

THE RUSTY, DUSTY, BUT STILL-TRUSTY SHIELD

An honest look at America's real problem and its real solution.

by Peter E. Hendrickson

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For years I've been warning of the economic, political and legal crisis now unfolding. For years I've also been speaking about the shield against this scourge prepared 224 years ago by the Founders.

That a real crisis is upon us can no longer be denied. Isn't it time to pay attention to the solution long-since made ready against this day by our far-seeing ancestors?

The shield of which I speak was understood, respected and deployed by our grandfathers, and their fathers and grandfathers before them. For more than 140 years it provided Americans with liberty and prosperity to a degree unprecedented in human history.

Sadly, about 75 years ago, most Americans set aside the Founders' defense against the very harms with which we are menaced today. The shield had worked SO well and for so long that it had become possible to forget what it's for and why it's so important.

Given those 75 years in which to do so unhindered, the hazards against which the shield had defended us have grown furiously. They have now become existential threats to this great country.

Still, as much as we teeter on the brink of disaster, the Founders' shield remains the reliable solution to our troubles. Simple in use but broad and deep in its effects, the shield offers protection against looting by "wall street", banksters and corrupt politicians. It offers protection against hyper-inflation and the destruction of our savings.

It offers protection against chaos and collapsed markets, and against martial law and the police state. It offers protection to the wise and prudent against being forcibly dragged over a cliff-edge by a mindless, fear-driven pack of lemmings.

This marvelous shield awaits our hand, ready to resume its good service. All that is needed is our bold acknowledgement of the true nature of the problem we face-- both WHAT that problem is and WHY that problem is.

PART I: LET'S START BY ACCURATELY IDENTIFYING THE PROBLEM

"The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary."

- H. L. Mencken

The simple and sordid truth is that the crisis you and I face is a product of corrupt elements of our own government. In fact, these corrupt elements ARE the crisis. THEY

are the ones destroying the economy, and doing the looting, exploiting and oppressing from which we all now need to be protected.

Indeed, when the Founders' shield was set aside years ago, it was at the urging of these very looters, exploiters and oppressors-- because these folks don't WANT you protected. They want you vulnerable to their assaults, and they don't stick at anything in their effort to have you naked and helpless before them.

In a profound expression of cynicism and contempt, these looters, exploiters and enemies of liberty and the rule of law actually present THEMSELVES as your shields. They pretend to shield you against an endless series of fantasy predators, and it is by that very pretense that the villains conduct, conceal and justify their own very real predations.

"The State is a disease that masquerades as its own cure."
-Jim Davies

The game goes like this: The purveyors of panic flog exaggerated, if not entirely fictional hobgoblins around the town square with a spiel about the dangers they represent that would make a carnival "House of Horrors" barker wash his own mouth out with soap. Endless repetition of the scare-talk, marginalization of calmer voices, and ruthless exploitation of influence over media, schools and the public forum soon induce a perpetual sense of "condition orange" in the target audience.

When public anxiety is high enough, mindless enough and sufficiently widespread, the real assault begins. The corrupt elements in government begin consuming and usurping your wealth and power, under the pretext of protecting you from the threats with which they have menaced you.

The hobgoblin-floggers used to claim to be protecting you from evil communists. Before that it was razor-wielding, hopped-up marihuana addicts.¹ Now it's "terrorists", and "polluters", and "extremists" and "greedy capitalists" and other iconic, cartoon-character villains.

Whatever the latest story-line though, the REAL story is the same. It's the agents in the Matrix² telling the copper-tops that Neo and Morpheus are the threat (the modern-day "Emmanuel Goldsteins"³), in order to keep the sleeping slaves from waking to the understanding that it is the AGENTS that are stealing their energy and their liberty and their lives.

This isn't to say that communists, razor-wielding marihuana addicts, polluters and the like may not be bad. It is simply to observe that THEY'RE not the ones taking your rights and your stuff. The ones taking things from you are corrupt elements in the federal government, collectively denominated as "the State".

Think about it. Is it "Al Qaeda" that contrives to take 50% of the fruits of your hard work and hand huge gobs of it over to Goldman Sachs and AIG, who then pay it out in massive bonuses to their corporate officers and staff (with a good helping doled out in "campaign contributions" back to "Santa Claus") while you struggle to make your mortgage payments with what is left to you? Or is it Tim Geithner and company?

If you're NOT making those mortgage payments and are being foreclosed (or are having any other economic problem), is it because of "evil banksters"? Isn't it really

because of the State's heavy and hungry hand in your pocket (and in the pocket of other folks who otherwise would be much more able to pay you for your goods and services, but can't under such a burden)?

Or maybe it's because the State's central bank produced artificially-low interest rates, creating an appearance of abundant capital (and thus, consumption capacity). This led to an overproduction of housing stock by builders in the expectation of a sturdy first-sale market, and to an imprudent acceptance of high purchase prices by buyers like you who expected a good economy and a sturdy resale market for your house-- expectations which were unsound because the interest rate signals were NOT based on a real abundance of saved capital.

As a result of these manipulations and their inevitable consequences, over-committed buyers like you can't get out from under your debt in a collapsed, house-saturated, burst-bubble market. Or worse, you can't even make your note in an economy not only bled nearly dry to pay for gold-plated State salaries and benefits, patronage plums, crony-handouts and other boondoggles but which is also afflicted by cascading employment problems while suddenly idle construction workers and others struggle to reallocate their labor to legitimate market needs.

The bottom line is the same either way: It is not "Al Qaeda" or "evil banksters" ruining your life. It is THE STATE that is ruining your life.

Ask yourself: Is it the Iranians who invade your privacy by poking through your email (or even your snail-mail) looking for expressions they don't like-- including complaints about having your mail poked through without a warrant-- and generally treat you like a criminal without cause based on the pretense that they are PROTECTING you against abuse, rather than SUBJECTING you to abuse? Or is it Janet Napolitano and her colleagues?

Think clearly. Recognize who's really doing what, and to whom; and to whose benefit.

Saddam Hussein didn't mail anthrax to a couple of key politicians needed to help rush the USA PATRIOT Act⁴ into "law". Nor did he mail it to a couple of news organizations, ensuring high-pressure media support for that Constitution-shredding, police-state-empowering measure (and also for the eventual attack on Iraq).

Nor did Hussein circulate the rumors-- later acknowledged to have been lies-- that the anthrax contained bentonite⁵, a Hussein-signature additive. All of these things were done by statist who had already written the PATRIOT Act years before 9/11 and needed a pretext for trotting it out and getting it enacted (and I'm not talking about Bruce Ivins⁶).

Nineteen kids with box-cutters couldn't and didn't keep the U.S. Air Force from scrambling interceptors on 9/11 (or refuse to release Pentagon videos even after all these years; or make bogus claims about cell-phone calls from flying aircraft, and so on).⁷ It was people hoping for a national panic which could be used to grow the State and justify mucking about in other people's countries for the sake of clients with various ambitions, such as wanting to lay oil and gas pipelines across Afghanistan to the Caspian Sea basin.⁸

Drug dealers haven't targeted a culturally-distinct minority for demonization and been using its "threat" to justify the erection of a massive internal security apparatus to which everyone is subordinated and by which everyone is coarsened, exactly the way Adolf Hitler and his Nazis used and abused the Jews. That's being done by statist brownshirt-types of all denominations-- Democrat, Republican or whatever.

