitution and liberty.

There are dozens of great associations working for some of these changes already.

The goal of the Heritage Foundation is to “Dismantle the administrative state and return self-governance to the American people.”²⁴⁹ This is a goal that 90% of Americans can get behind (all but the Perverted Triangle and their closest beneficiaries) as long as it is pursued in a religious and social policy neutral plan. Add religion, abortion, gun control stands, culture and “political correctness” views, and you get into irreconcilable differences. The only way to unite Americans for foreign and national security policy (which is far more important, more feasible) is to stay out of religious and social and welfare issues at the national level and, ideally at state levels (where security, law enforcement, infrastructure must be the priority).

There are hundreds of great groups already working for reforms, such as U.S. Term Limits, whose vital, all-American goal is “a government of the people, by the people, and for the people- not a ruling class who care more about deals to benefit themselves, than their constituents.”²⁵⁰ U.S. Term Limits has assisted in enacting and defending term limits on state legislators in 15 states as well as congressional term limits in 23 states. Unfortunately, the Supreme Court, with judges appointed by Congress, ruled 5-4 in *U.S. Term Limits v. Thornton* that states may not individually enact term limits for their members of Congress. In 2016, USTL launched the Term Limits Convention, a new

project to enact a constitutional amendment for congressional term limits, an approach that “no member of Congress can stop.”²⁵¹

There are plenty of groups and associations that share the overall goal of stopping the abuse of Big Government and Perverted Triangle power. What is lacking is a coordinated plan and common program of reforms to unite these efforts. A majority of Americans will support the reforms outlined here if clear communication of the plan and process is offered.

The basic strategy to fix the mess, “The Way,” is outlined here. The Constitutional Alliance (TCA), a coalition of organizations working to reform our government and legal system, must be formed. By uniting to refine this draft program, association members of the TCA can improve it and ready it for presentation to a “Citizen’s Congress” for final modification and approval. Then TCA can then work to get a Convention of States to adopt the Constitutional Amendments needed, and work with citizens at state levels to ratify the Constitutional Amendments, limit Big State Governments, and change our legal system. It is very feasible to restore Constitutional limits to federal power, enabling local governments to provide diverse, better, cheaper services that citizens there desire, and regain American freedom.²⁵²

The primary objective is restoring the 9th and 10th Amendment which the Supreme Court effectively and illegally erased starting in 1937 under threats from FDR. A Constitutional Convention of the States is required to do this and get many other needed Amendments through. Constitutional change through the Congress or a POTUS is not the way; the political parties and Perverted Triangle²⁵³ have far too much control over Washington DC. It is the Augean Stables that must be washed out, bypassed to achieve success.

The two major political parties are an absolute disaster for the country, enablers of the Perverted Triangle and the status quo of horrible, unconstitutional, Natural Rights violating Big Government. We can’t outlaw them, but we can amend the Constitution to ban any government procedures (especially elections) that mention or facilitate any role for political parties. Term limits and an end to career politicians will also help break the back of political parties and the Perverted Triangle.

A Constitutional Convention must not be pursued until we are confident a majority of state legislators and Governors will support the TCA plan to fix our government and legal system. The only viable approach is a mass movement with strong majority public support that is executed by a big majority of states following a strategy (a signed Declaration) that is developed, endorsed and promoted by TCA and a Citizen’s Congress.²⁵⁴

Three related, reinforcing efforts are to similarly limit Big State Government, reform the legal system, which is driven by the same forces and agendas that have ruined government, and a program to promote individual citizen responsibility, which includes the duty of serving as a check on government overreach, with civil disobedience sometimes necessary.

To both increase the pressure and probability of success of the primary objective, the fallback strategy if we cannot fix the mess is to promote Nullification and Secession.

The first campaign is to develop and adopt a “Declaration of The Constitutional Alliance” that lays out the plan to fix our irresponsible, bad system of government and justice. A first draft is provided here. There are hundreds of groups (many listed in this Webnote²⁵⁵) already working for reforms needed. The Constitutional Alliance of organizations and individuals, initially led by representatives from groups like the Cato Institute, Heritage Foundation, Hudson Institute, 10th

Amendment Center, and U.S. Term Limits, will bring these groups together²⁵⁶ to agree on a plan to fix our government mess and restore America's core value: Natural Rights. These groups and other leading advocates of limited government, families, personal liberty and responsibility, will be invited to join TCA²⁵⁷ to prepare the Final Draft of the *Declaration of The Constitutional Alliance*, that will then be revised and approved by a Citizen's Congress that TCA plans, organizes and executes.

One thousand American citizens will be invited to the Citizen's Congress to review, and if necessary make some modifications to the draft Declaration, then adopt it. Following a successful Citizen's Congress we can work to convince a solid majority of state governors and legislators to support the Declaration and its proposed amendments, then get a Constitutional Convention to fix our uUS, fight the Perverted Triangle, reduce or eliminate bad Big State Governments, and reform our too often unjust legal system.²⁵⁸

To be successful, this cannot become or appear to be a right wing conservative movement. If people want to live in a commune, pay for a government that provides welfare payments, they can draft and successfully control such policies if they are at a local level where democracy works. With a diversity of such programs and policies and governments in counties and cities, people can better shape and enjoy the level of government they want, and more readily move to escape those they do not prefer. This is The Way to maximize personal achievement and happiness in America. Environmental groups will support our Amendment to authorize federal environmental protection programs (that are currently unconstitutional). We must not ally with the Republican Party, adopt their divisive abortion policies, or insist on legislating on any social or moral issues at state or national levels. Many groups that disagree on religious and social issues, can unite behind a program that gives Americans better democracy, freedom, and choice at local levels. They can fight for their cause at local levels of government. Groups that refuse to compromise on "their" social or religious issue are allies of the status quo, barriers to change.²⁵⁹

The Perverted Triangle will fight viciously against a Convention of the States, and work to undermine it when it does occur. Their lock hold on Congress is impervious, but state legislators are far more responsive to direct contact of citizens and less controlled by political parties. It may take a few years to elect some new legislators pledged to the TCA plan, but getting 34 states to pass the many Constitutional amendments needed is quite doable.

Currently 19 state legislatures have passed resolutions calling for a Convention of States, but specify that the convention can only discuss amendments that "limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, impose fiscal restraints, and place term limits on federal officials." This will not work. When we get the 10th back, we must have amendments to authorize environmental regulations and limits on pollution. Without courts enforcing our Natural Rights and the 9th Amendment, there are no effective limits to state or local government. Far more reforms are vital, and the Convention of States must start with a broader program of Constitutional amendments.

If TCA cannot achieve our objectives of limited government and a fair system of real justice, then we will support nullification and state secession movements and work for a peaceful dissolution of the uUS. Though not our goal, it is necessary to have this stick to give our reform effort more power, and secession is preferable to civil war.

Declaration of The Constitutional Alliance

Whereas the Declaration of Independence states that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of the ends of Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and institute new government; and

Whereas the Constitution of the United States has been twisted, perverted, ignored and violated; and

Whereas the Supreme Court, under threat from President Franklin Roosevelt in 1937 illegally and improperly erased the 10th Amendment; and

Whereas the Supreme Court, controlled by the Perverted Triangle of professional politicians, government bureaucrats, and lawyers illegally and improperly erased the 9th Amendment; and

Whereas the Government erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance; and

Whereas the Perverted Triangle has plagued the country with unconstitutional social welfare and entitlement programs that bankrupt the nation and corrupt and divide the citizenry; and

Whereas the two major political parties both ignore Constitutional limits, divide the country with unconstitutional social and welfare programs, and promote division for partisan political gain; and

Whereas federal and state governments are failing in their primary, most important duty of protecting the populace from foreign and domestic threats; and

Whereas our legal system allows lawyers to lie and does not prioritize justice, but allegiance to past case rulings and expensive attorneys, a perverted system that denies justice; and

Whereas the citizens of the United States have heretofore been grossly negligent in defending their liberties from pandering politicians, lawyers, and an obscene multitude of bureaucrats at all levels of government;

We are now strongly resolved that American's now unconstitutional government must be reformed by a Convention of the States to amend the Consitution to get Natural Rights and limits to government back.

This Declaration is presented in three groups so that Americans can join The Constitutional Alliance at whatever level of commitment they are comfortable with. The Non-Negotiable Core lists the constitutional repairs that must be achieved—items every member of TCA must endorse. Strongly Recommended Reforms are the broader package TCA will actively advocate. The final group is presented For Debate at the Citizen's Congress—proposals we believe deserve serious deliberation but expect to refine, modify, or in some cases set aside based on the judgment of the one thousand assembled citizens. The intent is to build the broadest possible coalition around what is essential, while leaving room for honest disagreement on what is most ambitious.

The Non-Negotiable Core

- 1. The Constitution must be followed absolutely, especially the 9th and 10th Amendments.**
- 2. The Constitution be amended to clearly state that the 10th Amendment cannot be violated, and does indeed mean, just as stated, that the federal government can only pursue programs and taxes that are specifically listed in writing in the Constitution. The general welfare clause is no excuse to ignore the 10th Amendment limits of federal action to enumerated, written areas only.**
- 3. The Interstate Commerce Clause cannot be interpreted to ignore the 10th Amendment, limiting federal powers and regulations to just those necessary for defense and security and enumerated powers. The Constitution is amended to limit the federal government to settling disputes between States on trade, not dictating all economic activity in the United States. The Federal Government may not legislate, regulate, or tax interstate trade without a request from a state for action, that can be nullified with a majority vote of States.**
- 4. Constitution be amended to clearly state that the 9th Amendment cannot be ignored. Citizens have Natural Rights, some listed like freedom of speech and right to bear arms, but many others not enumerated that legislative laws may not violate. When citizens challenge statutory laws and regulations claiming a Natural Right to be left alone, governments must prove the law is a proper one, delegated to them by The People, and an absolutely necessary taking of personal liberty.**
- 5. The Constitution be amended to clearly state that the Constitution can only be changed by Amendments as specified in Article V—not changed by new opinions or circumstances or preferences of elected officials or Judges or Supreme Court rulings.**
- 6. The Constitution be amended to require a balanced budget, with no deficit spending unless in support of a lawfully declared war or national emergency.**
- 7. Term limits are vital at all levels of government and are essential to stop career politicians, pandering for re-election in favor of normal good citizens periodically offering short terms of public service. The Constitution should be amended to term limit Congressmen and Senators, with the President limited to one six year term of office with the POTUS focused on national security not campaigning.**

Strongly Recommended Reforms

- 8. In the absence of Courts enforcing the Constitution, state legislatures and citizens must declare laws that violate the Constitution null and void, and oppose their implementation.**
- 9. Counties and Cities should follow the model of Second Amendment Sanctuary Counties and Constitutional Counties movement and refuse federal and state laws that violate our Natural Rights or the Constitution.**
- 10. The purpose of government is defense and security, protecting citizens from threats that they cannot reasonably protect themselves from, not promoting divisive social policies,**

regulating or interfering in their personal affairs that do not harm others. Federal and state governments should provide no social programs beyond those necessary to reward and care for those who have served honorably in the military or government.

11. Governments at all levels must stop regulating personal and private matters, stay out of citizen's homes, and not infringe on personal activity that does not cause unreasonable harm to others.

12. Judges in all types of courts and jurisdictions be directed to recognize Natural Rights, the 9th and 14th Amendments, especially in protecting private homes from government regulations or inspections unless an overwhelmingly clear case that immediate neighbors are dangerously impacted. People without nearby neighbors in a private house may not be regulated or interfered with by government. No government official may enter private property unless a court order or urgent, reasonable fear of a grave threat to public safety.

13. Families are the obvious basis of good youth character development and learning responsibility, must not be undermined by government programs or laws. Parents are responsible for the conduct of their children and are liable for the damages committed by their children until they reach adulthood.

14. The Constitution be amended to require sunset provisions for all laws, and sunset provisions in all regulations to force review and elimination of ineffective and out of date rules. Reviews must include a comparison of the original promises to the actual results and the actual costs/benefits achieved for laws that are retained.

15. All existing rules and laws not already subject to mandated review are hereby repealed in 5 years unless repassed by Congress with sunset review dates.

16. The Constitution be amended to require all laws, bills passed in both houses must be limited to a single subject, and read in full, while at least 80% of members are present and attentive, as judged by a Federal Watch Officer. State legislatures will nominate and then vote to appoint 12 Federal Watch Officers who rotate in service.

17. State Constitutions should be amended to require sunset reviews, single subject bills, with reading in full before legislative approval.

18. The Constitution be amended to limit abuse of Executive Orders and federal regulations to enact laws and curtail and control regulations and reduce the abusive power of The Administrative State by forcing Congress to vote on regulations instead of deferring law making to regulators.

19. The Constitution be amended to adopt the Equal Rights Amendment: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

20. The Constitution be amended to authorize the Federal government to adopt reasonable, cost effective policies and regulations to protect the environment from harmful pollution that spreads beyond private property and willing parties to negatively impact other private or public property or harm people and natural wildlife.

21. The Constitution be amended to ban public employee unions at all levels of government.

22. No government official or elected official can be exempted from laws or given special, preferential treatment in their enforcement. Laws and regulations protecting classified information must never be undermined by allowing elected officials lesser punishments.

23. The Constitution be amended to state that Citizens have the right and duty to oppose violation of their Natural and Constitutional Rights, are allowed to argue their precedence in all government/legal forums without requirement to use an attorney or pay unreasonably high fees. All Courts will always recognize a “presumption of liberty,” with the burden of proof on parties that seek to deny or limit Natural and Constitutional Rights.

24. An Amendment to the Constitution that No citizen shall be required to use an attorney in any civil, criminal, administrative court or government proceeding. No citizen or organization shall be banned or punished for providing legal advice to fellow citizens.

25. Attorneys may not lie in court proceedings or help a guilty client evade conviction for a crime committed; prosecutors may not attempt to convict someone without convincing evidence of guilt, or they will be disbarred and banned from legal practice.

26. 9th and 10th Sanctuary Counties and Cities should refuse federal and state laws and programs that violate our Natural Rights or the Constitution, both superior to federal and state laws.

27. Citizens have a Natural Right To Repair and Right to Refuse outside control of their private property. Unless an overriding, realistic national security need, no company or government may restrict the right of property owners to repair a product they have purchased, or require use of a software they do not want.

28. Citizens should elect Governors and State Attorney Generals pledged to fight federal violation of the 9th and 10th, and to limit Big State Government that can be just as abusive of Natural Rights and personal freedoms.

29. Free citizens should refuse any orders of governments that violate the Constitution and our Natural Rights and liberties.

For Debate at the Citizen’s Congress

30. The Constitution be amended to ban elections or any government activities using or referencing political parties.

31. In the event of a collapse, no elected or government officials who are not directly in charge of and supervising police or military forces may use public facilities or be provided with security or law enforcement protection beyond what all other citizens receive.

32. A plan be prepared to phase out Social Security within 10 years with payments made to private retirement accounts with no further government involvement and the program terminated, or an Amendment adopted to allow a national retirement program that is honestly represented and funded by investments, not future promises of payments.

33. Citizens should promote sustainable development and limited population growth to avoid stress on the environment, save resources for future generations, and reduce causes of human conflict. Such behavior should be encouraged, not regulated or mandated by law.

34. Security and environmental protection laws and all conduct of government business should be designed to favor and promote citizens living in smaller communities, both to enhance their security and to better enable small governments and more responsible citizens.

35. 2nd Amendment be amended to allow regulations banning weapons of mass destruction that can kill thousands of people, and limit possession of weapons by clearly dangerous, mentally ill citizens.

36. Citizens should be educated and encouraged to exercise their right and obligation to dispense justice, not serve lawyers or blindly obey Judges directions. When the legal process is failing to prioritize justice or respect Natural Rights, juries should rule based on what best serves justice and liberty.

37. The Constitution be amended to make it clear that states have the right to secede from the Union. The United States does not force states to join, allowing them to join only if meet requirements. They may leave when they judge the benefits of voluntary Union do not outweigh the costs.