(By the way, you may not think "raw milk producers" belong in a rogue's gallery alongside the likes of Saddam Hussein and the North Koreans, but the State does.¹⁷ It has criminalized Americans exercising their natural right to produce and market honestly represented products like raw milk, in competition with established companies who have been bribing Congress and regulators for years for that kind of protection from the rigors of the free market.

Contrary to moronic bumper-sticker-grade assertions used to justify wars of aggression by the United States so it can exercise hegemony over others for various purposes, it is not foreigners who hate Americans for their freedoms. Foreigners just hate the United States for its decades of arrogantly messing around in their countries.

It is the STATE that hates Americans' freedoms-- because the exercise of those freedoms interferes with its clients' profits and its own illegitimate power structure.)

Looked at dispassionately and after stepping back so the forest is in view rather than just State-selected gnarly trees, it is clear that the ones actually doing you harm aren't the hobgoblins. The ones harming you are the fear-mongers that flog these hobgoblins so thoroughly and hypnotically. In fact, there's soon some self-flagellation going on, with the marks echoing the chorus and signing up for the junior auxiliary hobgoblin-floggers brigade.

Once their hooks are in deeply enough, the hobgoblin-floggers actually get away with the pretense that being bankrupted and locked down into a police-state where we are all surveilled, disarmed, silenced, searched, imprisoned and impoverished is the price that must be paid to be protected from... being surveilled, disarmed, silenced, searched, imprisoned and impoverished by communists, terrorists, polluters and hopped-up, razor-wielding marihuana addicts.

With your cooperation, or at least your silent acquiescence, the hobgoblin-floggers and their cronies and clients empty your purse and fill their own. They decry and restrain your exercise of authority over your own life and property and claim more and more of that authority for themselves in endless offenses against your dignity, your liberty and your sovereignty.

All of the offenses are purportedly in order to save the nation from the floggers' menagerie of Merciless Mings.¹⁸ But in fact, every threat in the floggers' entire stable of scary monsters is readily neutralized-- insofar as it potentially represents any kind of REAL threat-- by simply and inexpensively securing the national borders from invasion and ensuring that the courts remain in good working order. Just as they are for scores of other peoples today, these simple measures have been completely effective against all REAL threats throughout our entire history, and we used to understand this.

About 75 years ago, however, after 20 years of foolishly tolerating a central bank inflicted upon the country in 1913,¹⁹ Americans were ensnared in a massive economic depression. This same vulnerable and confused American public also suffered from the effects of what had over the preceding 40 years become widespread State-dominated schooling of American children.²⁰

There was another factor in play 75 years ago, too. In addition to the increasingly homogenized educational experience and the trauma of severe economic instability, by the late 1930s Americans had been afflicted by 25 years of "engineered consent". This practice, a vile fusion of marketing, psychology, public relations and outright propaganda, had been pioneered by Sigmund Freud's nephew Edward Bernays as part of a Wilson administration campaign to overcome America's prudent disinclination to get involved in the first World War.²¹

"Engineered consent", together with more "old-school" practices of imprisoning vocal dissenters and similar thuggish assaults on the rule of law,²² succeeded in shepherding 364,800 American casualties into hospitals and graveyards during World War I. Tragically, those sacrifices did nothing more than help set the stage for World War II and innumerable smaller conflicts, many of which continue to this day. The wisdom of the non-interventionists was thus proven many times over, but so was the effectiveness of the State's marvelous new mechanism of manipulation.

Those wielding "engineered consent" against popular sovereignty never looked back, but unfortunately, neither did the bulk of the American public. Distracted by State-manufactured crises, increasingly ill- and mis-educated, and subject to a rapidly maturing propaganda machine, large numbers of Americans let themselves be sold an ever-more fantastic line of nonsense about the need for individual sacrifices and increasingly bizarre and destructive distortions of the law in order to "stay safe".

The rapacious hobgoblin-floggers have exploited their opportunity to the hilt, digging themselves deep into private pockets and private autonomy and simultaneously conditioning everyone to view them as all Americans' faithful friends and servants. Long-forgotten now is the healthy, protective attitude of the Founders toward the State-- even the tiny, relatively powerless protoState of their time-- exemplified in George Washington's description of it as, "A dangerous servant, and a fearful master."

For generations now, Americans have grown up believing that the massive, all-powerful State is critically necessary to keep us all safe and well against its scary hobgoblins. What's more (we are told), the State will faithfully and scrupulously keep our well-being and best interests at the forefront of its priorities.

But there's just one little thing about this proposition...

In order for the State to be able to save us from the dire threats with which they tell us we are menaced, we must let its officers and apparatchiks rule us, exploit us and feed on us like no feudal lord ever got away with doing to his medieval serfs...

PART II: THE REAL SOLUTION

A. ADMITTING THE TRUTH

"Honesty is the best policy"

Ancient wisdom

"[H]is truth shall be thy shield."

PS. 91:4

So, we've painted the picture of the crisis. Every brushstroke of that illumination has also served to dust off the shield prepared against it which has too long lain idle. Calling things by their true names gives power over them; accurately naming the elements of the crisis swirling about us accurately reveals our proper solution.

Indeed, it is ONLY in honestly facing the true nature of a problem-- as frightening and as inconvenient as that honesty can be (and as it especially is when a problem has an interested constituency attempting to defend and excuse it)-- that it becomes possible to really deal with it. Any consideration that is more circumspect than direct identification and confrontation is worse than useless.

Evasion and euphemism in naming a problem lead only to distorted remedies which are never quite right, never truly effective, and which generate new problems in turn. Ultimately a failure to face a problem squarely and with open and unflinching eyes just obscures in ever more complex ways the real nature of the real problem and lets its effects become worse and worse.

The problem we have exposed is the State-- the massive, well-organized, force-wielding apparatus by which those in control of its mechanisms work their will upon the rest of us. Very pointedly, when I say "the State", I am NOT referring to the Constitutional government established by the Founders. Instead, by "the State" I mean the Leviathan that has been allowed to metastasize within, and grotesquely distort, the formerly more-or-less healthy federal structure which it infected toward the end of the first third of the 20th Century.

Our proper Constitutional government never consumed more than 4% of GDP until only 100 years ago, and imposed virtually no regulatory burden on the economy. It was observed at the turn of the last century that the average American could go his or her entire life without ever encountering a federal worker/agent/officer other than the fellow who delivered the mail. Even as recently as 1929 TOTAL American government expenditures-- federal, state and local-- represented less than 10% of GDP.²³

Thanks to the restraints properly confining government to little more than the securing of private property and defense of individual rights, by the early years of the 20th Century Americans overall had become the most prosperous people on the face of the planet and in all of human history. Would that we had KEPT government bound down to those proper concerns.

Unfortunately, we grew forgetful of the Founders' wisdom and foresight, and we've paid dearly for our carelessness. It has been calculated that had we done so, Americans would now be 500% wealthier than we are.²⁴ Instead, having let the federal government structure become a medium for the growth of the infection known as the State we have been transformed in less than a century into the greatest debtor in human history, in the aggregate.²⁵

Our bad.