38. Citizens should lead examined, responsible lives, marching to the sound of their different drummer, but responding to the trumpet call of their local community, and their duty to serve neighbors and nation in times of external threat.

39. Citizens should support charities that provide assistance to those in legitimate need, guided by Citizen's Advisory Associations and groups they trust to recommend cost effective charities.

This is a call for peaceful revolution against the Perverted Triangle, a return to Constitutional and limited federal and state government, to enable diverse local governments where free and responsible citizens can engage in true democracy, crafting the particular forms of government and social policies they want, limited only by the Constitution.

We ask associations, organizations, companies, and individuals who favor liberty and responsibility to join in pursuing these goals of fighting Big Government, improving our legal system, and restoring families, personal freedom, and responsibility.

The free citizens of the United State and allied groups of The Constitutional Alliance mutually pledge to each other our lives in support of our freedom and defense of the true Constitution, limited and local government.

If we are blocked in efforts to reform and fix our corrupted government and legal system, we vow to support Nullification, 9th and 10th Amendment Sanctuary Counties, and Secession to help free citizens find liberty and happiness.

Approved by the delegates to the Citizen's Continental Congress

Once the Declaration of the Constitutional Alliance is passed, a campaign is needed to get Governors and State Legislators to endorse and pledge support of our Declaration. Then a Constitutional Convention with hundreds of allied organizations and millions of citizens pushing for adoption of the reforms called for in TCA Declaration. A new political party is not desired, but on-going lobbying, campaigning, candidate endorsements, and education is vital to continue the fight against the Perverted Triangle that will always be a threat to personal freedom and liberty.

This is The Way

1. Finalize draft of the *Declaration of The Constitutional Alliance*
2. Citizen's Congress to review, amend and approve the *Declaration*
3. Campaign to convince State Legislators to support the *Declaration* and pass State bills calling for a Convention of the States
4. Convention of the States to approve Amendments to the U.S. Constitution
5. State level work to get State Constitution reforms and $\frac{3}{4}$ states to ratify U.S. Constitution amendments
6. Develop and promote a program of legal reforms
7. Promote programs to improve youth character education and responsibility

Throughout this process: massive Civil Disobedience against the Perverted Triangle

It is impossible to resolve the divides in our nation, but we can stay united at the state and national levels by staying out of divisive social and domestic issues, leaving it to county and city governments to decide and handle these issues. At a local level, most people will likely start in communities with the social/domestic policies they want. A minority can move to get away from policies they detest, to a likely nearby local government they prefer. The rural-urban, conservative-liberal split in the U.S. would remain, but would not interfere with our national government focusing on national security as it should, and avoid a split in the many states (CA, CO, IL, NV, NY, OR, PA, VA, WA, WI and more), that have big divides.

We must pursue a variety of means to encourage personal responsibility in all citizens, including serving as a check on government, refusing to obey unlawful and unjust laws, while supporting private organizations that provide responsible assistance to fellow citizens in need. Promote good

character and personal responsibility by developing a modern version of the “Maxims for Young Men and Women,” encouraging their use in educating youth.

Throughout this process, the key to success is widespread, massive, peaceful civil disobedience: ignoring and fighting unconstitutional laws and unnecessary/unacceptable violations of Natural Rights, personal liberty. Even if the TCA plan fails, if Americans reject unconstitutional and outrageously wrong laws and rules in huge numbers, we can at least subvert and reduce, if not bring down the Perverted Triangle, and reduce the damage of horrible Big Government and our unjust legal system.

Per the Declaration of Independence, which the Constitution was a plan of implementation, “Whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government...”

The Constitutional Alliance calls for a second American Revolution to stop the Perverted Triangle, unconstitutional U.S. and Big State Government, and restore Natural Rights and Personal Freedom for all Americans as they in their individual, family, and diverse small communities prefer.

The Duty of Civil Disobedience and American Responsibility

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.”²⁶⁰ 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.”²⁶¹

Since American politicians, lawyers and bureaucrats have largely destroyed personal freedom and the principles of the U.S. Constitution, it is time for American citizens to rise up in revolt and refuse the “long train of abuses and usurpations” of politicians, government bureaucrats, and lawyers, and the Perverted Triangle’s goal of absolute despotism. It is our duty and “the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government.”²⁶²

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.”²⁶³ 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.”²⁶⁴

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.²⁶⁵ 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.²⁶⁶

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.”²⁶⁷

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.²⁶⁸

We don’t need and cannot operate with millions of government rules. We can and must fight them, refuse to follow them when they 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 firmly reject the presumption of government officials to dictate how people may use their own private property. 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.²⁶⁹ 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.

If Americans, even by just a few hundred thousand at first, start refusing regulations, taxes, and laws that are clear violations of our Natural Rights, the system could start to falter. If they did not already know, Judges would learn the reasons for this citizen revolt, study the TCA plan, and could start to do their job and stand up to un-American, unconstitutional Big Government.

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.²⁷⁰ 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.”²⁷¹

If we cannot defeat the Perverted Triangle and restore the uUS to a limited, Constitutional government, then State Nullification of unconstitutional laws and Secession is the best option

The case for Nullification and Secession is overwhelming.²⁷²

1. The Constitution is silent on both, so neither can be called “unconstitutional.”
2. The 10th Amendment clearly states that unless the federal government is specifically authorized to do something, the States and the people are supreme in exercising power.
3. The Declaration of Independence, Federalist Papers, and Constitution (9th Amendment) are crystal clear in proclaiming Natural Rights superior to legislated laws in areas where The People did not delegate a role to government.
4. The States have a clear right to refuse to implement federal policies they do not want to support.
5. There is no practical alternative: Federal laws and programs are largely unenforceable, unimplementable without state and local support or if too many citizens refuse it, so if denied, the federal law cannot operate and is in effect nullified. The remaining states and federal troops are not going to attack a state that secedes.
6. The growing multitude of States ignoring unconstitutional federal drug laws, most counties in the United States ignoring unconstitutional state laws, demonstrate nullification in work today.

Madison argued in Federalist #46 that the State and/or citizens have the inherent ability to nullify any federal action they strongly object to:

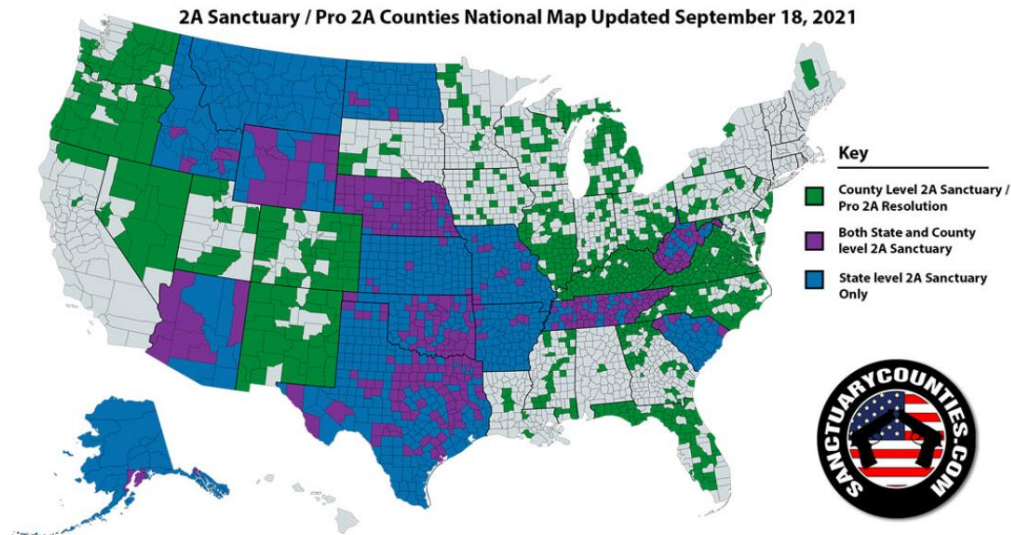
“[S]hould an unwarrantable measure of the federal government be unpopular in particular States, . . . the means of opposition to it are powerful and at hand. The disquietude of the people; their repugnance and, perhaps, refusal to co-operate with the officers of the Union; the frowns of the executive magistracy of the State; the embarrassments created by legislative devices, which would often be added on such occasions, would oppose, in any State, difficulties not to be despised; would form, in a large State, very serious impediments; and where the sentiments of several adjoining States happened to be in unison, would present obstructions which the federal government would hardly be willing to encounter.”²⁷³

Opponents of nullification and secession improperly invoke the “supremacy clause” of the Constitution, which specified that federal laws and treaties are the “supreme Law of the Land”, and thus take priority over any conflicting state laws. That is true for things the Federal Government is put in charge of, like dealing with foreign powers or running the Post Office, national defense. But for laws outside the federal governments limited, delegated authority, the 10th Amendment is crystal clear—such laws are unconstitutional. Alexander Hamilton also offered support to nullification writing in Federalist #78: “There is no position which depends on clearer principles, than that every act of a delegated authority contrary to the tenor of the commission under which it is exercised, is void.” In other words, if not authorized to rule on issue X, any government rule on X is void, nullified. The Constitution and the Federalist Papers are clear: if a federal law is outside the delegated powers as listed in the Constitution, such laws are unconstitutional, null and void. Furthermore, the right to rebel and replace government the people no longer desire is a Natural Right of Americans, superior in precedence to all legislated laws.

The 10th Amendment is further proof that unless the federal government is specifically authorized to do something, the States and the people are supreme in exercising power. The Constitution does not grant the federal government the ability to exercise powers outside the very limited areas where they are specifically authorized to rule. Since the Constitution does not say that States cannot nullify or secede, they retain this power.

A statement by the Utah Sheriff’s Association illustrates the case for nullification. Like most Sheriffs in the United States, they refuse to enforce laws that violate the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution. It is an excellent demonstration of rightful nullification of unconstitutional laws.²⁷⁴

Second Amendment Sanctuary Localities



Second Amendment Sanctuaries refer to ordinances adopted by some jurisdictions in the United States to prevent the enforcement of certain gun control measures that violate the Second Amendment. The ordinances typically prevent the expenditure of funds for various gun control proposals, such as gun bans, registration, enforcement of gun background checks, and red flag laws.

Source: gunowners.org

Many big cities in the U.S. are also engaged in acts of nullification, opposing federal immigration laws. Most states defy unconstitutional federal drug laws. Combined, the thousands of rural counties, dozens of big cities, and most States are already fighting the federal government with nullification—refusing unjust, bad, unconstitutional federal laws (and in the case of 2nd Amendment counties—refusing unjust, bad, unconstitutional State laws). Proof in action that nullification of unconstitutional federal laws is legal and proper.

The TCA will encourage Sanctuary Counties and Cities to refuse federal and state laws and programs that violate our Natural Rights or the Constitution, both superior to federal and state legislated laws and regulations.

The Perverted triangle will insist that Nullification and Secession are illegal, unconstitutional, impossible, and claim the Supreme Court must decide. Reading the Constitution, referencing its guide, the “Federalist Papers,” and then studying the Supreme Court’s *Helvering* abomination of 1937, you’ll know neither Nullification nor Secession is unconstitutional. The Constitution makes no mention of either, and the 10th Amendment makes it clear that the federal government is absolutely limited to its enumerated, written out powers. The Supreme Court’s abdication of responsibility and judgement in 1937 and the Big Lie of a “living Constitution” (that can be changed not by its specified amendment process but merely by having a Justice say they now see a need for change based on current conditions) means that any Supreme Court ruling on Nullification and Secession would be a hypocritical, worthless guide to interpreting the Constitution.

Because 1. neither Nullification or Secession are addressed by the Constitution, 2. Legislative intent during and after approval of the Constitution implies Nullification and Secession were possible, and 3. The Supreme Court in Helvering and decisions since 1937 proved that they are not able to stand up to the Perverted Triangle and defend the Constitution against clearly unconstitutional acts, the notion that the Supreme Court can declare Nullification or Secession unconstitutional is nonsense. Since the 9th and 10th Amendments are crystal clear in denying the federal government anything but exercise of enumerated and delegated powers, both Nullification of federal policies addressing non-enumerated/delegated powers and Secession are proper, legal, rightful acts. To remove doubt and disagreement, this should be decided by amendments to the Constitution allowing or prohibiting, not the derelict Supreme Court.

Federalist #45 and the Constitution’s 10th Amendment are crystal clear—and twisted, perverted rulings of the Supreme Court cannot amend the Constitution. Social Security and welfare programs, drug and food laws, national health care policy, abortion, most of what the federal government spends and rules on today are all clearly, absolutely unconstitutional, illegal, and, for many Americans, immoral acts. The u.S. has become an abomination serving the Perverted Triangle over personal freedom and liberty, with the Supreme Court not even trying to defend the Constitution and limit Big Government—the major purpose of the American Revolution and the U.S. Constitution. States and Citizens must rise up and exercise their Constitutional right and moral duty to bring the Constitution and limited federal government back and remove the Perverted Triangle from power.

States already have the right, and the obligation, to Nullify or refuse unconstitutional federal laws, and the right to secede from the U.S., especially the uUS. But to make this even clearer, TCA advocates an Amendment that specifically allows a State to secede from the Union, though remain allied in a unified foreign policy and service in and provide tax support of the U.S. military.

American citizens have a right and responsibility to fight abusive and intrusive Big Government and States have a right to succeed from the Union. The Constitution does not directly mention secession. But, again, the vital 10th Amendment makes it clear that the federal government has absolutely no authority or power unless enumerated in the Constitution. The federal government has no legal authority to force a state to join or leave the union. Thomas Jefferson, while sitting as

Vice President of the United States in 1799, made his belief in the state's right of secession clear when he wrote to James Madison of his conviction that if the federal government did not return to "the true principles of our federal compact, [he was determined to] sever ourselves from that union we so much value, rather than give up the rights of self-government which we have reserved, and in which alone we see liberty, safety and happiness."²⁷⁵

Abraham Lincoln in his first Inaugural Address as POTUS argued that free people have a right to revolution if a majority of its citizens are dissatisfied with their government, the "inalienable right" (Natural Right) of self-determination we proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence as colonies. Specifically, Lincoln said that if a "clearly written Constitutional right" has been denied, the people have the right to revolt or secede. Lincoln noted that southern citizens had not had their constitutional rights violated, and thus no basis to secede.²⁷⁶ This is not the case today where the uUS federal government absolutely violates the perfectly clear 10th Amendment, completely ignoring and violating it. States have not just a right, but a duty to oppose and if necessary secede the uUS rape of the 10th Amendment and the Constitution. Lincoln ended his First Inaugural address with a call for a Constitutional Convention to resolve differences and try to maintain the union.²⁷⁷ South Carolina torpedoed this by attacking Fort Sumter and starting the Civil War. Lincoln's great advice should be followed by Texas and other states today.

While the Constitution is silent on secession, the most reasonable interpretation is that government of and by and for the people demands the right of a state and people unhappy with the federal government to secede. The Constitution is absolutely clear that the federal government cannot exercise "powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution." Since the federal government since 1937 completely ignores this prohibition, the Supreme Court has allowed the perversion of the Constitution and American Government, the Supreme Court can make no credible claim that states must obey a postulated legal ban on secession when the federal government today treats the Constitution with utter contempt.

The point of excess abuse of Big Gov't and the Perverted Triangle has long been passed, but to the degree possible, civil disobedience should follow the path of non-violent resistance, á la King. While violence in a "Civil War" is likely if states and counties must secede to escape Perverted Triangle abuse, it is highly unlikely to lead to armies clashing or heavy weapons used. If Texas or Oregon or Florida secede, the remaining uU.S. are not going to attack them. Such orders would not be obeyed by State Guard forces, and likely refused by most federal forces (assuming Congress would ever vote for a declaration of war against a seceding state—extremely improbable).²⁷⁸

The Texas and other secession movements may ironically be the best way to save the United States Constitution and avoid the breakup of the Union. By moving towards secession, Texas and other states (or parts of states) can force national debate on the largely unknown 1937 Supreme Court case where the Justices surrendered to FDR, eliminating the 10th Amendment hard limit on the federal government. If the federal government does not back down and Texas secedes, Texans can stay aligned with the rest of the U.S. by continuing to serve in and financially support the U.S. military, follow U.S. foreign policy, stay connected with the U.S. postal service, and other proper Constitutional federal programs. Many other states will end up supporting Texas to fight for a return of the illegally repealed 10th Amendment, or the nation truly will split, though stay aligned in the proper areas of national government—protecting citizens from external threats.

The primary motivation for TEXIT is the federal government's outrageous abuse of power, blatantly ignoring the 9th and 10th Amendments. If the federal government would stick to its proper role,

limited to national security and foreign policy, Post Office and limited infrastructure/interstate commerce dispute resolution, its enumerated powers in the Constitution, there would be no problem with abuse of federal power and multitudes of social programs, with obnoxious pork and waste that have split the populace, driving TEXIT and other secession movements. The motivations for secession in other states and regions are both disgust with the uUS federal government and Big State Governments controlled by urban, largely Democratic politicians who force social policies and morally offensive legislation on rural residents with different values. There are also GOP controlled states that wrongly force social (and religious) policies that many citizens oppose (like abortion restrictions).²⁷⁹

If TCA is successful in resurrecting the 10th Amendment and getting the federal government back within its limits via a Constitutional Convention, then the TEXIT effort can stop short of secession and Texas can remain part of a Constitutional United States. If Texas does have to secede and other states secede and join, the new nation could adopt the U.S. Constitution and actually follow it. It could be called the Constitutional United States (CUS). Texas, and eventually other states that join, would not leave the U.S. Constitution, but leave the perverted, unconstitutional U.S. federal government.

The Texas Nationalist Movement has already proposed that as TEXIT occurs, “Texas would enter into a mutual defense pact with the United States that includes joint use and operation of existing military bases and facilities in Texas or their full transfer to the Texas Military Department” and financial support to military spending.²⁸⁰ I would favor remaining in U.S. military forces, but serving as an ally also works.

The uUS armed forces would be glad to keep military bases in Texas, and Texas manpower and financial support. Texas ranks very high in military participation per capita. Guess where you find the lowest per capita participation in the uUS military (recruits as a percent of 18 to 24 year olds)? The District of Columbia, seat of federal power.²⁸¹ If the Union cannot be saved by a return of limited, Constitutional federal government, then Texas and the CUS can fully back the U.S. Constitution and continue to support and serve in the uUS military. But if the Perverted Triangle blocks this, then, in the ultimate irony, we can ally with another big, friendly military system--TX or the CUS could petition to join the Commonwealth of Nations. Canada is part of the Commonwealth. Texas, along with most or all of the Midwest, eastern Oregon, the Jefferson State (northern CA), Vermont and others--the CUS--would pose no threat to the uUS, we would be allies. I’ve served with Canadian and British generals, and they, like their military, are first class. The UK has nuclear weapons, so Texas and the CUS would also have a nuclear umbrella. Regardless of how TEXIT plays out, there should be no “civil war,” no big battles between warring states or nations.²⁸²

As a retired Air Force Colonel, I may lose my retirement paycheck if Texas secedes, but I’m for TEXIT because this bold action could force the federal government to follow the Constitution, obey the 9th and 10th Amendments which prohibit most of the socialist and Big Government programs that drive the divisions in our country. I believe that Texas seceding, likely followed by other states and parts of them over time, can force a return to constitutional federal government. I’d like to remain a United States citizen but am backing TEXIT because the only U.S. worth belonging to is one that follows our Constitution and protects our Natural Rights.²⁸³

And what of the deep blue-red, left-right, socialist-Libertarian splits within states, including Texas? The same general approach is needed—limiting state government to security, safety (including

environmental safety) and intra-state commerce with no social or welfare policies. Let people at the city and county level decide if they want to have welfare programs, government health care, what educational issues they want addressed in their local schools. Enable real diversity. Decide abortion rights and educational policies at local levels. All of us should have as much liberty as possible, choosing a local government that fits our preferences. There is no way we can agree on the social policy differences that divide us now. To save the Union, we must follow the U.S. Constitution and keep at least the federal government out of divisive social policies. We also need to keep Big State Government out of social policies so we can have diversity and freedom at the local level to live as we choose. The dominant theme of TEXIT is “self-determination”—letting people choose the kind of social policies and laws they want, at as local a level as possible.²⁸⁴ Self-determination, freedom, liberty is the core American value.

Per the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution (9th Amendment), the most fundamentally American principles of freedom we hold dear, fought a war of independence to achieve, was to retain our Natural Rights, that were largely not listed in the Constitution because that document specifies the very few powers and rights we did delegate. The right to “alter or abolish” an unjust and abusive government is an absolutely retained Natural Right—it is the #1, top priority hallmark of an American. We The People retain top authority; we will not be slaves to government. The federal government is absolutely limited to the few powers and areas of action we specify via the U.S. Constitution. We have retained and must exercise our Natural Right to throw off the Perverted Triangle or secede from the unconstitutional United States (uUS).

It is “Common Sense” in looking at the abomination of American government and Courts today that the divided citizens of the current uUS need to “dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another” and abolish the uUS and reject the Perverted Triangle. If we can eliminate divisive and unconstitutional social laws and programs, again limit the now unconstitutional federal government to its proper role, we can avoid the rift and stay united at the national level, with freedom to disagree and live as we prefer at the local level. If not, we must peacefully divorce and separate. So move forward with TEXIT and other secession movements to get out of the uUS. Hopefully TCA can force a return of the 9th and 10th Amendments and limited federal government that allows maximum personal liberty and freedom. If not, we’ll be much better off in smaller, diverse, allied nations. If we stay on the present course as a divided nation, we do face the prospects of violent civil war in the uUS. A House divided cannot stand.

The rebellion against the uUS Big Government and the Perverted Triangle is already underway in most counties in the United States, led by Constitutional Counties and the leading law enforcement officers—our Sheriffs! We need to support them!!²⁸⁵

The Constitutional Alliance and Responsible Citizens can lead America back to Constitutional, limited government that saves the United States of America and returns personal freedom and liberty

Unstoppable advances in technology mean that the destructive power of individuals (some leveraging AI) to destroy people and our environment will continue to grow. How do we stop a domestic terrorist releasing a highly contagious/lethal virus or self-replicating plant destroying nanotechnology device? Big Government will take on the role of monitoring and controlling everyone, the Nanny State expands into the Surveillance State (this is already happening). Or we

can return to the pre-FDR era of family responsibility by ending the government welfare and social programs that replace family responsibility with the Perverted Triangle. A close knit family can help members who are troubled and in most cases help them recover. If they cannot, family members are the best watchdogs to seek outside help for them or report dangerous activity so government (back in its proper role of providing defense and security—not interfering with personal affairs) police forces can take appropriate actions. We will be far happier, free, and more secure if the destructive Perverted Triangle is eliminated so family and personal responsibility can return and government focuses on its proper, Constitutional role of protecting us from external threats we cannot handle on our own.

There are of course good elected officials, government workers, and lawyers. But they are unable to do good in the perverted, corrupted mess our government and legal system has devolved into. Ronald Reagan failed in trying to stop federal government growth. David Mastran served with courage and distinction in the military in Vietnam, in the Pentagon as a government official, and then as a government contractor making great improvements—but under constant attack by the Perverted Triangle and ultimately driven out of service by public employee unions. I served as an elected official and in the Senior Executive Service in the Pentagon. Philip Howard is an attorney who founded The Common Good, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization which advocates legal reforms and simplifying government. Roger Pilon, Charles Murray, Randy Barnett, many other people cited in this paper have dedicated tremendous work to develop proposals to fix this mess. Reforming government cannot be done without a big alliance, state legislatures and well organized citizens. The TCA needs a bold, comprehensive program and campaign to change the Constitution and laws to disable the Perverted Triangle. Howard summarizes the intractable mess of our Perverted Triangle has created, and how big the task is to bulldoze and clean it up:

“Every major political figure in the past thirty years has vowed to curb special interest power and get Washington back on track....Through all these administrations, Washington has only sunk deeper into the swamp of bureaucracy and special interests. . . . What we need to do is abandon the system. We must walk away from the heavy weight of accumulated laws, each in the grip of special interests, and create anew a government focused on goals and personal accountability. . . . America needs to rewrite its legal and regulatory codes. Bulldozing is not too strong a term . . . America doesn't need a new Constitution. . . . We have to make a choice: It's either leaders or lawyers.”²⁸⁶

No one, no matter how power hungry and ruthless, would design the wretched American Government and Legal System we have today; it is far too wasteful, abusive of our rights, and disgusting for anyone to like. Even some in big positions of power today are likely to turn on and condemn the Perverted Triangle if they see it going down and at least want credit for recognizing its wretchedness and contributing to its replacement.

It will take a coordinated, massive, aggressive campaign to defeat the Perverted Triangle and its purchased allies: government employee unions, public school teachers' unions, and millions of subservient, dependent people on the public dole. Reformers like Howard, Murray, Sowell, many at great associations working a small piece of this massive bulldozing reform movement, need to come together behind an 80% acceptable plan to destroy the Perverted Triangle and the unconstitutional, illegitimate, destructive laws and system they have created to bring our Constitution and Natural Rights back.

There will be errors and omissions I'll regret in this paper, even a few proposals I will want to change at some point. The webnotes for each paragraph will allow some fast corrections, and a much improved draft of this paper and the Declaration and campaign plan will come when TCA launches.

We will never come close to getting 100% or even 90% agreement on the reforms proposed here or any alternative plan. The key is to accept an 80% right reform program, cease arguing for changes we prefer but most others reject, and unite to get this set of large improvements adopted and enable diverse local governments to best meet the desires of their citizens. There will be problems, mistakes, setbacks in both adopting and implementing TCA plan, but it will easily be a vast improvement over the awful mess the Perverted Triangle has built.

Participants and leaders in the TCA will be attacked by the Perverted Triangle and their beneficiaries. There will be media attacks, false stories planted, personal smears, and threats of lawsuits. There may be arrests and fines. The Perverted Triangle has immense skill in deception, cheating, lying and abusing power. After a century of deceiving voters, pandering for votes, adopting FDR's skills of deception, with modern media and technology, professional politicians and lawyers have perfected the ability to lie and mislead. Unless tens of millions of Americans join in supporting the TCA, the power of the Perverted Triangle will likely prevail, as it has for decades in defeating good people and good groups trying to improve government and recover our freedom.

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, and know that 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, and join TCA when they see we can succeed. Public Employee and Teacher Union leaders will fight 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.²⁸⁷

Most people who work in our corrupt system today will do the right thing when they have an opportunity to fix the mess our government and legal system have devolved into. They should follow the example of Brad Raffensperger,²⁸⁸ the Georgia Secretary of State in charge of elections, a Republican, who stood up to the most powerful man in the world and his pack of threatening lawyers. On January 2, 2021, Trump held a one-hour phone call with Raffensperger to pressure him into committing election fraud and change the vote count in Georgia. On the recorded call were 10 other Trump advisors, White House officials, and many attorneys, including Rudy Giuliani. Trump made a host of false claims and outright lies. A complete review of all these false allegations is provided in this webnote.²⁸⁹ Raffensperger politely answered that the election results in that state were honest, correct and legitimate, and that Trump "had got his data wrong". Trump did all he could to intimidate, telling Raffensperger to "reevaluate" the election's results, and "find 11,780 votes," the minimum number needed to win in Georgia, threatening that Raffensperger could face criminal investigation. Trump said, "You know, that's a criminal offense. And you know, you can't let that happen. That's a big risk to you." Fortunately for the nation, Raffensperger refused to lie,

cheat and stab democracy in the back. TCA backers should take inspiration from his courage and honesty.²⁹⁰

While hatred of the Perverted Triangle and the damage they have done is justified, we need to forgive and accept those who agree to The Way. We also will need to trust that Judges with this new guidance and emphasis on protecting our Natural and Constitutional Rights, no longer accepting lies from lawyers or prioritizing past case rulings, will do the right thing to achieve their overriding goal of dispensing justice.

Can Americans get their liberties back and clean up the mess that the Perverted Triangle has made of our Government and Legal system? Absolutely! We are unstoppable as long as we accept an 80% right Alliance plan and push for its implementation. Initially, we may look like the mouse that roared. But the analysis and work of hundreds of associations and individuals who have been fighting the Perverted Triangle, combined and coordinated in The Constitutional Alliance, with a plan and Declaration approved at the Citizen's Congress, then pushed by a majority of citizens and state legislatures, can succeed.

Lobby your state legislator to join TCA, push for a Constitutional Convention to get our federal government fixed and needed reforms accomplished at your state level. Stop leaving Government to politicians and get involved in local TCA groups to get this mess fixed. Urge all your friends, associates, and neighbors to support the cause and disobey outrageous laws and rules. Have the courage to refuse the unjust and wrong laws, politicians, bureaucrats and lawyers who fight us. Swarm to protect fellow citizens who are attacked for standing up for our rights and liberties. Serve on juries and speak out on them to prioritize justice and Natural Rights of freedom, not the power and income of lawyers or rulings of past Judges.

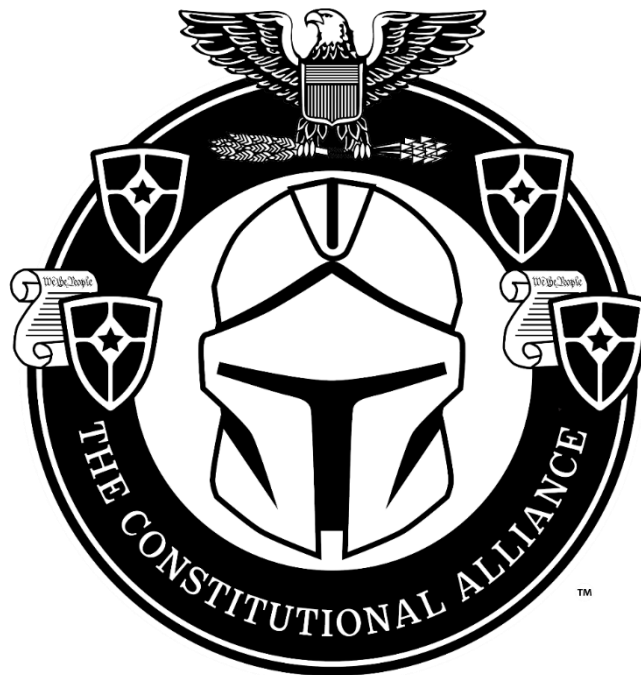
The American Revolution began as a revolt against government policies the colonists opposed—and would still have opposed whether or not they passed in Parliament with a few Colonial Representatives voting no. The Declaration of Independence was not about voting rights or majority rule, it was about real 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.

This second, hopefully peaceful, Constitutional revolution will succeed if the remaining true Americans spread this paper, urge friends and associates to support this plan, and lobby their state legislators to back The Constitutional Alliance. If your state legislator will not, then find and help a good candidate to replace them.

Real Americans must now work to either get the Constitution and our Natural Rights back, get absolute limits put back on federal and state government, or get out of the uUS, recovering our freedom and rebuilding a real American form of government in a new country or defiant, independent states and counties.²⁹¹

If you want to save the United States of America please forward this paper, recommend it to friends and associates, and contact your State Legislator and urge them to join The Constitutional Alliance

Drew Miller is an honor graduate of the USAF Academy, received an academic scholarship to Harvard University where he earned a Masters Degree and PhD in Public Policy. He served as an Intelligence Officer in Air Force Activity Duty and Air National Guard, and Plans and Programs Officer in the USAF Reserve, retiring as a Colonel. Drew served in the Dept of Defense Senior Executive Service and Institute for Defense Analyses, as a University of Nebraska Regent and County Commissioner, and in business management positions at ConAgra Inc, Securities America, Heartland Management Consulting Group, and Advanced Analysis Applications. He currently serves as CEO of Fortitude Ranch, a recreational and survival community, and Fortitude Collapse Preparedness, a consulting firm that helps organizations prepare to survive a severe collapse.