So, what do we do now?

Well...

We've actually just taken the critical first step. We've honestly admitted that there is a problem, and we've plainly identified one part of the problem-- an overgrown State, which, as in Acton's dictum that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely, is corrupt in direct proportion to the amount of power it is allowed to wield.

Since the State has been allowed to wield a great deal of power, it is greatly corrupt. Indeed, that corruption is so wide and deep that over the last twenty years we have crossed a corruption threshold. Where once there was at least an effort to appear circumspect and to offer justifications for its misbehavior, it is now with ever-increasing contempt, arrogance and glazed-eyed lust that the State claims more and more power to itself, like a black hole whose voracious, ravening reach grows with every gram sucked into its maw and added to its mass.

Now let's admit to and identify the other part of the problem: Our individual failures as the owners and authors of the State (or of the power it wields) to keep this ugly beast on the short choke-chain leashes by which it was controlled when first we created the vicious thing, and which remain around its neck just waiting for our firm hands.

B. FEEDING THE GOOD WOLF

I saw a wonderful little expression of wisdom that relates to our solution a year or two back. I'm very sorry to say that in my present research/resource-restricted circumstances I am unable to attribute it, as I would like to do. I hope the creator of this little gem forgives me that failure (and also forgives any mangling I may do in recounting this from memory)...

A young Native American boy asked his father one day about Good and Evil, and how one man turns out one way and another not, and how the boy could see to it that he grew into honor and righteousness.

The wise father regarded the boy for a moment and then said, "Beloved son, know that within every person lives a Good Wolf and a Bad Wolf. These wolves battle all through the person's life to see which one will rule. The wolf that is strongest determines the character of the person in whom he lives."

The father continued, "The Good Wolf lives on courage and courtesy and industry, and generosity, faithfulness and honesty. The Bad Wolf lives on cowardice and rudeness and sloth, and stinginess, faithlessness and lies."

The boy pondered all this for a moment, even glancing down at his own smooth little belly to see whether the battle within him revealed itself. Finally he looked at his father again. "But Father," the boy said, "which wolf wins?"

The father gravely regarded the boy. "The one you feed, my son," he intoned. "The one you feed."

Isn't this a wonderful and instructive analogy? It speaks of the fact that each of us and all of us have within ourselves the capacity to be heroes or villains.

This little story points out that whether we are a hero or a villain is NOT outside our control, like a condition we are born with (or born without). Instead, which we are is entirely a matter of what we choose to do.

What's more, whether we are the hero or the villain is never a "done deal". We can choose AT ANY TIME to stop feeding the Bad Wolf and start feeding the Good Wolf. We might then have some lost time to make up for, but redemption is always within our grasp.

In fact, we already all know that this is how it works. All of us know that when we act, we make a choice, and it's a deliberate choice, entirely our own.

We know that when we act bravely to do the right thing, it is not in the absence of fear; it is in spite of the fear. We don't act bravely then because we are naturally brave. We act bravely because we have something to do that is scary, but right, and the wish to do right outweighs the fear. We CHOOSE to feed the Good Wolf, and in so doing, we are heroes.

Every time we make that right choice-- whether it is a big choice, with big things at stake, or a little one, with nothing at stake personally except bringing someone else a little joy (when we could have not bothered), we weigh the scales on which our character is measured in favor of being the hero of our own story (and maybe among the heroes of someone else's story, too).

Further, every time we feed the Good Wolf and make him stronger, he becomes a bigger and more important element in our view of ourselves, and a friend we don't want to disappoint. We begin to seek out opportunities to give him treats at least, and preferably, red meat. In time, the Good Wolf grows so strong that even if we slip up now and then and give a meal to the Bad Wolf instead, the Good Wolf is so much larger that mistakes are few and far between, and he quickly regains any lost ground.

This then, is what makes for a hero-- one who, to the best of his or her abilities, chooses to act with courage, courtesy, industriousness, generosity, faithfulness and honesty; and chooses to eschew cowardice, rudeness, sloth, stinginess, faithlessness and lies.

OK, as excellent as this all is, and as much as you're probably already integrating this imagery and understanding into your worldview and perspective on your own behavior, you're probably also wondering what this has to do with the crisis we face of a dangerously overgrown, rogue State. You're probably wondering what personal character has to do with the State being an actual existential threat to America, in sharp contrast to all the bogus threats with which it has itself menaced the American people over the years in order to be allowed to grow so large.

Well...

There's a tricky thing about constitutions, and principles in general: they don't enforce themselves. Both require individual acts on their behalf by individual human beings in order to be sustained, respected and upheld. Just as in the battle between good and bad within each person, the fundamental law and the principles on which it is based must have more individual acts done on their behalf than are done against them in order for those principles and law to prevail and become the character of the nation.

In fact, it is those INDIVIDUAL acts that are relied upon by the designers of the Constitution. The Constitution establishes a limited government. The way in which it is limited is in restrictions on its authority, and restrictions on its access to resources, revenue and dominating physical power.

The restrictions are intended to ensure that the government remains relatively small in comparison to society as a whole, as was the case for the first 140 years of our history. The Founders understood the potential for corruption attendant on government's delegated powers. Thus, they designed the Constitution to restrict the federal government's access to private resources and influence over private activities and military capabilities.²⁶

"The Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people, it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government."

-Patrick Henry

The design of some of the key restrictions involves leaving control in the hands of each individual citizen. Sensible self-regard is expected to prompt each American to regulate his government and keep it in its place.

The Founders and Framers were accomplished students of economics-- specifically economics as illuminated and articulated by Adam Smith.²⁷ Among many other expressions of deep insight and wisdom, Smith explained that the world doesn't go properly around due to "altruism"-- that is, due to the good, beneficent or honorable intentions of the actors involved.

Instead, the world goes properly around when each actor looks out for his or her own interest, and does so in unimpeded interaction and competition with others similarly engaged. The nature of that dynamic ensures that each person diligently exercises prudence, industry and efficiency, and therefore is as productive as he or she can be.

Individual productivity is then woven by the information-transfer and feedback of the price system that spontaneously arises in such a free market into a harmonious, cooperative, enormously effective engine of prosperity and growth. In addition to producing great wealth throughout the society in general, the bountiful yield of that engine allows for generous charity from its beneficiaries to the very few who prove unable to look after themselves or their families despite living in such an opportunity-rich environment.

Further, when each person acts in his or her own interest, society is protected from fads, mania, delusions and deceptions. Some may fall prey to such transient dangers now and then, but most will not. Those who do not constitute an "immune system" for the social structure as a whole. They are resistant to the ruinous craze or con de jour and free to exercise individual prudence and restraint, and in so doing allow the body politic as a whole to overcome occasional infections and maintain its overall health.

It is only when some members of society are hindered or prevented from looking out peacefully and honestly for their own self-interest that things break down and society fails to enjoy both the prosperity and security of which it is capable. This can only happen by the corrupt manipulation of the State's monopoly of force by some against others.