To see webnotes, endnotes, go to: <https://constall.org/>



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WEBNOTES (available at <https://constall.org/>)

¹ Reserved for future updates

² The 10th and 9th Amendments are still officially, legally part of the Constitution—but since 1937 they are effectively gone, erased because of outrageous, illegal, unconstitutional Supreme Court decisions to just pretend they do not exist. They have been in effect eliminated.

³ Jay Cost, *Spoiled Rotten: How the Politics of Patronage Corrupted the Once Noble Democratic Party and Now Threatens the American Republic*, Broadside Books, 2012

⁴ Reserved for future updates

⁵ Reserved for future updates

⁶ James Madison, *The Federalist* Number 45, 26 January 1788

⁷ James Madison, 1800, Report of 1800 given to Congress. Madison wrote “12th” amendment rather than 10th since the original Bill or Rights proposal had 12 Amendments, but the first 2 were never passed, so the 12th ended up as our 10th, with the exact wording as Madison used in this 1800 report.

<https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/01-17-02-0202>

⁸ Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Publishing, 2016, p. 16

Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Publishing, 2016, p. 20

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¹⁰ 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>

¹¹ Roger Pilon, Cato institute: "Nevertheless, in 1936 the Court said, albeit in dicta, that Congress did have an independent power to spend for the general welfare;³⁸ then in 1937 the Court announced that conclusion as part of its holding and added that it would not thereafter police Congress as to whether it was spending for the general or for some particular welfare but would leave it to Congress to police itself.³⁹ The result, not surprisingly, has been an ever expanding welfare state as Congress has been unable to resist — when it has not itself abetted — unrestrained demands on the public treasury — all in the name of the "general welfare." The story of the Commerce Clause is similar, for it too was meant to be a shield against power, not a sword of power as it is today. In this case, however, the Founders were concerned to restrain not federal but state power, which had been used under the Articles of Confederation to enact protectionist legislation aimed at protecting local manufacturers and merchants against competition from out-of-state interests. Seeking to ensure a national market and a regime of free trade among the states, the Founders gave Congress the power to regulate, or "make regular," commerce among the states. It was thus a power essentially to negate state efforts at restraining trade — and in fact was so read in the first great Commerce Clause case in 1824 and to enable Congress to take such other measures as might be necessary and proper to ensure free trade. Unfortunately, that functional account of the clause was gradually replaced over the years by a narrow, textual reading of the words "commerce" and "among," which left the Court in 1937 with slim precedents as it faced the New Deal's regulatory juggernaut. Cowed by the Court-packing scheme that year, the justices caved completely by saying that Congress had power to regulate anything that "affects" interstate commerce — which, of course, is virtually everything. With that, the modern regulatory state poured through the opening floodgates until today there seems to be almost no subject too personal or too trivial for federal regulatory attention." 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>

¹² Roger Pilon, Cato Institute, offers a more detailed explanation of the explicit, clear purpose of the 10th Amendment: preventing expansion of federal government outside the limited, written, enumerated tasks specified in the Constitution: "But it was the doctrine of enumerated powers that was meant to constitute the principal defense against overweening government. Since all power began with the people, the people could limit their government simply by giving it, through the Constitution, only certain of their powers. That, precisely, is what they did, through enumeration, thus making it clear that the government had only such powers as were found in the document. The very first sentence of the Constitution, following the Preamble, makes the point: "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress . . ." The point is reiterated in the Tenth Amendment, the final documentary statement of the founding period: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." In a word, power was delegated by the people, enumerated in the Constitution, and thus limited. The idea, plainly, was to limit government from the outset by limiting the things it could do, almost all of which, as Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution indicates, relate to securing rights. In fact, James Madison, the principal author of the Constitution, made the point in 1794 when he rose from the floor of the House to object to a welfare proposal, saying that he could not "The Declaration and the Constitution, as amended, are consistent and elegant statements about the purpose and limits of government." Notice that Madison was not objecting to benevolence. Rather, he was making a point about constitutional principle: however worthy the end might be, Congress had no power to pursue it since the people, through their Constitution, had given Congress no such power. In 1887, exactly 100 years after the Constitution was drafted, President Grover Cleveland made a similar point when he vetoed a bill to buy seeds for Texas farmers suffering from a drought, saying he could "find no warrant for such an appropriation in the Constitution." 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>

¹³ Roger Pilon, "On Bill of Rights Day, Let's Not Forget the 9th and 10th Amendments," Real Clear Markets, December 15, 2022, https://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2022/12/15/on_bill_of_rights_day_lets_not_forget_the_9th_and_10th_amendments_870290.html

¹⁴ Burt Solomon, *FDR v. The Constitution*, Walker & Company, 2009, pp. 270-273

¹⁵ Gary Galles, "The Antifederalists Were Right," Mises Institute, 09/27/2006, <https://mises.org/library/antifederalists-were-right>

¹⁶ Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Publishing, 2016, pp.20-25

¹⁷ Pilon received his BA from Columbia University, MA and PhD from the University of Chicago, and a JD from the George Washington University School of Law. Pilon held five senior posts in the Reagan administration, and in 1989, the Bicentennial Commission presented him with its Benjamin Franklin Award for excellence in writing on the U.S. Constitution. He founded the Cato Institute's Center for Constitutional Studies, researching and writing there for decades on Natural Rights and our Constitution.

¹⁸ Reserved for future updates

¹⁹ First cite how Federal Reserve caused depression, then ; Burton Folsom, Jr., *New Deal or Raw Deal? How FDR's Economic Legacy Has Damaged America*, Threshold Editions, 2008

²⁰ someone who has an unnaturally strong wish for power and control, Cambridge Dictionary

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²² Reserved for future updates

²³ Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Publishing, 2016, p. 5

²⁴ Burton Folsom, Jr., *New Deal or Raw Deal? How FDR's Economic Legacy Has Damaged America*, Threshold Editions, 2008, p. 262

²⁵ <https://www.investopedia.com/financial-edge/0410/6-outrageous-political-earmarks.aspx>,

<https://www.cagw.org/reporting/all-about-earmarks>

²⁶ Citizens Against Government Waste, *1923 Congressional Pig Book*, <https://www.cagw.org/reporting/pig-book>

²⁷ <https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R41545.pdf>

²⁸

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

²⁹ Reserved for future updates

³⁰ PPP: Where did the money go and why did it go there? National Bureau of Economic Research, 2022

https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w29669/w29669.pdf; PPP: What Happened, National Bureau of Economic Research, WBUR Boston, 2022, <https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2022/02/10/the-failures-and-future-of-the-paycheck-protection-program>

³¹ CBS News, June 30, 2023, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ppp-loan-forgiveness-student-loan-relief-cost-comparison/>

³² Ken Dilanian and Laura Strickler, NBC News, "'Biggest fraud in a generation': The looting of the Covid relief plan known as PPP The official in charge of Covid relief tells NBC News' Lester Holt that programs like PPP were structured in ways that were "an invitation" to fraudsters," March 28, 2022, <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/justice-department/biggest-fraud-generation-looting-covid-relief-program-known-ppp-n1279664>

³³ PPP loans to Congress and family (<https://rollcall.com/2020/07/08/14m-in-relief-funds-find-members-and-family/>) RollCall, 2020

³⁴ Just a few recent examples of Biden Administration legally and illegally buying votes with federal pork and adding (or not) regulations that would harm a business: requiring government agencies to add "social welfare, racial justice, environmental stewardship, human dignity, equity , and the interests of future generations" in required cost-benefit studies, leveraging Securities and Exchange Commission regulatory power and ability to levy fines to compel public companies to implement environmental policies (with no basis in law), violating the law to force Employee Retirement Income investments to fun environmental, social and governance goals, forgiving \$500 billion in student loans (with no authority to do so) to buy votes, adding child care mandates and paid leave benefits to the Chips Act (to benefit computer chip manufacturers) and requiring them to follow pro-union policies (union vote buying) without any legal basis for these requirements, Phil Gramm and Pat Toomey, "Transformational, and Not in a Good Way," *Wall Street Journal*, April 25, 2023, pA17; add more.....

³⁵ Gary Lee, "Lobbyists' Response To Perot: Who, Me?," *Washington Post*, October 8, 1992

³⁶ Ross Perot, quoted in Karl Cates, "Perot Attacks Lobbyists And Special Interests During Brief Stop In S.L.," *Deseret News*, Apr 3, 1993

³⁷ Philip Howard, *Life Without Lawyers: Restoring Responsibility in America*, WW Norton & Co, 2010

³⁸ Heritage Foundation, *Mandate for Leadership, The Conservative Promise, Project 2025*, 2023

³⁹ Reserved for future updates

⁴⁰ Allysia Finley, "When Big Business Married Big Government," *Wall Street Journal*, March 27, 2023 p. A17

⁴¹ "The term Administrative State refers to the policymaking work done by the bureaucracies of all the federal government's departments, agencies, and millions of employees. Under Article I of the Constitution, "All legislative

Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.” That is, federal law is enacted only by elected legislators in both houses of Congress. This exclusive authority was part of the Framers’ doctrine of “separated powers.” They not only split the federal government’s legislative, executive, and judicial powers into different branches. They also gave each branch checks over the others. Under our Constitution, the legislative branch—Congress—is far and away the most powerful and, correspondingly, the most accountable to the people. In recent decades, members of the House and Senate discovered that if they give away that power to the Article II branch of government, they can also deny responsibility for its actions. So today in Washington, most policy is no longer set by Congress at all, but by the Administrative State. Given the choice between being powerful but vulnerable or irrelevant but famous, most Members of Congress have chosen the latter. Congress passes intentionally vague laws that delegate decision-making over a given issue to a federal agency. That agency’s bureaucrats—not just unelected but seemingly un-fireable—then leap at the chance to fill the vacuum created by Congress’s preening cowardice. The federal government is growing larger and less constitutionally accountable—even to the President—every year.” Heritage Foundation, *Mandate for Leadership, The Conservative Promise, Project 2025*, 2023, p. 39

⁴² <https://www.usnews.com/news/healthiest-communities/slideshows/richest-counties-in-america?onepage>

⁴³ No data available on number of lobbyists prior to 1940s, author’s estimate

⁴⁴ Peter Grier, “The lobbyist through history: villainy and virtue,” *Christian Science Monitor*, Sep 28, 2009

⁴⁵ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/257340/number-of-lobbyists-in-the-us/>,
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/257337/total-lobbying-spending-in-the-us/>

⁴⁶ Jay Cost, *Spoiled Rotten: How the Politics of Patronage Corrupted the Once Noble Democratic Party and Now Threatens the American Republic*, Broadside Books, 2012

⁴⁷ 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>

⁴⁸ 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>

⁴⁹ 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>

⁵⁰ Thomas Sowell, *Barbarians inside the Gates and Other Controversial Essays*, 1999

⁵¹ [Why Feminism Wants to Dismantle the Family \(long\) | by Nikita Coulombe | Medium](#)

⁵² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It_Takes_a_Village

⁵³ Wilcox and Wang, *The Marriage Divide*, American Enterprise Institute, 2017

⁵⁴ Wilcox and Wang, *The Marriage Divide*, American Enterprise Institute, 2017

⁵⁵ 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.”

⁵⁶ 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>

⁵⁷ <https://www.allaboutthewaltons.com/>

⁵⁸ M.Sgt. Roy P. Benavidez, USA SF (Ret.), with John R. Craig, Medal of Honor: One Man's Journey from Poverty and Prejudice, 2005, pp. 16-17

⁵⁹ 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>

⁶⁰ 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>

⁶¹ 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>

⁶² Dr. Martin Olasky, *The Tragedy of American Compassion*

⁶³ Lawrence Mead, *Beyond Entitlement*

⁶⁴ Reserved for future updates

⁶⁵ <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2023/demo/p60-280.pdf>

⁶⁶ 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>,

⁶⁷ 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>

⁶⁸ Dr. Kevin Roberts, Heritage Foundation, *Mandate for Leadership, The Conservative Promise, Project 2025*, 2023

⁶⁹ Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Publishing, 2016, p. 258

⁷⁰ Richard Lamm, *Two Wands, One Nation*, 2006, pp. 4-5

⁷¹ Shelby Steele, quoted in Richard Lamm, *Two Wands, One Nation*, 2006, pp.12-13

⁷² Richard Lamm, *Two Wands, One Nation*, 2006, p. 12

⁷³ Richard Lamm, *Two Wands, One Nation*, 2006, pp. 5-6

⁷⁴ 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/>

⁷⁵ https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/lionel_sosa_744896

⁷⁶ Gregory Acs with Kenneth Braswell, Elaine Sorensen, and Margery Austin Turner, Urban Institute, “The Moynihan Report Revisited,” June 2013, p. 1

⁷⁷ Patrick Moynihan, quoted in <https://www.freedomworks.org/the-failure-of-the-war-on-poverty/>

⁷⁸ Martin Luther King Jr., “I Have a Dream: The Quotations of Martin Luther King, Jr,” 1968

⁷⁹ 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

⁸⁰ 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."

⁸¹ 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>

⁸² 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.

⁸³ 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

⁸⁴ <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/44731-everything-that-is-really-great-and-inspiring-is-created-by>

⁸⁵ Chris Edwards, "Entrepreneurs and Regulations: Removing State and Local Barriers to New Businesses," Cato Institute, Policy Analysis No 916, May 5, 2021

⁸⁶ Reserved for future updates

⁸⁷ Reserved for future updates

⁸⁸ <https://www.stlouisfed.org/publications/bridges/spring-2006/100-years-of-bankruptcy-why-more-americans-than-ever-are-filing>; <https://www.debt.org/bankruptcy/statistics/>

⁸⁹ Reserved for future updates

⁹⁰ Thomas Sowell, "Ever Wonder Why?: and Other Controversial Essays", 2013, Hoover Press, p. 23

⁹¹ 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

⁹² Yes, with the moral and hypocritical error of denying such rights to slaves, addressed elsewhere, but not in every instance of possible mention in this short paper.

⁹³ 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>

⁹⁴ 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>

⁹⁵ 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>

⁹⁶ Devin Watkins, The Federalist Society, "The Natural Law Foundation of the Constitution," Oct 15, 2016, <https://fedsoc.org/commentary/fedsoc-blog/the-natural-law-foundation-of-the-constitution> More from this paper: "Our legal culture has lost the context in which the Constitution was written. I speak of the natural law, the idea of law as founded upon reason and logic and not merely the ipse dixit of a given power. This has had profound implications for the modern misinterpretation of the Constitution. To demonstrate this, let me give one clear example of the incompatibility of the modern positive-law notions with the ideas of the Founders. When the Constitution was drafted, it did not contain any bill of rights and had no explicit protection for freedom of speech. To the legal positivist, without any explicit protection for the freedom of speech, the government could regulate speech. Yet none of the

Founders actually believed this. When the idea of a bill of rights was proposed, the objection was that the Bill of Rights was unnecessary and these rights were already protected. See Federalist No. 84. Instead, any enumeration of the rights already protected was seen as dangerous. If we say we have rights 1 to 100, that implies that we don't have right 101. So the enumeration of rights would limit the rights already protected. This problem was eventually solved by James Madison by explicitly rejecting the idea that the rights already protected were limited by the enumeration in the Bill of Rights in the Ninth Amendment. The only conclusion that can be drawn from this is that even before the Bill of Rights the people believed they already had the right to freedom of speech. How can this be from a positivist view of the Constitution? There is nothing explicit in the Constitution that mentions the freedom of speech, and yet it was originally widely understood that this right was already protected. Originalism disproves this strict textualism and instead requires a greater context to understand the original meaning of the constitutional text. There are only two reasonable originalist arguments that would protect the freedom of speech without the First Amendment. The first interprets the meaning of the word "law" as used in the Constitution before the Bill of Rights. The second incorporates the common law of agency and contract to limit the proper scope of the delegated power. It's likely that both of these are valid and reinforce each other. These also require an understanding of the Lockean notions of rights and liberty and the just powers of government as commonly understood at the founding. The Founders distinguished between "law"—which is the use of government power in the service of a rational, general, public principle—and mere "will" which was arbitrary political power. This distinction, of course, requires an understanding of the Lockean idea of rights and liberty to determine what are the rational objectives that government is instituted to protect. Justice Samuel Chase, in the first big Supreme Court opinion *Calder v. Bull* (1798), gave examples of arbitrarily power including one "that takes property from A and gives it to B." He explains that: An act of the legislature (for I cannot call it a law) contrary to the great first principles of the social compact cannot be considered a rightful exercise of legislative authority. The obligation of a law in governments established on express compact and on republican principles must be determined by the nature of the power on which it is founded. Notice it is not only an "express compact"—the written constitution—but also republican principles that underlie the legislature's rightful authority. Indeed, the Founders just finished fighting a war because the government would not respect these fundamental rights. The other argument comes from the common law understanding of contract and agency law. Our Constitution is in many ways a contract between us—the people—and those we hire to run the government on our behalf and where we delegate certain powers to our agents in government. But like any contract, not everything is spelled out explicitly; instead there are prohibitions implied by the text even if not explicitly stated. The government officers are also the people's agents hired to accomplish certain goals of protecting our rights and they are obligated to faithfully attempt to accomplish those goals. To purposefully violate those rights is like hiring a guard for a bank who then robs the bank—clearly beyond the scope of authority delegated even if not explicitly stated. The reason that governments are "instituted among men" is to protect our natural rights, as the Declaration of Independence states. Those natural rights of life, liberty, and property protected implicitly in the original Constitution are explicitly protected in the Bill of Rights. That right of liberty is the right to do all those things which do not harm another's life, property, or equal liberty. While this might sound circular, it's actually reflective. We have the right, for instance, to swing our arms around until that would interfere with another's equal right to do the same. Read in this way, the extent and meaning of the Bill of Rights becomes clear. Merely speaking or printing your opinion doesn't cause harm to another person (but defamation was considered to cause harm). Private belief or exercise of religion doesn't cause harm. Mere possession of a firearm doesn't cause harm to another. The Fourth Amendment protects private property where it isn't used to conceal evidence of harm to another (in which case a warrant can be issued). The right to "assistance of counsel" was meant to overturn the common law prohibition on hiring counsel in non-treason felony cases. This would clearly fall within the natural right of property and liberty to hire the counsel of your own choice with your own money. It wasn't until the 20th century that it was reinterpreted as a right to be provided counsel. See *Betts v. Brady*, 316 U.S. 455 (1942) (Sixth Amendment "not aimed to compel the State to provide counsel for a defendant"), overruled by *Gideon v. Wainwright*, 372 U.S. 335 (1963). This becomes especially important in the recent Supreme Court case *Luis v. United States*, where the government denied this natural right (but the Court rejected the government's assertions and recognized the original right). The rights contained within the Bill of Rights recognize various natural rights (specifically those of a person's liberty to do those acts not harmful to others). It is within this context that the Ninth Amendment has to be read to protect those other natural rights which are not explicitly enumerated in, but still protected by, the Constitution."

⁹⁷ Roger Pilon, "On Bill of Rights Day, Let's Not Forget the 9th and 10th Amendments," Real Clear Markets, December 15, 2022,

https://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2022/12/15/on_bill_of_rights_day_lets_not_forget_the_9th_and_10th_amendments_870290.html

⁹⁸ Randy Barnett, Georgetown Law School, “The Ninth Amendment: It Means What It Says.” 2006

<https://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1850&context=facpub>

⁹⁹ Randy Barnett, Georgetown Law School, “The Ninth Amendment: It Means What It Says.” 2006

<https://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1850&context=facpub>

¹⁰⁰ Randy Barnett, “Another defender of “judicial restraint” attacks a straw man,” Washington Post, Feb 1, 2015,

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2015/02/01/another-defender-of-judicial-restraint-attacks-a-straw-man/>

Excerpts: “Courts should not invent doctrines like “the substantial effects” doctrine that allow Congress to exceed these powers under a hyper-expansive reading of the Necessary and Proper Clause. Indeed several state constitutions contained such “natural rights rhetoric,” some modeled after Virginia’s Declaration of Rights that was authored in 1776 by George Mason.

Massachusetts: “All men are born free and equal, and have certain natural, essential and unalienable rights; among which may be reckoned the right of enjoying and defending their lives and liberties; that of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property; in fine, that of seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness.”

New Hampshire: “All men have certain natural, essential, and inherent rights; among which are — the enjoying and defending life and liberty — acquiring, possessing and protecting property — and in a word, of seeking and obtaining happiness.”

New York: “We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights; that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.”

Pennsylvania: “That all men are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights, amongst which are, the enjoying and defending of life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protecting property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.”

Vermont: “That all Men are born equally free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable Rights, amongst which are the enjoying and defending Life and Liberty; acquiring, possessing and protecting Property, and pursuing and obtaining Happiness and Safety.”

Virginia: “That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, . . . namely the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.”

Far from being irrelevant to state courts, such “natural rights rhetoric” had been used by the Massachusetts supreme court to invalidate slavery in that state in 1783 (which may help explain why Congress refrained from including such language in its proposed amendments).

Keep in mind that, like most of the natural rights retained by the people. the police powers of the states are “unenumerated.” Those who cite the uncertainty of identifying unenumerated natural rights are quite content to assert the equally unenumerated police power of states. Yet while these powers are general, few believed that they were unlimited, as federalist Justice Chase famously explained in *Calder v. Bull.*”

¹⁰¹ Roger Pilon, Cato Institute, May 9, 2023, <https://www.cato.org/commentary/americas-love-affair-unenumerated-rights>

¹⁰² James Knight, Cato Institute, “Americans Should Remember the Ninth Amendment: It protects rights that are not listed in the Bill of Rights,” Nov 20, 2019, <https://www.cato.org/commentary/americans-should-remember-ninth-amendment>

¹⁰³ James Knight, Cato Institute, “Americans Should Remember the Ninth Amendment, It protects rights that are not listed in the Bill of Rights,” Nov 20, 2019, <https://www.cato.org/commentary/americans-should-remember-ninth-amendment>

¹⁰⁴ George Will, “The constitutional right to be left alone,” Washington Post, April 18, 2012

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-constitutional-right-to-be-left-alone/2012/04/18/gIQA8YrIRT_story.html

¹⁰⁵ 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 Perverved 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.”

¹⁰⁶ Editorial, “The Case for Overturning Chevron Deference,” *Wall Street Journal*, Jan 16, 2024, p. A16.

¹⁰⁷ Reserved for future updates

¹⁰⁸ Richard M. Reinsch, “The Book of Judges,” *Washington Post*, Jan 30, 2015, <https://lawliberty.org/the-book-of-judges/>

¹⁰⁹ Roger Pilon, Cato Institute, “More on the Protection of Unenumerated Rights,” Dec 20, 2021, <https://www.cato.org/blog/more-protection-unenumerated-rights>

¹¹⁰ Roger Pilon and Aaron Rhodes, Cato Institute, “The American Understanding of Natural Rights: Our chances of maintaining America’s natural-rights tradition are far better if we ground our rights not on religious belief but on reason, common to all, as America’s Founders did,” Aug 24, 2020, <https://www.cato.org/commentary/american-understanding-natural-rights>

¹¹¹ Randy Barnett, “Reconceiving the Ninth Amendment,” Georgetown University Law Center, 1988, <https://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=2557&context=facpub>

¹¹² Roger Pilon, Cato Institute, “More on the Protection of Unenumerated Rights,” Dec 20, 2021, <https://www.cato.org/blog/more-protection-unenumerated-rights>

¹¹³ Roger Pilon, Cato Institute, “More on the Protection of Unenumerated Rights,” Dec 20, 2021, <https://www.cato.org/blog/more-protection-unenumerated-rights>

¹¹⁴ Anthony Sanders, “Baby Ninth Amendments: How Americans Embraced Unenumerated Rights and Why It Matters,” Institute for Justice, 2023, <https://ij.org/books/baby-ninth-amendments-how-americans-embraced-unenumerated-rights-and-why-it-matters/>

¹¹⁵ Reserved for future updates

¹¹⁶ Reserved for future updates

¹¹⁷ Reserved for future updates

¹¹⁸ Reserved for future updates

¹¹⁹ Reserved for future updates

¹²⁰ <https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/annual-observances/standing-bears-courtroom-speech-native>

¹²¹ 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>

¹²² Reserved for future updates

¹²³ Lee Ohanian, “Why Shoplifting Is Now De Facto Legal In California,” Hoover Institute, Aug 3, 2021, <https://www.hoover.org/research/why-shoplifting-now-de-facto-legal-california>

¹²⁴ Institute for Legal Reform, US Chamber of Commerce, “International Comparisons of Litigation Costs, Canada, Europe, Japan, and the United States,” June 2013

¹²⁵ <https://www.tbdmarketing.co.uk/which-country-has-the-most-lawyers-per-head/>

¹²⁶ Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Forum, 2015

¹²⁷ 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.

¹²⁸ Jordi Blanes i Vidal, Mirko Draca and Christian Fons-Rosen, “Revolving Door Lobbyists,” *The American Economic Review*, Dec 2012

¹²⁹ Reserved for future updates

¹³⁰ Google PPP fraud defense lawyer and you’ll find hundreds of law firms advertising for business to defend people who committed fraud like this: <https://www.nealdavislaw.com/criminal-defense-guides/ppp-fraud-defense/>

¹³¹ Gallop Poll, 2021

¹³² Not just a 30% fee to buy the App on their store and be on their device, but a 30% fee on any in-App purchases—with restrictions on allowing purchases outside the App. The cost to Apple for facilitating the transactions is on the order of 1%; yielding an obscenely huge monopoly profit. Google has similar though not quite as obscene gouging on their phones.

¹³³ Aaron Tilley, “Apple Wins Appeal in ‘Fortnite’ Case,” *Wall Street Journal*, April 25, 2023, p. B1

¹³⁴ Philip Howard, *Life Without Lawyers: Restoring Responsibility in America*, WW Norton & Co, 2010, p. 31

¹³⁵ Philip Howard, *Life Without Lawyers: Restoring Responsibility in America*, WW Norton & Co, 2010, pp 72-73.

¹³⁶ Philip Howard, *Life Without Lawyers: Restoring Responsibility in America*, WW Norton & Co, 2010, p. 75;

¹³⁷ Philip Howard, *Life Without Lawyers: Restoring Responsibility in America*, WW Norton & Co, 2010, p. 84.

¹³⁸ Philip Howard, *Life Without Lawyers: Restoring Responsibility in America*, WW Norton & Co, 2010, p. 85.

¹³⁹ Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Forum, 2015, pp 31-32

¹⁴⁰ Jeanine Cali, Library of Congress, *Frequent Reference Question: How Many Federal Laws Are There?* March 12, 2013; <https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2013/03/frequent-reference-question-how-many-federal-laws-are-there/>

¹⁴¹ Reserved for future updates

¹⁴² Philip K. Howard, “The Death of Common Sense,” Random House, 1994, p. 50

¹⁴³ Philip K. Howard, “The Death of Common Sense,” Random House, 1994, p. 53

¹⁴⁴ 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>

¹⁴⁵ 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”

¹⁴⁶ Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Publishing, 2016, pp. 33-37

¹⁴⁷ Reserved for future updates

¹⁴⁸ <https://abovethelaw.com/2020/05/biglaw-firms-are-charging-how-much-for-associates/>

¹⁴⁹ Evan Whitton, “America’s English-Style Legal System Evolved to Conceal Truth, Not Reveal It,” *The Atlantic*, June 14, 2012

¹⁵⁰ James R. Copland, Trial Lawyers, Inc., <https://www.manhattan-institute.org/triallawyersinc> :

¹⁵¹ Reserved for future updates

¹⁵² US District Judge Kevin Castel, quoted in “Lawyers have real bad day in court after citing fake cases made up by ChatGPT, Jon Brodtkin, *arstechnica.com*, June 23, 2023 <https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2023/06/lawyers-have-real-bad-day-in-court-after-citing-fake-cases-made-up-by-chatgpt/>

¹⁵³ There is no central data base reporting on growth in mediation and arbitration versus using the courts, but FINRA despite resolution statistics (<https://www.finra.org> › arbitration-mediation), the rise of mediation in US Chapter 11 restructurings (<https://globalrestructuringreview.com>), American Arbitration Association data (<https://www.adr.org> › research), and other sources, <https://www.jamsadr.com>, <https://siepr.stanford.edu>, Bureau of Labor Statistics data, <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/arbitrators-mediators-and-conciliators.htm> suggest mediation and arbitration is growing in popularity over using lawyers and courts.

¹⁵⁴ Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Publishing, 2016, p 38.

¹⁵⁵ Reserved for future updates

¹⁵⁶ Reserved for future updates

¹⁵⁷ Fucked Up Beyond All Recognition; believe it or not, was developed by US troops in WWII, 1944 according to Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fubar>

¹⁵⁸ Reserved for future updates

¹⁵⁹ <https://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press/data-download/costs-war-drugs-continue-soar-rcna92032>

¹⁶⁰ <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/pie2023.html>; chrome-

extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/Civil/DrugPolicyAlliance/DPA_Fact_Sheet_Drug_War_Mass_Incarceration_and_Race_June2015.pdf

¹⁶¹ <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/national-guard-war-drugs>

¹⁶² Jared Grossi, “The Relationship between the War on Drugs and Crime,” May 2020

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3591798; <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/ending-war-drugs-numbers/>;

Christopher J. Coyne and Abigail R. Hall, Cato Institute, “Four Decades and Counting: The

Continued Failure of the War on Drugs,” POLICY ANALYSIS NO. 811, April 12, 2017, <https://www.cato.org/policy-analysis/four-decades-counting-continued-failure-war-drugs>;

P. J. Goldstein, H. H. Brownstein, P. J. Ryan, and P. A.

Bullucci, “Crack and Homicide in New York City: A Case Study in the Epidemiology of Violence,” in *Crack in America: Demon Drugs and Social Justice*, ed. Craig Reinerman and Harry G. Levine (Berkeley: University of California Press,

1997), pp. 113–30; Bruce L. Benson, Ian Sebastian Leburn, and David W. Rasmussen, “The Impact of Drug Enforcement

on Crime: An Investigation of the Opportunity Cost of Police Resources,” *Journal of Drug Issues* 31, no. 4 (2001):

989-1006; Jeffrey A. Miron, “Violence and the US Prohibition of Drugs and Alcohol,” *American Law and Economics*

Review 1, no. 1–2 (1999): 78–114.

¹⁶³ This is a 1996 study, but as of January 2023, still up on the Department of Justice website.

<https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/legalizing-drugs-would-not-reduce-crime-legalizing-drugs-p-110-113#:~:text=Drug%2Drelated%20crimes%20may%20decrease,will%20persist%20even%20with%20legalization.>

Despite lessons of Prohibition, studies showing the opposite conclusion and common sense, the Perverted Triangle continues

to fund and defend the War on Drugs for the huge budget, jobs, patronage, and power it brings.