In keeping with Smith's economic insight, and because it is the only arrangement compatible with the principles of liberty and individual sovereignty on which our great country is founded, the Framers and Ratifiers denied the government any authority to dictate economic behavior to American citizens. Similarly, the government is denied

authority to simply extract resources from the citizenry. Property cannot be seized for government use without full, just compensation. Taxes cannot be demanded from any citizen other than pursuant to a voluntary agreement involving the use of federal property or privilege.²⁸

The idea is not only that such seizures would be morally wrong. More importantly for the Framers' Constitutional architecture, denying their creation the authority to seize resources directly from citizens diffuses the dangerous ability to centralize and concentrate power into the population as a whole. Such diffusion is a core principle in our governmental structure.

The diffusion principle is expressed in our having two separate legislative bodies, both of which can wield a veto, and those in turn being made up of a multitude of voters, each of whom is in turn subject to the periodic replacement by the people as a whole. It is expressed by juries being made the final word on any exercise of force by the government. It is expressed by insulating judges from pressure to favor the government in legal contests in which it was a party.

The Constitution diffuses power between the several states and the federal government. The lone federal government is delegated a little; the more numerous states are delegated more; and the enormously more numerous mass of the individual people retained everything else for themselves, as well as the right to withdraw anything delegated to any government.

The fact is, the Framers anticipated, and sought to forestall, the very crisis we face today-- an accretion of power by the federal government and its transformation into an 800-pound gorilla of a State, dominating all else to the benefit of those controlling it at any given time. They did the best they could, and their design was proven to work like a charm for many generations. But it always depended on the people...

"A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves."

-Edward R. Murrow

Sadly, our last few generations have been asleep at the wheel. The government has slipped free of the restrictions designed to keep it under control and the crisis has come.

A long series of millions of individual bad choices have allowed and even encouraged the State's accretion of power to itself, and a corresponding reduction of power exercised by state governments and individual Americans. The fed-State has grown into a VERY BIG Bad Wolf.

What had been a disciplined government has become an undisciplined State-- a power-structure whose most pedestrian impositions are for sale to the highest bidder. It has also become a massive, bristling weapon capable of the exploitation and domination of entire populations-- including our own.

However, the restoration of freedom and prosperity is within our power. Individual Americans simply need to stop feeding the government's Bad Wolf, and start feeding its Constitutional Good Wolf, just as you would do for yourself if you were to realize that rather than the hero, you had begun to be the villain in your own story.

"It is not the function of our government to keep the citizen from falling into error. It is the function of the citizen to keep the government from falling into error."

-United States Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson

Making the right choices about government claims of a right to seize money (maybe yours), or whether it can lawfully punish peaceful, honest conduct or spy on people without proper sworn cause is easy. Acting on them is easy, too. It merely involves feeding your OWN Good Wolf healthy meals of courage, faithfulness and honesty.

Strange as it may sound, it's really that simple. The remedy for corrupt State-- and the ONLY remedy-- is the re-imposition of the individually-enforced Constitutional restrictions on its access to resources, authority and physical power. This just means standing behind the plain words of our fundamental law, and understanding that any deviation from them, whether under the auspices of creative "interpretation" or otherwise, is without authority.

Consider, for instance, the absurd contention that we didn't really mean it when we specified that there are to be NO searches and seizures without probable cause, sworn-to under penalty of perjury and evaluated by an impartial magistrate. Instead (we are asked to quietly accept), what we REALLY meant was, "Except when we're driving, walking, boarding commercial transportation or anywhere other than cowering behind closed doors. Under all THOSE circumstances, we're good with you accosting us and shaking us down whenever you want."

We needn't get into the fact that for 200 years prior to the "drug-prohibition" and "terrorism" gigs starting to make a lot of folks in the law-enforcement, "justice" and prison industries a whole lot of money, this exception escaped everyone's notice. The proposition is ridiculous on its face, and it's pure bs.²⁹

Or consider the notion that our delegation of authority to "regulate commerce among the several states" was a grant of federal authority over everything which might theoretically affect commerce, or anything that had ever "moved in commerce", or anything that has or had any economic character whatever. This is another "interpretation" that somehow hadn't occurred to anyone for 150 years after the Commerce Clause was enacted, but which we're now told is what that clause has always really meant.

Do YOU think this is what our ancestors meant by that grant of authority? Or do you think the federal government has NEVER been granted such authority?

Plainly, "interpretations" of the Constitution like these are ruinous of the rule of law and utterly despotic. The courts may properly lay claim to an inherent authority to say what ISN'T Constitutional, but they have no authority to EXPAND our fundamental law to permit the government to exercise more power than we delegated, or to find power-expansive exceptions to our Constitutional prohibitions.

Plainly, it is the responsibility of each American to stand one by one on behalf of OUR LAW. It is, after all, the sole source of authority by which the courts even exist, and to which they are entirely subordinate-- just as are Congress and the executive.

"We, the people are the rightful masters of both Congress and the courts-- not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow men who pervert the Constitution."

-Abraham Lincoln (The rank hypocrisy of these words in the mouth of this man doesn't change the truth they contain...)

Harmoniously, the exercise of our individual authority to remedy bad government behavior also insulates each of its administrators (you and I) from harm by the rogue State while its Bad Wolf is brought to heel and its Good Wolf is restored to health.

A knowledgeable regard for the law limiting government authority to seize money will keep most Americans' personal wealth from the government's corrupt and spendthrift hands (where it would otherwise probably be spent on some other abuse of that proper owner). By itself, this is the most powerful tool provided by the Founders and Framers for both protecting individual Americans from a rogue State and preserving the Constitutional republic they designed and bequeathed to their posterity.

Attention to our other civic responsibilities similarly shields righteous and upstanding citizens from State lawlessness. Even one person serving as a knowledgeable juror with a jealous regard for American liberty offers the People's protection to any target of a corrupt State. That's the primary purpose of juries, and why they are provided for in the rules under which we permit governments to act.³⁰

Exercising our rights as parents and keeping our children out of government or government-approved schools ensures that the next generation of voters and jurors and neighbors and friends are clear-thinking lovers of liberty and not rubber-stamps, pawns, enforcers and cannon-fodder for the lawless State. Just as the Founders knew it would, our individual honest and knowledgeable attention to our own interests-- legal as well as economic interests-- benefits the whole society and ensures a restrained, law-abiding government.

STAYING AWAKE

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty

Going forward, it's important that those stepping up to their civic and moral responsibilities not let themselves be run around in fruitless circles when interacting in the public arena. While it falls to each of us to do what's right one by one, and without regard to anyone else's participation, the virtue of encouraging everyone else to do what's right also is obvious. So, it is worthwhile to spend a few words on how "consent" is "engineered", and about pitfalls to beware of in that regard.

The ploys by the hobgoblin-floggers to keep the State from being dis-empowered by a dis-illusioned American people are myriad. All involve deception; all merely require a bit of common-sense to see through, or a healthy demeanor of skepticism to inoculate against being taken in-- meaning taking it as a matter of principle that anything aggrandizing, excusing or proposing mere reform of the State is an effort to mis-direct and deceive.

One such ploy is "push-polling". This is the designing of a poll or survey to produce a result which appears to show public support for what the State operators want to do, and which is then cited as legitimizing the desired action. Results will also be used to paint dissenters as marginal and to inflict upon them an enervating sense of isolation.