¹⁶⁴ Graham Boyd, founder and director of the ACLU Drug Policy Litigation Project, *Collateral Damage In The War On*

Drugs, *Villanova Law Review* 2002 47 Vill. L. Rev. 839

¹⁶⁵ Graham Boyd, founder and director of the ACLU Drug Policy Litigation Project, *Collateral Damage In The War On*

Drugs, *Villanova Law Review* 2002 47 Vill. L. Rev. 839

¹⁶⁶ Milton Friedman a brilliant, leading economist and champion of capitalism. William Buckley was a leading

conservative politician and influencer, editor of the *National Review*. Both opposed the criminalization of personal use

of “illegal” drugs and the stupid war on drugs. [https://www.thirteen.org/openmind-archive/the-law/on-legalizing-](https://www.thirteen.org/openmind-archive/the-law/on-legalizing-drugswith-william-f-buckley/)

[drugswith-william-f-buckley/](https://www.thirteen.org/openmind-archive/the-law/on-legalizing-drugswith-william-f-buckley/)

¹⁶⁷ chrome-

extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcjpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.unodc.org/documents/ungass2016/Contributions/Civil/DrugPolicyAlliance/DPA_Fact_Sheet_Drug_War_Mass_Incarceration_and_Race_June2015.pdf

¹⁶⁸ Graham Boyd, founder and director of the ACLU Drug Policy Litigation Project, *COLLATERAL DAMAGE IN THE WAR*

ON DRUGS, *Villanova Law Review* 2002 47 Vill. L. Rev. 839

¹⁶⁹ Reserved for future updates

¹⁷⁰ Reserved for future updates

¹⁷¹ Cited in 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>

¹⁷² Largely copied from a poster from the late 1800s entitled "Maxims for Young Men", an early American philosophy statement of our culture and values—and our once strong emphasis on personal responsibility. Minor adaptations (adding "and Women" and italic notes) by Drew Miller. Picture of George Washington at top of poster. Original source not known, but started appearing in US newspapers in late 1800s, for example:

<https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=SS18810531.1.1&e=-----en-20--1--txt-txIN----->

¹⁷³ Reserved for future updates

¹⁷⁴ Some may condemn the Boy Scouts because of sex abuse cases. It would be more right to condemn lawyers. Much of the following is from Wikipedia: Boy Scouts of America sex abuse cases. The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is one of the largest youth organizations in the United States, with a million youth members and hundreds of thousands of adult volunteers. There is a higher risk of sex abuse in volunteer youth organizations, so the BSA created a sex abuse education and prevention program in 1988. Civil Air Patrol and other youth program groups have taken similar precautions such as not allowing youth alone with a single adult. In 2010, a jury ordered that the Boy Scouts of America to pay US\$18.5 million to a scout who was abused in the 1980s, the largest punitive damages award to a single plaintiff in a child abuse case in US history. As this point, other lawyers flooded in, marketing for class action lawsuits against the BSA. The deluge of lawyers and class action lawsuits ended up bankrupting the BSA. In February 2020, the Boy Scouts of America filed for a Chapter 11 financial restructuring to offer "equitable compensation" to survivors and their families. The BSA cited approximately 200 pending lawsuits in state and federal district courts across the United States and 1,700 potential claimants in total. In September 2022 – as part of their bankruptcy settlement – the BSA agreed to pay over \$2.4 billion into the fund, with payments beginning in September 2023. The lawyers fees being charged to this fund for the benefit of lawyers, not abused scouts, were so outrageous, a Judge rejected one of their \$21 million claims. Randall Chase, Associated Press, "The judge presiding over the Boys Scouts of America's bankruptcy has rejected a \$21 million fee request from attorneys hired by law firms representing survivors of child sexual abuse," Dec 6, 2023. According to a New York Times article: "One lawyer negotiating a resolution to the multi-billion-dollar bankruptcy filed by the Boy Scouts of America billed \$267,435 in a single month. Another charged \$1,725 for each hour of work. New lawyers fresh out of law school have been billing at an hourly rate of more than \$600." <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/11/us/boy-scouts-bankruptcy-legal-fees.html>

Law firms are expected to take roughly 40% of any payments to clients from the \$2.4 billion trust fund established for abuse survivors. More than two dozen law firms that collectively represent more than 60,000 claimants are feeding on the trust fund. Critics of the lawyers argued that "the huge number of claims was the result of a nationwide marketing effort by personal injury lawyers working with for-profit claims aggregators to drum up clients." The real number of abused scouts is unknown, but likely a small fraction of the numbers claimed by lying lawyers. If it was 60,000 that would be 2% of the 130 million Boy Scouts. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, 3% of American males experience an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime. <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence#:~:text=About%203%25%20of%20American%20men,completed%20rape%20in%20their%20lifetime.&text=1%20out%20of%20every%2010%20rape%20victims%20are%20male>. This suggests the rate of sexual abuse in the BSA was not worse than average. Wherever a rape occurs it is deplorable, but the class action lawsuits of scumbag attorneys against the Boy Scouts of America was arguably more offensive.

¹⁷⁵ Reserved for future updates

¹⁷⁶ 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>

¹⁷⁷ Booker T. Washington, Up From Slavery, 1900

¹⁷⁸ Douglas J. Den Uyl and Douglas B. Rasmussen, "The Philosophic Thought of Ayn Rand," University of Illinois Press, 1986, pp. 75-76

¹⁷⁹ David Stokes, JFK's Ghost: Kennedy, Sorensen, and the Making of Profiles in Courage, Lyons Press, June 1, 2021; Publication date: June 1, 2021; David Nasaw, The Patriarch, Penguin Group, 2012

¹⁸⁰ Reserved for future updates

¹⁸¹ Philip Howard, Life Without Lawyers: Restoring Responsibility in America, WW Norton & Co, 2010, pp. 139-140

¹⁸² Richard Lamm, Two Wands, One Nation, 2006, pp. 19, 23

<https://www.justice.gov/archive/ndic/pubs27/27612/estimate.htm#:~:text=More%20than%2020%2C000%20gangs%20consisting,Columbia%2C%20and%20all%20U.S.%20territories.>

¹⁸⁴ <https://medium.com/@collapsesurvivor/we-need-a-civil-ground-patrol-to-survive-a-real-pandemic-or-other-major-disaster-d53b5d5c62ea>

¹⁸⁵ [Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, and Joe Biden should be imprisoned in adjoining cells for their illegal abuse of classified national security information | by Dr. Drew Miller | Medium](#)

¹⁸⁶ [Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, and Joe Biden should be imprisoned in adjoining cells for their illegal abuse of classified national security information | by Dr. Drew Miller | Medium](#)

¹⁸⁷ Reserved for future updates

¹⁸⁸ 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/>

¹⁸⁹ 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>

¹⁹⁰ This was explained and illustrated in a Collapse Survivor App simulation:

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

¹⁹¹ Reserved for future updates

¹⁹² <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/washington-secrets/new-emp-warning-us-will-cease-to-exist-90-of-population-will-die>

¹⁹³ David Tice, Glen Rhodes, Greg Ellsworth, Chuck Manto, and other responsible Americans have been working to pressure federal and state governments to harden our electric grid. www.emptaskforce.us is the website for a national effort, that piggy backs on the Congressionally sponsored EMP Committee that published a report recommended grid hardening that Congress ignored. David Tice produced a documentary and started a program to pressure elected officials to act. Tice also promoted legislation in Texas in 2023 to create a commission to force utilities to harden the grid. Utilities and some businesses that want low-cost electricity opposed the bill but the opposition was not that intense. First, it was weakened from a bill allowing the Commission to force hardening to just allowing the Commission to make recommendations to study the Texas Electric grid vulnerabilities. Politicians are afraid that if they force grid security improvements, the costs will lead to higher electric bills and loss of votes. Politicians prioritize their re-election, not protecting citizen’s lives. The weakened bill (SB330) passed the Senate unanimously but was essentially killed by the Speaker of the House (whose former co-chief of staff works for the Association of Electric Companies of Texas) with delayed hearings and then lowest priority scheduling so the bill never reached the floor of the House for a final vote. Therefore, the bill died when the legislative session ended. Over the last eight years, the Center for Security Policy’s CEO Tommy Waller has brought multiple technical experts to Austin to educate lawmakers, evidenced by more than fifty hours of public presentations. But the donations of the utility company lobbyists and the fear of lost votes from raising electric rates outweighs the efforts of a few dedicated citizens and the politicians prioritization of re-election over keeping citizens alive.

¹⁹⁴ <https://fortituderanch.com/2023/07/10/scum-politicians-continue-to-leave-our-grid-vulnerable-and-american-lives-at-risk/>

¹⁹⁵ 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/>

¹⁹⁶ Dr Drew Miller, Institute for Defense Analyses, NSD-5335, “The Age of Bioengineered Viral Pandemics and Collapse,” 2014 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep23620>

¹⁹⁷ 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.

¹⁹⁸ Reserved for future updates

¹⁹⁹ Justin Haskins, “According to the Founders, all federal gun restrictions are unconstitutional,” The Hill, April 1, 2021

²⁰⁰ Governor Newsom’s proposed gun control amendment, should be soundly rejected. “Raising the federal minimum age to purchase a firearm from 18 to 21” when we have soldiers as young as 17 under arms proves the stupidity of that measure. Mandating universal background checks to prevent truly dangerous people from purchasing a gun that could be used in a crime” “Instituting a reasonable waiting period for all gun purchases” is ridiculous. A Sheriff goes in to buy a gun and is forced to wait? A computer system answers the person meets requirement—but still must wait? “Barring civilian purchase of assault weapons that serve no other purpose than to kill as many people as possible in a short amount of time – weapons of war our nation’s founders never foresaw.” This is also intolerable as explained earlier—we need military capable weapons “Assault” is a loaded term to suggest offensive; these weapons are needed for defense. “Additionally, the 28th Amendment will affirm Congress, states, and local governments can enact additional common-sense gun safety regulations that save lives.” That basically eliminates the 2nd Amendment, replacing with a standard of “Common sense” only. No American with any common sense would let the Perverted Triangle and Big Government enact any regulations they want.

²⁰¹ Estimate based on 8% of Adult population having felony convictions as of 2010,

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0049089X21001265#:~:text=This%20era%20of%20both%20m,ass,of%20the%20overall%20adult%20population.>; a more recent source would be preferred, please email if found. A

non-violent felony is a crime that is very serious but does not involve the use or threat of force, such as high value theft, white collar fraud/tax/theft crime, public intoxication, DUI, drug manufacturing cyber crime, forgery, cheating while gambling, manufacturing counterfeit gambling chips, etc. Not crimes where the perpetrator is likely to later use a gun in a crime. The bigger problem is that you could agree to a felony conviction for a crime you are not guilty of because the costs of defending yourself are so high it’s better to plea guilty to avoid the abuse and risk of defending yourself in our always expensive and all too often unjust legal system. Courts, including the Supreme Court, have differed on whether some convicted felons have a constitutional right to bear arms. Justice Samuel Alito believes that the federal law barring felons from possessing firearms “probably does more to combat gun violence than any other federal law.” But some courts have ruled that the statute is unconstitutional when applied to, in one case, a person who pleaded guilty to making a false statement to obtain food stamps. There is strong support for allowing laws to disarm people who if armed would pose a grave, likely threat to the innocent citizens: 88% polled favor preventing mentally ill people from buying guns, 58% polled in 2023 favor stronger gun control laws than those in place today. In a famous 2008 Supreme Court case, a 5-to-4 in *District of Columbia v. Heller* held that people have a right to keep handguns in their homes for purposes of self-defense (unless convicted felons). In Colonial times, before the Constitution, there were instances of legislatures disarming those who had demonstrated a proclivity for violence or whose possession of guns would otherwise threaten public safety.

²⁰² 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.

²⁰³ Reserved for future updates

²⁰⁴ <https://whitehouse.gov1.info/continuity-plan/>

²⁰⁵ <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/>

²⁰⁶ Tulsa City Mayor G.T Bynum, <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2023/01/21/police-hiring-government-jobs-decline>

²⁰⁷ Reserved for future updates

²⁰⁸ The highest rate of single parent families in the world: 23%, more than 3 times above the world average. The problem of broken families is interchangeable with “fatherlessness.” Simply put, father-absence is the now-widespread phenomena of children who have no close relationship with, or even knowledge of, their biological father. Only 9% of

children were raised without their father in 1960, yet today a quarter of American kids are raised without their father.” In today’s America, four-in-10 families with children receive support from at least one means-tested transfer program. Today, most Americans get some form of welfare benefits, with over 60% of American households receiving more in government benefits than they pay in taxes! The Perverted Triangle has built a dependent, Big Government welfare state with just federal government programs spending 34% of all wages and taxes in the U.S. Before FDR’s rape of Constitutional limits to federal programs, welfare, income transfer payments made up less than 10% of federal spending. By 1965, at the start of Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society, that percentage had doubled to 20%. By 2010, it had doubled again, reaching 42%, today it is 62%!!!! While the poor receive lots of benefits from many welfare programs (including lots of state socialist programs), the biggest federal expenditures go to middle-class entitlements: Social Security, Medicare, and even Medicaid supposedly for the poor, actually goes to millions of middle-class recipients as well. The Perverted Triangle buys votes to get re-elected and stay in power—and the political parties compete by buying votes regardless of whether the programs are constitutional, good for the recipients, or good for the country.

Since politicians are deliberate, polished liars, middle class Americans don’t think they get welfare benefits. They pay social security and Medicare payroll taxes and many other taxes. But there is no relationship between taxes paid into Social Security and Medicare and the benefits received. Not only is their no private funds, the money you pay in can (and is) used for anything government wants to spent it on, and Courts have upheld that individuals have no “legal, contractual, or property right” to Social Security benefits based on having paid Social Security taxes. Congress can, and must (due to pending bankruptcy) decide to tax more and pay out less. There is no contractual rights to Medicare benefits you have paid for, and much of Medicare’s funding is not from payroll taxes but from general government revenues—it is a welfare benefit, the same as handing out food stamps.

Perverted politicians love to promise more benefits to get reelected, but not taxes to pay for them, so we have horrendous national debt that will eventually lead to economic disaster—and perhaps great violence when Americans disgusted with an economic collapse start to steal, loot and maraud.

But like so much of what the Perverted Triangle presents to the public, the national debt is another great lie. It represents a small fraction of this country’s debt: the unfunded obligations of middle-class entitlements like Social Security and Medicare.

The debt clock shown earlier in the paper lists the multitude of sources, many deliberately hidden and not disclosed in government spending and debt reports.

The Social Security Trust Fund is another Big Government Lie. It is an accounting measure, not an actual accumulation of assets that can be used to pay benefits. Not only is there no investment fund of stocks or bonds or real economic assets that can be drawn down on to fund future benefit payments, it is in fact a debt, future benefit payments promised that can only be financed by raising taxes or more government borrowing. Social Security simply holds a promise that someday the government will repay those bonds, which total some \$2.9 trillion today.

Overall, according to the Social Security system’s trustees, the program faces a future shortfall of more than \$43 trillion. Unfortunately, however, the federal government doesn’t have an extra \$43 trillion. As a result, there is simply no way that Social Security can pay future benefits without a massive tax increase. And as horrific as the Social Security deficit is, the total unfunded liabilities of Medicare is “an even bigger fiscal nightmare than Social Security.” These welfare programs aren’t just fantastic for buying election votes and employing government workers—they are a windfall for lawyers. The complex, loophole filled (deliberately in lobbying and the buying and selling of votes) tax code and huge number of laws and regulations for welfare programs provides huge earnings for CPAs and lawyers and estate planners. “Indeed, an entire industry of elder law exists to help seniors to shelter or transfer their assets in order to qualify for Medicaid.”

The tax system is another highly profitable boondoggle for the Perverted Triangle. Lobbyists for Big Businesses and rich people earn million lobbying for tax breaks, readily hidden in the 000 page tax code. Their campaign donations (and sometimes bribes, jobs post government service) serve the career politicians. Government bureaucrats not just at the federal level, the IRS, but local and state government get more jobs as the tax system keeps growing. Even if higher tax rates are approved, the tax loopholes enable estate planning attorneys to make a fortune developing plans to help the wealthy avoid taxes. The Perverted Triangle wins, the economy and citizens lose.

The Nanny State was created by the Perverted Triangle for their benefit—at the expense of families, individual responsibility, moral values, crime, poverty, affordable housing, our Natural Rights and personal freedom, the U.S. Constitution, our economy, and ultimately, the destruction of our country.

“[N]umerous studies have demonstrated that workers could have achieved higher retirement benefits if they had been allowed to invest even a portion of their payroll taxes in private capital markets.” The return on private capital in the U.S. over the past century including a Great Depression, World War, and many stock market crashes and recessions has been around 6.1%.

Payroll taxes are so high that they make it difficult if not impossible for low—and middle-income workers to save privately.

Federal minimum wage laws that started in the 1950s, completely unconstitutional, are especially hard on the poor because they eliminate many jobs, especially entry level work. As Hoover Institution economist Thomas Sowell explains, “Congress passed a series of minimum wage increases over the years, while also spreading the coverage of the law to new low-wage sectors that had been exempt previously. Over the next three decades, teenage unemployment rose relative to unemployment of older workers and black teenage unemployment rose far above white teenage unemployment. By the 1970s, black teenage unemployment had risen to several times what it had been in 1950...” One of the many ways that Perverted Triangle laws promote poverty and crime.