Recent news furnishes a good example of "push-polling." About a month ago, we learned of the "Star Chamber" murder of Anwar al-Awlaki by United States assassins. Two weeks later his 16-year-old son and a few random bystanders suffered the same fate. None of these victims enjoyed any opportunity to confront accusers and perhaps establish that he had done nothing within the lawful force-legitimizing jurisdiction of the United States, criminal or otherwise.

Shortly after the second murders, MSNBC ran a "poll" purportedly seeking a consensus on the question: "Should the U.S. kill citizens overseas without affording them due process?" (The al-Awlakis happen to have been American citizens, though this is really irrelevant to any legitimate question about the lawful authority of the United States to assassinate people. Nothing in the Constitution distinguishes between Americans and anyone else in authorizing or prohibiting actions of the United States.)

The published results showed a dramatic majority-- 79.3%-- agreeing with this response of the selection offered: "Yes, if they are involved in plotting terror attacks against the U.S." So, it looks like a majority of the American population is all good with the "extra-judicial" killing concept. But what's missing from this picture?

Notwithstanding the fact that we all would have liked poll respondents to have thought of this for themselves, what's missing in this available answer choice is something to the effect of, "...even though without affording the accused a trial ("due process") we actually have no way of knowing if they really ARE involved in plotting terror attacks against the U.S.." Only with the inclusion of language touching this aspect of the issue do we get a meaningful picture.

Remember, the proposed answer that respondents WERE given is designed to presuppose the established guilt of the accused: "they are involved in plotting terrorist attacks". It's precisely this that isn't known.

The way the answer is couched, however (and especially considering that some number of the respondents won't understand that "due process" means "trial"), respondents are led to presume that somehow guilt has already been established. Really, then, what we have is a 79.3% poll result supporting "killing citizens overseas without due process when it has been otherwise established that they are guilty of plotting terror attacks against the U.S."

This is quite a bit different from "Hell, we don't care what you do..." But "Kill who you want, we trust you (or don't care)..." is what will be taken from the "poll"-- because that's the answer it was designed to produce.

That answer will be cited as the "will of the People" and used to authorize more State convenience-killings. Each use of the increasingly-routine protocol will make possible the targeting of victims whose murders wouldn't have been tolerated as the first step down this path, but won't cause a stir once we are accustomed to the offense.

In particular, those conducting these assassinations will become inured to the evil, a concept explored a bit in the 'Bourne' films, in the third of which comes the seminal point of the series as Bourne, who has broken free of his own previous mindlessness on this same point, confronts one of the government assassins instructed to kill him and asks, "Do you even know why you're being told to do this? Don't you want to know?"

The push-poll results will also be relied on to hang in the air the suggestion that those who DO believe that everyone needs to be proven guilty of an offense by a meaningful

process before being targeted for punishment are a marginalized minority-- if not even just lone cranks.

Another ploy is the "run to the front of the parade". This is deployed whenever a "movement" or mass activism begins that threatens the State's hegemony over the "terms of the debate", or directly challenges its size, power and/or legitimacy.

The ploy involves State agents and fellow-travelers presenting themselves as spokesmen or leaders of the activists-- or being anointed as such by main-stream-media prestitutes. We saw this ploy in action over the last several years in regard to the Tea Party, for instance.

The Tea Party began in late 2007-- during the Bush presidency-- as a spontaneous expression of opposition to the intense and rapidly-growing statism more nakedly on display than ever before as part of the serial exploitation of the jarring events of Sept., 2001. It was also an adjunct to, and largely fueled and guided by, the Ron Paul presidential candidacy.

Indeed, the first "Tea Party" event was the "money-bomb" Paul-campaign donation event on the 234th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. Dr. Paul took in more money in political donations on that single day than had ever happened before in history.

However, in mid-2008, after an intense effort by his own party and virtually the whole of the political and media machine to impose a blackout on his candidacy and message left him low in the polls, and having decided to focus on retaining his seat in the House, Dr. Paul dropped out of the race for president. Ultimately, Barack Obama was elected in a misplaced expression of disgust with what was seen as Republican war-mongering and big-government growth (misplaced because despite campaign rhetoric to the contrary, once in office Obama sustained all of the Bush administration's bad practices).

Rallies again began coalescing across America against the unconstitutional statism that continued without "change." Almost immediately, though, this renewed grass-roots activism began to be taken over by local units of the very Republican party whose offenses while in power-- the USA PATRIOT Act, Real ID, Total Information Awareness, the TSA, the Dept. of Homeland Security, manufactured "terrorism" plots, renditioning, torture, the bankrupting of the country, etc., etc-- had prompted the tea parties in the first place, and the persistence of which had prompted their resumption in February of 2009.

The usurping Republican hacks pointed the finger at their counterpart Democrat hacks now in power, naming them the enemy of the people. Tweedledums shook their fingers and scowled at Tweedledees...

These opportunists should have been booed off every stage. However, being practiced politicians (meaning experienced, shameless public speakers and schmoozers) the hacks quickly pushed aside the amateurs who had called the rallies in the first place.

Those amateurs had had a visceral understanding of the need to call down a pox on the houses of both business-as-usual Democrats AND business-as-usual Republicans. Nonetheless, lifetime conditioning made them vulnerable to the perennial Republican party nonsense about being for limited government and individual rights.

Like Charlie Brown giving Lucy endless chances to hold the football for his kick-- even though she has yanked it away at the last moment each and every time, the good-at-heart, forgiving, and short-remembered amongst us keep falling for this bs. The fact is, the closest the Republican party has ever come to its professed "limited government" religion has been when opposing FDR's truly astonishing statism, and when Barry Goldwater conducted his brief insurgency against the party mainstream.

The prostitute and lap-dog media did its part in subverting the Tea Party, too. In what might well have been a coordinated effort with studied message-manglers like Glenn Beck and Sarah Palin, the media rapidly began presenting these two opportunists as the leaders of the party. The party membership, hearing over and over that the Party stood for the views espoused by Beck and Palin, began sorting itself out accordingly.

Those for whom the likes of Beck and Palin were acceptable spokespersons or leaders stuck and became "reportable" interviewees and poll-respondents. Those who actually had rallied round the Tea Party banner to participate in changing the destructive practices of both Democrats and Republicans, and to restore a Constitutionally-authorized, sustainable and morally-healthy governmental structure, were marginalized. Eventually they found themselves in a party they no longer recognized.

The "Occupy Wall Street" (OWS) activism offers another example, and a better one. The effort to subvert that nascent movement is still underway; further, the dynamics prompting the activism are entirely out of the control of the State, and thus nearly impossible to paper over or spin for the consumption of the "I get my news from 'Newsweek'" flock.

In the case of the Tea Party, a luxury of time allowed routine political gamesmanship to produce the energy-stealing appearance of concessions being made to the movement while none really were (what was that giant cut made last Spring? all of \$60 billion?). With OWS the State apparatchiks are behind the curve. They are stuck in a reactionary mode, and the spin-efforts are nakedly desperate and contrived.

Still, they're trying. Therefore, much can be learned by a little analysis.

To begin with, although it is nearly forgotten now (and is being stuffed down the memory-hole as quickly as possible) the OWS affair began with activists wearing the 'V for Vendetta' costume-- Guy Fawkes masks and all. The tag-line for this wonderful film is: "People should not fear their Governments; Governments should fear their People," a stark but utterly basic Jeffersonian prescription for lawful, properly-disciplined government and a healthy and wealthy society. Its adoption by OWS makes clear that the message of the movement is a condemnation of the State.

That message is NOT one of anarchy or violence, and certainly not one of socialism or hostility to the free market. In fact, it is the opposite of all those things. The message is pro-free market (and pro-freedom, period); anti-socialism (socialism being a condition requiring-- and fostering-- a domineering government); and more than anything, the message is an expression of respect for the law. The message is that government has been breaking the law, and THAT'S the problem OWS means to illuminate and address.

In this country it is the People who make the law, and who impose it on the federal government in the form of the Constitution. But that government has managed to slip the traces and grow large, violent and arrogant. Now, rather than the People imposing and enforcing the law, and keeping the fear of their wrath on those in government should they break that law, it is the People who find themselves victimized by and in fear of the law-breaking State.

The message of OWS is, "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!" The vast and entrenched "crony capitalism" by which the American people have been looted and enserfed for 75 years has crossed the limits of tolerance.

The extraction of resources and usurpation of authority from the citizenry by which the State grows strong while the people grow weak has reached unmistakably threatening proportions. Americans look at their "servant government" and see too many orcs³¹ whose chief occupation is filling Washington's treasury with stolen wealth and doling it out to their cronies and clients, while letting a good portion stick to their own fingers in the process.

The unchecked excesses of the corrupt marriage of State power in service to private interests have shaken a sleeping giant awake to a righteous and considerable grumpiness, of which 'Occupy Wall Street' is one expression. But, of course, vigorous efforts are underway to distort, eviscerate and marginalize its real message.

So far we haven't seen any successful run to the front of the parade. We HAVE seen the ramping-up of a sustained effort by the MSM to neuter the clear anti-State, anti-crony-capitalism message of the protest. This is being done by pretending to be unable to discern a coherent message from amongst the actual OWS protestors, and by focusing attention on opportunists who treat the affair as an open-mike event to which anyone with some signage can go to get some camera time.

Thus we have seen handfuls of nutcases in favor of national health-care or Social Security being covered by the media as though they are the real voice of OWS, or are a fair representation of the protest's overall theme. At a minimum, coverage of these disparate opportunists is used to suggest that there IS no OWS message-- it's just a mindless, "We're mad as hell" primal scream.

At the same time, there is almost no effort to report or acknowledge the message of the actual Occupy Wall Street cadre, which specifically opposes and condemns the Statist programs promoted by the distracting opportunists.

One notable exception to this pretense help put the lie to the rest of it. In its October 31 edition, "Time" magazine-- as status-quo-invested a media interest as ever there was-- acknowledged that, "In general, [the protestors] want to reduce collusion between Washington and Wall Street." The story then goes on to tell us, "What the Pundits Want the Protestors to Want", and quotes a selection of socialist and fascist big-State lunacies being touted as the "real issues" and urged on OWS by the likes of Nicholas Kristof, Paul Krugman and others.

Expect "what the pundits want the protestors to want" to become what you are told the protestors DO want. As OWS grows, it will be increasingly misrepresented by the CNN, WSJ and Fox News types (to name just a few) in a venal effort to prevent the protest from becoming a "critical mass" rallying point for what actually is the largest, most energized and most firmly-grounded of all political coalitions in America-- the anti-State,

pro-Freedom intellectual and spiritual heirs to the founders of our Constitutionally-limited republic.

Here, then, are a few examples of how the State and its camp-followers in the press routinely defuse and even take over opposition movements. There are many variations on these ploys, of course, but all will tend to share some of the characteristics highlighted in this sampling.

All will aim to convince every activist that he is the only one who feels as he does, and that everyone else views him as a bit "disconnected" if not an outright crank. All will aim to steal every activist's energy by pretending that her advocacy is on behalf of State-enhancing programs and reforms.

The ultimate trick in the State's arsenal against opposition activism is using a movement as a pretext for militant suppression and a further lock-down of America, by casting the activism as a threat to the community-- that is, using it to cast a new hobgoblin. This is done by salting a movement with agents-provocateur, who agitate from within the ranks for inappropriate activist behavior.

Should agitation fail to prompt the real activists to do so, the disguised State agents will themselves throw bricks through nearby windows and at the police line. This will prompt and ostensibly justify a militarist police response to disperse the crowd and arrest, isolate and silence leaders. It will also dilute the sympathy of non-participants from the protestors' message; obscure that message; and re-direct the public's interest from the movement itself to the entertaining spectacle of the ensuing melee and its aftermath.

Don't be fooled by any of this crap.

IN THE END...

It's all on you (and me-- that is, on each of us, as individuals).

It's all on you and me. That's the message I'M trying to convey. EACH OF US, one by one, must be vigilant and active, never leaving the defense of our liberties to others as those of 75 years ago or so were persuaded to do. WE EACH must recognize the spin when righteous activism is being distorted and defused, and be unstinting in helping others do the same.

WE EACH must resist and debunk hobgoblin-flogger assaults on our intelligence and our emotions, and be unstinting in helping others do the same. WE EACH must resist euphemisms and delusions, and refrain from telling ourselves comforting lies. WE EACH must face painful truths, and act accordingly

WE EACH must feed our Good Wolf, and WE EACH must refrain from feeding our servant government's Bad Wolf. We must unstintingly encourage others to do the same, and we must celebrate each others achievements in so doing, but it is our taking responsibility for own own behavior that will see us back to prosperity and liberty.

Gandhi once said, "Be the change you want to see in the world." And so we must. We can't change the world directly; we can't even change one other person directly. The one thing we CAN change is ourselves, and that's what we must do.

Finally, let me say something about fence-sitting and fear, and why everything I've spoken of in this little expression should be desperately important to you.

As will be learned by anyone who spends time as a "guest of the State", among the chief characteristics of imprisonment are constant surveillance, and searches and seizures without warrant or tested cause. Movement and assembly are dictated and restricted. What can be possessed and enjoyed by the prisoner is strictly controlled.

Do these conditions sound familiar? They should. They're what all of American is being subjected to on the installment plan at the hands of the unrestrained State.

Those of you who have kept your heads down and your mouths shut figuring to ride out the storm, or who have not decried the State for fear of becoming a target of its wrath, are NOT "staying safe". What you're doing is standing and watching like dumb animals while the prison in which you and your children will serve life sentences is built around you.

Wake up before it's too late for any protest to avail you.

-Peter E. Hendrickson

P. S. As just said, no one should wait on, or defer to, any political process, or the actions of any other(s) before doing what's right individually and unilaterally. Doing what's right, and right now, is a moral imperative, even if it means standing alone.

However, there is nothing bad and much that is good about having virtuous allies and companions who are also doing right. Indeed, next to attending to our own moral responsibilities directly our most important civic responsibility is that of educating others and encouraging them to recognize and respect THEIR responsibilities.

The good things for society as a whole that will proceed from the actions of individuals doing what's right for their own sake one by one will happen sooner, and with less tumult, when many are so engaged. More, when those holding key government offices are also seeking to remedy the problem that is the State, rather than seeking to perpetuate and exploit that problem, the road to the restoration of law-abiding, Constitutionally-restrained, respectful government is made much smoother than otherwise.