That’s a disaster for them, but fantastic for the Perverted Triangle—dependent citizens, locked in poverty and welfare programs, eager to vote for the party offering the most welfare benefits. Poor American workers must pay huge amounts in payroll taxes, far more for housing due to government building codes enriching..... But what if they find some great investment opportunity, like a first round Facebook investment? The federal government’s unconstitutional Securities and Exchange Commission won’t let them invest; only rich people can invest in many of the best start up companies. they must be “accredited..... Another deliberate Big Government Lie Or they could start up a small business---if not for all the fees and permits and regulations that now block this once prime way to better your family and income.

The IRS estimates it losses \$1Trillion annually from tax cheats. In surveys, 6-12% of American taxpayers admit they cheat to pay less taxes, but many more likely do but will not admit it (and may not consciously realize that using the black market, not reporting income really is tax cheating). Some justify this by saying “they have been cheated by the U.S. government” or don’t like how the government spends “their money.”

Estimates vary widely, but some put the underground economy between 6.4% and 12% of U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). In the second quarter of 2023, U.S. GDP was estimated at \$27.06 trillion, which puts the underground economy somewhere between \$1.7 trillion and \$3.2 trillion.

The number and percent of Americans with criminal arrests has risen sharply over the past decades, to the point that about one-third of the adult working age population has a criminal record.

A recent Gallup poll found 54% of U.S. adults rate moral values in the country as “poor,” just 11”% rating our moral value as “good” or “excellent.”

Source: Pew Research, Public Trust in Government: 1958-2023

Public trust in the federal government, which has been low for decades, has returned to near record lows following a modest uptick in 2020 and 2021. Currently, fewer than two-in-ten Americans say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right “just about always” (1%) or “most of the time” (15%). This is among the lowest trust measures in nearly seven decades of polling.

When the National Election Study began asking about trust in government in 1958, about three-quarters of Americans trusted the federal government to do the right thing almost always or most of the time.

According to a 2023 Pew Research poll, “only 4% of Americans now say the political system is working extremely or very well, with nearly three-quarters saying it isn’t. A majority (63%) say they have little or no confidence in the future of the U.S. political system.” 72% of Americans have an unfavorable view of Congress, 54% have an unfavorable view of the Supreme Court, 63% are not satisfied about the people running for president in 2024.

Bryan Metzger and Oma Seddiq, “More than 60% of Americans say the Supreme Court is motivated by politics, while just 32% believe they rule based on law: poll,” Business Insider, Nov 19, 2021

Stephanie Kramer, “U.S. has world’s highest rate of children living in single-parent households,” Pew Research, Dec 12, 2019, <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/12/12/u-s-children-more-likely-than-children-in-other-countries-to-live-with-just-one-parent/>

For decades, the share of U.S. children living with a single parent has been rising, accompanied by a decline in marriage rates and a rise in births outside of marriage. A Pew Research Center study of 130 countries and territories shows that the U.S. has the world’s highest rate of children living in single-parent households. Almost a quarter of U.S. children under the age of 18 live with one parent and no other adults (23%), more than three times the share of children around the world who do so (7%).

²⁰⁹ Sources for exhibit “America Before and After Natural and Constitutional Rights Erased, Perverted Triangle Takeover”: Multiple Gallop and Pew Research Center polls, <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7572251/Americans-happiest-1920s-lowest-ebb-WW2-Vietnam-War.html>, https://www.ilsdc.org/assets/sourcebook/fr-cfr_research-guide.pdf, https://uploads.federalregister.gov/uploads/2024/01/03140627/2023_All_Category_Pages.pdf, Wilcox and Wang, The Marriage Divide, American Enterprise Institute, 2017, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/257340/number-of-lobbyists-in-the-us/>, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/257337/total-lobbying-spending-in-the-us/>, A47, 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>, Institute for Legal Reform, US Chamber of Commerce, “International Comparisons of Litigation Costs, Canada, Europe, Japan, and the United States,” June 2013, <https://www.tbdmarketing.co.uk/which-country-has-the-most-lawyers-per-head/>, Patrick A. Langan et al., “Historical Statistics on Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions, Yearend 1925–1986,” May 1988, in Historical Statistics on Prisoners in State and Federal Institutions, Yearend 1925–1986: [United States], by Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (Ann Arbor, 1989), appendix C, pp. 10–21, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/262962/countries-with-the-most-prisoners-per-100-000-inhabitants>, 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 <https://ojdp.ojp.gov/statistical-briefing-book/crime/faqs/qa05101>

²¹⁰ Pew Research, Public Trust in Government: 1958-2023

²¹¹ Reserved for future updates

²¹² Clint Bolick, Chapter 2, “Federalism: The Grand Design,” in Leviathan: The Growth of Local Government and the Erosion of Liberty, Hoover Institution Press, August 1, 2004, https://www.hoover.org/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/0817945520_25.pdf

²¹³ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2582082/>

²¹⁴ July 2023 Gallup poll of Americans: “Most Americans believe abortion should be legal to some degree, particularly in the first trimester. The majority also disagree with the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade, thus returning discretion over the legality of abortion to the states. At the same time, majorities think second- and third-trimester abortions should generally not be legal.” <https://news.gallup.com/poll/321143/americans-stand-abortion.aspx>

²¹⁵ FOOTNOTE This book AND BRIEF EPLANATION>.....

²¹⁶ Joseph Pisani and Jennifer Calfas, “Survivor of 1921 Tulsa Massacre Filed Lawsuit Seeking Reparations,” Wall Street Journal, Oct 11, 2023, p. A3

²¹⁷ Reserved for future updates

²¹⁸ Charles Murray, By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission, Crown Publishing, 2016, p. 127

²¹⁹ Ranked choice voting systems, advocated by Forward Party, <https://www.forwardparty.com/>

²²⁰ Charles Murray, By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission, Crown Publishing, 2016, p. 259

²²¹ Reserved for future updates

²²² Burton Folsom, Jr., New Deal or Raw Deal? How FDR’s Economic Legacy Has Damaged America, Threshold Editions, 2008, pp. 81-89 covers a few examples

²²³ Peter Charalambous, ABC News, “At least 74 Illinois sheriff’s departments vow to defy state assault weapons ban,” January 13, 2023

²²⁴ <https://www.bradyunited.org/act/second-amendment-sanctuaries>

²²⁵ Ilya Somin, Cato Institute, “Three Constitutional Issues Libertarians Should Make Their Own,” Cato Policy Report, March/April 2023, p. 6

²²⁶ Pew Research, Public Trust in Government: 1958-2023

²²⁷ Walter Olson, Cato Institute, “Constitutional Amendments With Cross-Ideological Appeal?”, Feb 3, 2023

²²⁸ Pew Research Center

²²⁹ Some states due require full reading of bills, for example Nebraska: “Every bill and resolution shall be read by title when introduced, and a printed copy thereof provided for the use of each member. The bill and all amendments thereto shall be printed and presented before the vote is taken upon its final passage and shall be read at large unless three-fifths of all the members elected to the Legislature vote not to read the bill and all amendments at large. No vote upon the final passage of any bill shall be taken until five legislative days after its introduction nor until it has been on file for final reading and passage for at least one legislative day. No bill shall contain more than one subject, and the subject shall be clearly expressed in the title.”

²³⁰ Reserved for future updates

²³¹ Dr. David V. Mastran, *Privateer!*, 2012 David Mastran grew up in a military family and graduated from West Point—ranked 7th in his class. He served in the Vietnam War, and earned a Master’s Degree from Stanford, and a Doctorate from George Washington University. David worked in the Pentagon, first in the military, then in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Systems Analysis. Disgusted with politics trumping good decisions, he left the DoD to served as Director of R&D programs in the Social and Rehabilitation Service in the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (now DHHS), overseeing major poverty programs. Working in government he saw how “Politics reigned supreme-- decisions based on economic principles were out. The facts didn’t matter.” David wanted to make improvements, but “government wasn’t the place where I could get any traction.” So he left to “try to change these programs from the outside, rather than from the inside.” He founded MAXIMUS, a company offering Government IT services, and experts in social welfare entitlement programs, with a goal of reforming government. His new firm won a small contract in New Hampshire to calculate and implement statistical profiles of people defrauding Medicaid, and New Hampshire’s error rate went down.”

Bill Clinton had been elected with a popular pledge to “end welfare as we know it.” But as a leader in the Perverted Triangle, it was a big lie. Clinton did compromise to get GOP votes to pass “The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act” of 1996 requiring every state to have a welfare-to-work program. To get GOP votes, work was required and States were allowed, for the first time, to privatize eligibility determination and even operate programs. But from the start, Democratic politicians, government unions controlled by the Democratic Party, government employees, and lawyers devoted to the Perverted Triangle waged war against private companies daring to take “their jobs.”

David Mastran’s MAXIMUS was the first company in the U.S. to win a private contract to operate a social welfare program, in 1988 in Los Angeles County, California. His company was a huge success, offering not just lower, cost, far more efficient and compassionate services, but benefiting former government workers they hired who had far greater job satisfaction for staff providing better services without all the government rules. As Mastran explained, “government doesn’t need help because its people aren’t smart or dedicated. The government needs help because of the constraints under which these people operate. . . . Most of us came from government. Because we had far fewer constraints, we could do a better job serving the public.”

But government unions couldn’t care less about the welfare of former government employees, the people they served, or taxpayers. Backed by Democratic politicians and lawyers, government unions attacked MAXIMUS with websites full of false and fabricated stories, false claims that they put profits ahead of the interests of program recipients, and the company faced “a continual barrage of lawsuits.” Despite running the program successfully for 5 years, when their contract was up for renewal the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors had changed from three Republicans, two Democrats, to two Republicans and three Democrats. The Department of Public Social Services recommended the Board of Supervisors renew the MAXIMUS contract, with the department financial analysts showing MAXIMUS was far more cost-effective. But the Perverted Triangle prevailed and they voted to terminate the contract and give the jobs to the unions, the loyal servants of the Democratic Party and the Perverted Triangle.

²³² 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.

²³³ 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.

²³⁴ Unfortunately, there is a board of directors “governance model” called the “Carver model” that is horrible, but marketed by a company, and loved by some CEO’s who want a passive, rubber stamp board of directors. I served on a board that foolishly followed it and can testify that it is a horrible practice, worse than not having a board of directors at all. *The Many Failings of the Carver Board Governance Model* By Tom Coyne, “The Many Failings of the Carver Board Governance Model,” chrome-

extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcgiclfndmkaj/http://www.k12accountability.org/resources/Accountability-Committees/Carver_Governance_Model_Failings.pdf

²³⁵ Reserved for future updates

²³⁶ Yesim Yilmaz, “Private Regulation: A Real Alternative for Regulatory Reform, Cato Institute, Cato Policy Analysis No. April 20, 1998, p. 8

²³⁷ Yesim Yilmaz, “Private Regulation: A Real Alternative for Regulatory Reform, Cato Institute, Cato Policy Analysis No. April 20, 1998

²³⁸ Yesim Yilmaz, “Private Regulation: A Real Alternative for Regulatory Reform, Cato Institute, Cato Policy Analysis No. April 20, 1998

²³⁹ John Tierney, “The Perverse Panic over Plastic,” City Journal, Winter 2020

²⁴⁰ Nassim Taleb, *The Black Swan : the Impact of the Highly Improbable*, Random House, 2007

²⁴¹ Quotation widely attributed to George Washington and oft cited, but not found in any of Washington’s papers.

²⁴² <https://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/fdrsocialecurityact.htm>

²⁴³ My source for this is a case study or report I had in the Masters Degree in Public Policy Program at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 1980-1982. I remember this clearly, but have no written copy of the case study or report this came from (or it was from a professor’s lecture). Internet searches I have do not find this (and this was before the Internet age, so may have never been scanned and placed on the www). If anyone does find a source for this, please contact us at *****

²⁴⁴ Milton Freidman, quoted in Thomas J. DiLorenzo, *A Constitutionalist Approach To Social Security Reform*, Cato Journal, 1983, <https://www.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/serials/files/cato-journal/1983/11/cj3n2-6.pdf>

²⁴⁵ Paul Fanlund, “Opinion | Why Donald Trump’s supporters tolerate his lies,” *Cap Times*, Jul 7, 2023, https://captimes.com/opinion/paul-fanlund/opinion-why-donald-trump-s-supporters-tolerate-his-lies/article_018d1de1-ae0b-5f06-8922-852b83142a1e.html

²⁴⁶ Jessica Walrack, Barri Segal, Tanza Loudenback, CFP, “Why You Shouldn’t Count on Social Security,” *US News & World Report*, Sept. 29, 2023

²⁴⁷ Martin Feldstein, “Privatizing Social Security: The \$10 Trillion Opportunity,” *Cato Institute Social Security Choice Paper No. 7*, January 31, 1997, <https://www.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/ssp7.pdf> “Unlike private pensions and individual retirement accounts, the Social Security system does not invest the money that it collects in stocks and bonds but pays those funds out as benefits in the same year that they are collected. The combination of the income tax and the payroll tax distorts not only the number of hours that individuals work but also other dimensions of labor supply like occupational choice, location, and effort. Current and future generations lose by being forced to participate in a low-yielding, unfunded program, by being forced to accept a pay-as-you-go implicit return of 2.6 percent when the real marginal product of capital is 9.3 percent. A number of research studies have been done on the extent to which Social Security wealth depresses saving and replaces real wealth. . . . these studies do imply that the Social Security program causes each generation to reduce its savings substantially and thereby to incur a substantial loss of real investment income. Even a conservative estimate that each dollar of Social Security wealth displaces only 50 cents of private wealth accumulation implies that the annual loss of national income would exceed 4 percent of GDP. . . . Shifting to a privatized system of individual mandatory accounts that can be invested in a mix of stocks and bonds would permit individuals to obtain the full real pretax rate of return on capital. This would mean a larger capital stock and a higher national income. In addition, eliminating the payroll tax would reduce the distortions in work effort and form of compensation that currently depress the productivity of the economy and the real standard of living. Conservative assumptions imply that Social Security privatization would increase the economic well-being of future generations by an amount equal to 5 percent of GDP each year as long as the system lasts.”

²⁴⁸ Reserved for future updates

²⁴⁹ Dr. Kevin Roberts, Heritage Foundation, *Mandate for Leadership, The Conservative Promise, Project 2025*, 2023

²⁵⁰ <https://www.termimits.com/>

²⁵¹ <https://www.termimits.com/>

²⁵² Reserved for future updates

²⁵³ The Perverted Triangle is a term invented by Dr. Drew Miller, based on the political science term “Iron Triangle” the bad alliance of government bureaucrats, elected officials, and special interest group lobbyists working together to promote their profits and interests. The “Perverted Triangle” is government bureaucrats, elected officials, and lawyers. The later 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 for the politicians.

²⁵⁴ Reserved for future updates

²⁵⁵ Reform groups that will be invited to join The Constitutional Alliance include: Alliance for Responsible Citizenship, American Civil Liberties Union, American Conservative Union, American Council of Trustees and Alumni, American Enterprise Institute, American Family Association, American Farm Bureau, American Freedom Alliance, Americans for Prosperity, Anti-Defamation League, Article III Project, Boy Scouts of America, Campaign for Common Good, Cato Institute, Center for Security Policy, Christian Coalition of America, Citizens Against Government Waste, Citizens for Responsibility & Ethics in Washington, Citizens United, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, Competitive Enterprise Institute, Consumer Reports, Convention of States, Council on Criminal Justice, Council on Foreign Relations, Eagle Forum, Ethics & Public Policy Center, Family Research Council, Federalist Society, Federation of American Scientists, Freedom Works, Goldwater Institute, the Grange, GreenPath Financial Wellness, Greenpeace, Habitat for Humanity, Heritage Foundation, High Meadows Institute, Hoover Institution, Hudson Institute, Independence Institute, Individual Rights Foundation, Institute for Justice, Institute for Legal Reform of US Chamber of Commerce, Institute for the Study of War, Islamic Society of North America, Linux Foundation, Lutheran Services in America, Manhattan Institute, McCain Institute, Mercatus Center, Mises Institute, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Defense Industrial Association, National Federation of Independent Business, National Future Farmers of America, National Security Space Association, National Sheriff's Association, Niskanen Center, Open Secrets, OpenTheBooks.com, Our Country Our Choice, Pacific Legal Foundation, Pew Research Center, ProPublica, Quinicy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, Reason Foundation, Robert Dole Institute of Politics, The Buckeye Institute, The Center for Public Integrity, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, The Concord Coalition, The Foundation for American Christian Education, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, The Nature Conservancy, Reason Foundation, Red Cross, Rutherford Institute, Salvation Army, Tenth Amendment Center, Texas Public Policy Foundation, United Way, USA Term Limits, Truth in Accounting, YMCA

²⁵⁶ Most of these groups have not yet been contacted, have not seen or approved of this proposal, but will be invited.