Right now the country is in the early days of the contest for who will be the next chief executive of the State. The winner of that contest will have a great deal of influence on the condition of the road we must travel in getting back from the precipice we now face to the safe and prosperous place of America's founding from which we have strayed.

There is only one candidate in that race who will be a problem-solver: [Ron Paul](#). All the others in the current crop are problem-perpetuators, as is the incumbent these candidates mean to replace.

I have been acquainted with Dr. Paul since the 1980s. He's the real deal. Please give this good man your vigorous, unstinting support.

P. P. S. There have appeared in recent years a veritable plague of attacks on the US Constitution. Some are perennials issued by genuine enemies of the principle of government restrained by law.

Other attacks are tragically made by genuine friends of liberty and individual rights, who have been led by incomplete understanding of the Constitution and its history to

imagine that it is an inadvertently or deliberately flawed instrument. These folks have adopted Lysander Spooner's reasoning that since it is undeniable that the Constitution has either produced the crisis we now face, or has been powerless to stop it, the instrument must be deemed inadequate or actively dangerous.

Baloney.

No Constitution that makes specific provisions for the masses of people to possess military weapons to ensure their ability to forcibly restrain a rogue State is a Trojan Horse, deliberate or otherwise. Further, no instrument that worked as well as our US Constitution did for 140 years is suffering from any inherent flaw at all.

The Constitution has NOT been found wanting, when knowledgeably considered. YOU AND I are what are found wanting, as has been discussed above. Please do your part to correct ignorant attacks on the best thing we have for restoring the republic.

Pete Hendrickson is the author of 'Cracking the Code-The Fascinating Truth About Taxation In America' (2003),³² 'Upholding the Law and Other Observations (2006),³³ and most recently, 'Was Grandpa Really a Moron? Critical Inquiries For A New American Century' (2009)³⁴. He is also the first American in history to defeat IRS efforts to suppress non-"agency-approved" information about tax law and the actual scope of the United States income tax (which he did not just once but four times in the federal courts); and the first to secure a complete refund of ALL amounts withheld from his earnings in connection with federal taxes-- Social Security and Medicare "contributions" included (something routinely done every year since by tens of thousands of others).³⁵

Hendrickson is currently feeding thick steaks to his Good Wolf. In June of 2010 he surrendered to a federal prison to await his appeal of a conviction in a rigged trial on charges of not being sincere when testifying on tax return documents that to the best of his knowledge and belief his earnings during six years do not qualify as subject to the income tax, and asking for the return of money withheld from him during those years.

The State has never made any effort to dispute Hendrickson's conclusions about the non-taxable character of his earnings. On the contrary, it returned everything withheld from him for some of those years (after considerable scrutiny), and its Treasury Department acknowledges on paper that the United States still owes Hendrickson and his wife a considerable amount in additional refunds.³⁶

Indeed, no formal legal claim has ever been made by the government that the Hendricksons received "income" or owed any tax for any of the years involved in the charges (which were brought in an unsigned indictment after three Grand Juries refuse to indict). An assertion WAS made at one time that the couple had received "income" and owed tax for the earliest year, but only prior to the Hendricksons submitting their return declaring the contrary. That return testimony has gone undisputed in the ten years since, despite a legal requirement on the government to formally rebut such testimony if it believes it to be untrue.

During the "trial" to which he was subjected, the State couldn't come up with a single witness to testify that Hendrickson's earnings were subject to the tax. Instead, it engaged

in a series of contrivances designed to evade its burdens of proof, effectively admitting that it was not capable of carrying those burdens.

Furthermore, as it was forced to admit in court (and as is reflected in the millions of dollars in complete refunds and other documentation posted on Hendrickson's website, losthorizons.com), for many years now the fed-State and 33 state governments have been continuously acknowledging the accuracy of Hendrickson's understanding of the law in the most concrete way possible: returning every penny withheld from, or paid-in by, tens of thousands of other Americans who have studied Hendrickson's work, learned the truth about the tax, and made claims for the return of their property exactly as Hendrickson and his wife have done since 2002.

In some cases those refunds are made only after vigorous government efforts to frighten the claimant into withdrawing the claim-- efforts that some times go on for as much as a year-and-a-half before the the claim is reluctantly honored. Such cases-- dozens of which are fully-documented on losthorizons.com-- make unmistakably clear to even the most willful skepticism that these thousands and thousands of acknowledgements are exactly that, rather than just an impossibly attenuated mass oversight by these 34 independent tax agencies.³⁷

Nonetheless, the un-precedented and never-since-repeated charges Hendrickson faced, and his contrived conviction, were arranged in an effort to frighten the constantly-growing ranks of those learning the truth into standing down and withdrawing or refraining from submitting claims of their own. The State wants these good Americans to turn their attentions to the care and feeding of their bad Wolves (if not just abandon "character" of any kind, forget about wolves, and simply assume the aspect of sheep).

Happily (and unsurprisingly to anyone who has actually met with these good-hearted, well-educated, freedom-loving American heroes), this scare-effort has proven utterly futile. Complete refunds claims continue to made (and honored by the tax agencies) even as Hendrickson sits in prison. Those who learn the truth about the law stand tall and straight, and do their intellectual and spiritual forebears proud. You should join them.³⁸

By the way, the media blackout about all of the above-- the ongoing years and thousands of instances of hard evidence of the truth about the tax; the significance of that truth to all Americans; and the fact that the government and its courts know it full well but are engaged in a concerted effort to keep it from public knowledge-- is mind-boggling. It is also seemingly outside my ability to remedy.

YOU can help. SOME OF YOU reading this are in the media. SOME OF YOU reading this know people in the media. PLEASE see to it that all this gets the attention it deserves.

NOTES:

1. This is how consumers of marijuana were described and portrayed by statistis wanting to criminalize use of the product as a replacement activity to justify maintaining the specialized law-enforcement industry that had grown up around the enforcement of alcohol prohibition prior to its repeal as a very bad idea in 1933. See www.archive.org/details/reefer_madness1938 for a good example of the motif, which worked while most Americans didn't actually know anyone who had ever used the stuff...

2. This excellent 1999 film presents a world of the future in which most human beings are hopelessly enslaved and exploited, but without protest due to being immersed in a computer-generated illusion of freedom piped directly into their consciousness. It is only by becoming aware of the illusion that one can be freed from it and discover the terrible truth of his slavery. See www.imdb.com/title/tt0133093/ to learn more about the film. (There were two sequels, but the first film stands alone, and should be considered to do so for purposes of its message.)

3. The fictional super-villain constantly cited by Big Brother as a lurking threat against the people of Oceania in order to justify any number of abusive practices of the State. See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emmanuel_Goldstein.

4. The American version of the 1933 Enabling Act in Germany. See www.lewrockwell.com/roberts/roberts142.html for some comments about this act.

5. When the "anthrax letters" were being exploited, it was declared by Bush administration people that the anthrax had been treated with bentonite, a chemical agent known to be in the possession of Saddam Hussein. This lie suggested that Hussein was responsible for the anthrax attacks. It helped muster and maintain support for the invasion of Iraq and hunting-down of Hussein despite no actual connection of either to 9/11 or the anthrax letters, as was subsequently admitted by Bush and the FBI. See losthorizons.com/911.htm#Anthrax, and losthorizons.com/911.htm.