²⁵⁷ If you're group supports TCA plans and wants to join this movement, contact us at manager@constall.org

²⁵⁸ Reserved for future updates

²⁵⁹ Reserved for future updates

²⁶⁰ 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>

²⁶¹ Charles Murray, By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission, Crown Publishing, 2016, p. 264

²⁶² Hopefully these quoted words from The Declaration of Independence are well known

²⁶³ Martin Luther King, in his "'Letter from Birmingham Jail," 16 Apr 1963

²⁶⁴ Charles Murray, By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission, Crown Publishing, 2016, p. 127

²⁶⁵ Mercy Otis Warren, History of the Rise, Progress, and Termination of the American Revolution vol. 1

²⁶⁶ 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

²⁶⁷ Charles Murray, By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission, 2015

²⁶⁸ Reserved for future updates

²⁶⁹ Clark Neily, Walter Olson and Ilya Somin, The National Constitution Center, "Restoring The Guardrails Of Democracy Project, Report By Team Libertarian," pp. 19-20

²⁷⁰ Jim Carlton, "San Francisco Fights Disorder—and Goes After a Little Library," Wall Street Journal, March 27, 2023, p. A1

²⁷¹ Reserved for future updates

²⁷² A short, very well documented guide to Nullification (with arguments that largely apply to Secession as well) is provided by Michael Maharrey, Tenth Amendment Center, The Power of 'No!': The Historical and Constitutional Basis for State Nullification to Limit Federal Power and Its Practical Application

²⁷³ James Madison, Federalist #46, 1788; https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/fed46.asp

²⁷⁴ Utah Sheriff's Association, "The Constitution & Individuals' Right to Bear Arms," Press Release, June 1, 2021.

Excerpts: "Prompted by increasing public concern to safeguard constitutional rights, we, the elected Sheriffs of Utah, solemnly reaffirm our sworn oaths to "...support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Utah.... We humbly serve as the chief law enforcement officers of the 29 counties of the great State of Utah. As such, we publicly reassert our individual and collective duty to defend all of the constitutional

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rights of our citizens. The Declaration of Independence acknowledges the existence of certain truths, including that all men are created equal. It further declares these truths to be “self-evident”, “unalienable”, and “endowed by the Creator”. Thus, Providence is the source of unalienable rights, and the Constitution and those sworn to uphold it are protectors of those rights. With our fellow Utahans, we recognize the Constitution not only as the founding document that establishes the structure of our government, but in regards to the Bill of Rights—the first Ten Amendments—it is the Guarantor of individual rights and the Limiter of federal government power. The Constitution is the Supreme law of the land and all legislation and government action must comply strictly with it. We recognize the Legislature as the body responsible for enacting laws and the Judiciary as the official interpreters of the law. As Sheriffs, it is our duty to enforce laws. Enforcing the law is a responsibility we seek to fulfill carefully, with respect and compassion for others and with unwavering protection of individual constitutional rights. We also acknowledge our obligation to safeguard the lives of our law enforcement and corrections officers as they serve and protect our communities. We appreciate the Legislature, our Governor and other Executive Officials, and the Judiciary for working to uphold the Constitution. We obviously have separate and distinct functions, but must be united in our respect for the role of the citizenry, the rule of law, and our enumerated responsibilities. One of the Sheriffs’ most critical statutory duties is preserving the public peace. In accomplishing this mission, we have many capable partners. On a regular basis, state, local and federal law enforcement officers assist one another in ensuring the safety of Utahans. All of these officers have taken oaths to uphold the Constitution, and in our experience, nearly all of them work to meticulously adhere to the requirements of the Constitution. We currently have a significant body of law to help maintain the balance between ensuring the safety of the community and protecting individual rights. We believe that as a State, we should be circumspect of new legislation, resolutions or executive orders, particularly those from the federal government, which may infringe upon individuals’ constitutional rights. As members of the human family, we value the sanctity of life. We live in a time when unlawful violence is commonplace, and along with the victims and survivors of violence, we recognize these tragedies to be irrational, callous and infuriating. Some individuals seek to use any means possible to injure or destroy life or property. While potential safety concerns continue to exist, we encourage citizens to refuse to give into fear tactics—those meant to confuse and cause chaos. Rather, we seek to be united as Americans and Utahans, to care for one another, and to ensure preparedness and safety in our places of worship and learning, in our homes and places of recreation and business. As your elected Sheriffs, we humbly report that we are working diligently to prevent and prepare for potential violence or disaster. In doing so, we feel strongly that the focus of these efforts must be on the perpetrator and properly leading through the potential incidents. It is not necessary or wise to focus on the inanimate weapon, instrument or tool of the crime. We ask for your support in ensuring these principles are discussed further and applied to any upcoming legislation. In addition, citizens are a vital part of preserving the importance of constitutional authority given we each shoulder a common obligation to ensure the constitutional legacy provided by our progenitors is passed intact to our children and grandchildren. Our resilient constitutional foundation has existed for 234 years, the oldest still in force today. Many countries with written constitutions have patterned theirs after ours. Our future generations need the constitutional foundation given to us in order to experience the same freedoms and happiness we have enjoyed. Importantly, the Second Amendment of our divinely inspired Constitution clearly states “...the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.” We hereby recognize a significant principle underlying the Second Amendment: the right to keep and bear arms is indispensable to the existence of a free people. As your elected Sheriffs, we individually and collectively pledge to do everything within our power to steadfastly protect the Second Amendment and all other individual rights guaranteed by the Constitution. We understand the destructive influences currently existing in our country will only relent when women and men everywhere genuinely care for each other. We must rely on Providence and care deeply about preserving the Constitution and its freedoms in order to be a strong and prosperous people. We invite and encourage the citizens of our respective counties, as well as citizens across the State, to join us in following the respectful, peaceful and orderly processes established by the Constitution for protecting individual rights and ensuring a prosperous future for all Americans and Utahans. May God see fit to continue to bless the citizens of the United States of America and the great State of Utah. Faithfully yours,
The Utah Sheriffs <https://utahsheriffsassociation.com/2nd-amendment/>

²⁷⁵ <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/01-31-02-0145>

²⁷⁶ Daniel Farber, *Lincoln’s Constitution*, Univ of Chicago Press, 2003, p. 102

²⁷⁷ *Ibid*, p. 111.

²⁷⁸ Reserved for future updates

²⁷⁹ Reserved for future updates

²⁸⁰ <https://tnm.me/textit/defense-national-security/what-will-happen-to-all-of-the-u-s-military-bases-after-textit/>

²⁸¹ <https://stacker.com/military/states-highest-rates-military-enlistment>

²⁸² Reserved for future updates

²⁸³ Reserved for future updates

²⁸⁴ Daniel Miller, *Textit: Why and How Texas will leave the Union*, Defiance Press, 2018

²⁸⁵ Reserved for future updates

²⁸⁶ Philip Howard, *Life Without Lawyers: Restoring Responsibility in America*, WW Norton & Co, 2010, pp. 164, 165, 177, 190

²⁸⁷ Reserved for future updates

²⁸⁸ Raffensperger is a lifelong conservative Republican, licensed Professional Engineer and Structural Engineer. Raffensperger successfully founded Tendon Systems, and grew the company to become the southeast's largest post-tensioning specialist contractor with approximately 150 employees and projects in over 40 states. Raffensperger was elected to the City Council in Johns Creek, Georgia. Three years later he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives where he then served for two-terms, and in 2018 Georgia voters elected him Secretary of State.

²⁸⁹ Lauren Miller, Martha-Kinsella, "Fact Check: Trump's Georgia Call to Raffensperger," Brennan Center for Justice, July 27, 2023, <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/fact-check-trumps-georgia-call-raffensperger> "During the January 2, 2021, call, Trump invoked several false claims of widespread voter fraud to pressure Raffensperger to reverse the state's election results, ranging from lies about out-of-state and dead voters to conspiracy theories about drop box stuffing and compromised election equipment.

Claims about voter impersonation and dead people voting in the 2020 Georgia election:

"I think the number is close to 5,000 people. And they went to obituaries. They went to all sorts of methods to come up with an accurate number and a minimum is close to about 5,000 voters."

"But you also have a substantial numbers [sic] of people, thousands and thousands who went to the voting place on November 3, were told they couldn't vote, were told they couldn't vote because a ballot had been put on their name."

The Trump campaign itself disproved these claims. A research report that it commissioned (but kept secret) identified only 23 "potential" episodes of people impersonating dead voters throughout the state. Georgia's official investigation found four.

Since the early 2000s, the Brennan Center has debunked false allegations of dead voter fraud and voter impersonation by demonstrating that such misconduct is extraordinarily rare. Many safeguards prevent someone from voting under another person's name. State and federal laws prohibit voter impersonation, including voting on behalf of a deceased voter. All states regularly update their voter rolls to remove deceased voters, and they base those removals on data obtained from state and federal agencies. And identification verification safeguards such as signature matching provide additional layers of protection against voter impersonation.

Claims about drop boxes:

"And you had drop boxes, which is very bad. You had drop boxes that were picked up. We have photographs and we have affidavits from many people."

"You have drop boxes where the box was picked up but not delivered for three days. So all sorts of things could have happened to that box, including, you know, putting in the votes that you wanted."

Drop boxes are a tested and common method of returning mail ballots. According to the 2016 Survey of the Performance of American Elections at Harvard University, 73 percent of voters in Colorado, 59 percent in Oregon, and 65 percent in Washington returned their ballots to a physical location such as a drop box. Numerous analyses have shown that voter fraud related to ballots sent by mail or placed in a drop box is so rare that it is more likely that someone will be struck by lightning than commit mail ballot fraud. And contrary to the unsubstantiated claim about "drop boxes that were picked up," states have developed many layers of security for drop boxes, including locks or tamper-evident seals, secure fastenings to an immovable object if at an unstaffed location, placement behind a counter or otherwise safeguarded if at a staffed location, and video surveillance or monitoring by bipartisan teams of election workers.

Claims that people can't vote without a permanent address:

"You had 904 who only voted where they had just a . . . post office box number . . . and that's not allowed."

Days after the phone call, Georgia election official Gabriel Sterling reported that the secretary of state's investigation had not uncovered any instances of people who registered to vote using only post office boxes.

Moreover, the implication that that people need a permanent residential address to register to vote is incorrect. Courts across the country have affirmed that people who do not have a permanent residential address are still eligible to vote

out of recognition that such a requirement would disqualify large swaths of eligible voters without traditional addresses, such as people experiencing homelessness and tribal communities without postal service. Claims that ballot counting by election workers Ruby Freeman and her daughter Wandrea “Shaye” Moss was “vote scamming”:

“We had at least 18,000 . . . voters having to do with [Freeman]. She’s a vote scammer, a professional vote scammer and hustler.”

“[The 18,000 ballots] weren’t in an official voter box, but they were in what looked to be suitcases or trunks, suitcases but they weren’t in voter boxes.”

Trump mischaracterized the legitimate election worker activity of Moss and Freeman as ballot tampering, falsely alleging that they pulled fake ballots from suitcases hidden under tables at a Georgia ballot-counting center. The House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6 Attack documented the flood of racist threats that both women received after Trump and his lawyer Rudy Giuliani publicly identified them.

After reviewing footage of the alleged incident, state and county officials determined that the women simply pulled ballot bins out from under the tables as part of the normal ballot counting process. The former U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Georgia testified before the January 6 committee that there was no evidence of fraud during this episode. And Giuliani himself has since conceded that his accusations against Moss and Freeman were false.

Recycled 2016 claims about out-of-state voters:

“You had out-of-state voters. They voted in Georgia but they were from out of state.”

“And then they came back in and they voted.”

The Brennan Center, public reporting, and a member of the Trump administration’s own voter fraud commission have all rebutted the various claims about out-of-state voting. With respect to Georgia in particular, a lawyer representing the secretary of state’s office clarified that “every one we’ve been through are people that lived in Georgia, moved to a different state but they moved back to Georgia legitimately.”

All states regularly update their voter rolls to remove voters who have moved out of state. The Election Registration Information Center, of which Georgia is a member, helps member states identify voters who have moved so they can update their rolls accordingly.

And in certain instances, people may vote while out of state. For example, it is legal to move out of state temporarily (e.g., as a college student or member of the military) and still vote in Georgia.

Claims that absentee ballots sent to vacant addresses were evidence of fraud:

“You had absentee ballots . . . sent to vacant addresses. They had nothing on them about addresses, that’s 2,326.”

During the phone call, Raffensperger explained to Trump that this “data” was “wrong.” Georgia and other states use a wide range of procedures to make sure that requests for mail ballots come only from currently registered voters and take steps to reduce errors when sending mail ballots, including routine maintenance of voter rolls.

Once they have sent out mail ballots, states use several safeguards to ensure that only intended recipients use them to cast their votes. These safeguards include individualized ballot envelopes that require voters to provide personal identifying information, as well as a signature or affidavit, witness, or notary requirement. When a mail ballot is returned, the signature or personal identifying information is compared against the information stored on the voter rolls. And during the scanning process, ballot scanning technology can detect counterfeit ballot forms.

Throughout this process, states keep track of the number of ballots issued and returned, as well as the names and addresses of those voters whose ballots have been received. In most states, if a voter contacts an election official to report that a requested mail ballot has not been received, it can be tracked through an individualized bar code that allows officials to identify and cancel a stolen or lost ballot and send a new one.

Claims about corrupt voting machines and ballot shredding:

“I mean, in other states, we think we found tremendous corruption with Dominion machines but we’ll have to see.”

“They are burning their ballots, that they are shredding, shredding ballots and removing equipment. They’re changing the equipment on the Dominion machines and, you know, that’s not legal.”

“And they supposedly shredded I think they said 300 pounds of, 3,000 pounds of ballots.”

Despite public statements to the contrary, both the Trump campaign and Fox News — which promoted the campaign’s claims — knew that the claims about Dominion held no merit. Election officials employ rigorous federal and state testing and certification practices both before and after elections to prevent fraud and machine errors.

The ballot shredding allegations also hold no basis in fact. The claims stem from social media posts that showed a shredding truck outside a government office in Cobb County, Georgia. Local officials explained that the posts captured a routine shredding of county tax documents and other materials unrelated to the election.

Claims that there were more votes than people in Michigan and Pennsylvania:

“In Detroit, we had, I think it was, 139 percent of the people voted. That’s not too good.”

“In Pennsylvania, they had well over 200,000 more votes than they had people voting.”

Official vote tallies for both states debunk Trump’s claims, which are consistent with his efforts to undermine the legitimacy of vote tallies in states with cities and counties with large populations of Black and Latino voters, including Michigan (Detroit) and Pennsylvania (Philadelphia). In Detroit, official results showed turnout at 51 percent. The “139 percent” appears to come from a debunked analysis by Texas businessman and vocal election denier Russell Ramsland Jr., who provided no explanation for how he arrived at that figure.

In Pennsylvania, the state’s official results showed turnout at 76.5 percent. The “200,000” figure appears to come from a statement released by Republican State Rep. Frank Ryan and others, but a Pennsylvania Department of State official called it “obvious misinformation” and explained that it was based on incomplete data.”

²⁹⁰ Reserved for future updates

²⁹¹ Reserved for future updates