6. Bruce Ivins is the eventual (pre-formal-proceedings of any kind) suicide victim declared by the FBI to be the "anthrax mailer", as a second choice after the effort to paint Stephen Hatfield as the perp went down in flames. See losthorizons.com/911.htm#Anthrax.

7. The evidence that whatever may be the truth about 9/11, the "official story" is a deception is huge. See losthorizons.com/911.htm.

8. Information concerning pre-9/11 interest in exploiting regional energy sources with a pipeline through Afghanistan can be found at www.lewrockwell.com/orig/sardi7.html and 911review.org/Sept11Wiki/CaspianOilPipeline.shtml.

9. The Muslim Brotherhood is a venerable political and community service organization. In the age of the endless "war on terror", it has been demonized by statisticians for its refusal to be subordinated to their will. This is like condemning your neighbor as a villain because he doesn't jump at your command... See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_Brotherhood for more about the brotherhood.

10. See www.nccd-crc.org/nccd/pubs/2006nov_factsheet_incarceration.pdf.

11. See bradleymanning.org for information on the despicable effort by the State to suppress information about its operators' crimes, and punish the latter-day Daniel Ellsbergs who have blown the whistle on them.
12. See www.salon.com/2011/09/30/awlaki_6/ for a good article by Glenn Greenwald on the Awlaki murders.
13. Mordor is the lair of Sauron, the embodiment of evil in Tolkien's Middle Earth whose purpose is the domination of the world. See lotr.wikia.com/wiki/Mordor for more.
14. See losthorizons.com/ADocumentedCtCSuppressionHistory.pdf for the sordid story of State efforts to suppress the (to it) inconveniently liberating truth about the income tax.
15. Protectionist tariffs and outright subsidies to coddled industries or firms has been going on steadily since the early 20th Century. Protectionist tariffs were sporadically used during some of the 19th Century as well, notably contributing to the secessionist sentiments of many Southern states that eventually broke away from the union on the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860. Lincoln had vowed to collect the tariffs then in place by which Southern agrarians were effectively being expropriated of more than 80% of the federal budget, to the benefit of Northern manufacturing interests. See www.lewrockwell.com/dilorenzo/dilorenzo199.html for a related article.
16. See www.ronpaul.com/2010-03-08/ron-paul-on-the-census-2010/ for some words by (you guessed it) Ron Paul on the illegitimate claim by the State that it is authorized by the census mandate to poke into your personal business, and can punish you for refusing to cooperate.
17. "Criminalizing" raw milk is just an illegal exercise of raw power. See foodfreedom.wordpress.com/2011/10/21/mothers-to-protest-fda-criminalizing-raw-milk-nov-1/ for a little more information about this outrage.
18. Ming the Merciless was the fictional world-conquest-driven arch-villain of the Flash Gordon adventure serial popular in the 1930s and 1940s. See www.movievillains.com/archives/2003/11/ming_the_mercil.html.
19. See 'The Creature from Jekyll Island' by G. Edward Griffin for an excellent presentation on the true character and stealthy enactment of the Federal Reserve Act. Find it at www.amazon.com/Creature-Jekyll-Island-Edward-Griffin/dp/0912986409
20. To get a good idea of just what State domination of schooling does to its victims and has done to the country, see 'The Underground History of American Education' by three-time New York Teacher of the Year John Taylor Gatto. Download it free at www.johntaylorgatto.com/underground/

21. Be nauseated and energized into action by learning a bit more about Edward Bernays and how his psycho-manipulations are used against you at redicecreations.com/specialreports/2006/09sep/ebernays.html.

22. See www.lewrockwell.com/stromberg/stromberg18.html for an article discussing some aspects of the Wilson administration's suppression of dissent.

23. Encyclopedia Britannica, 2009 edition.

24. An article discussing the American economic growth-rate differentials before and after the Federal Reserve and widespread misapplication of the income tax began can be found at losthorizons.com/Newsletter.htm#GIGAH.

25. See www.economist.com/content/global_debt_clock for a graphic presentation of "sovereign debts".

26. Visit losthorizons.com/comment/SecondAmendment.pdf to see what the Founders and contemporary and subsequent Constitutional scholars have to say about the Second Amendment and the Framers intentions regarding the balance of military power between the people and the government-- even a government elected pursuant to the Constitution, which the Framers weren't so daft as to think could never go rogue.

27. Smith's 'On the Wealth of Nations' was a profound contributor to the views of the founding generation, which, if proportioned to today's population, bought the equivalent of 240,000 copies of this massive analysis of economics and human action even during the tumultuous revolutionary war years.

The United States Supreme Court acknowledges the influence of Smith's work on Constitutional design in, for instance, its discussion of the limits on federal taxing power in its most detailed ruling ever issued on the subject. Resorting to, and endorsing the authority of Albert Gallatin, a Pennsylvania state congressman, US representative and senator, US Minister to both England and France at various times, and the longest-serving Secretary of the Treasury in American history, the court says:
"...Albert Gallatin, in his Sketch of the Finances of the United States, published in November, 1796, said: "The most generally received opinion, however, is that, by direct taxes in the constitution, those are meant which are raised on the capital or revenue of the people..." ... He then quotes from Smith's 'Wealth of Nations', and continues: "*The remarkable coincidence of the clause of the constitution with this passage in using the word "capitation" as a generic expression, including the different species of direct taxes-- an acceptance of the word peculiar, it is believed, to Dr. Smith-- leaves little doubt that the framers of the one had the other in view at the time, and that they, as well as he, by direct taxes, meant those paid directly from the falling immediately on the revenue;...*"
Pollock v. Farmer's Loan and Trust, 157 U.S. 429 (1895)

28. For a brief introduction to the liberating truth about the income tax, see losthorizons.com/Intro.pdf.

29. A comprehensive collection of the framers' writings on the meaning and purpose of the Fourth Amendment will be found at losthorizons.com/comment/archives/AnUnreasonableAssaultOnTheFourth.pdf.

30. Juries in the American system are expected and authorized to judge the meaning, limits and fitness of any law involved in proceedings over which they sit, as well as the issue of whether the prosecution has proven that the accused did whatever was alleged. See losthorizons.com/comment/archives/ThePowerOfTheJury.pdf.

31. Orcs are the servants of Sauron, the Dark Lord of Middle Earth in Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings' They were created by Sauron's distortion of members of a fundamentally good people into tortured hate-filled caricatures of themselves. See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orc (Middle-earth).

32. To learn about 'Cracking the Code- The Fascinating Truth About Taxation In America', see losthorizons.com/Cracking_the_Code.htm. Get the 12th edition as a free .pdf at losthorizons.com/CtCForFree.pdf.

33. To learn about 'Upholding the Law and Other Observations', see losthorizons.com/UtL.htm.

34. To learn about 'Was Grandpa Really a Moron? Critical Inquiries For A New American Century', see losthorizons.com/WGRaM.htm.

35. For details about the State campaign to suppress the liberating truth about the income tax, see losthorizons.com/ADocumentedCtCSuppressionHistory.pdf

36. See losthorizons.com/Newsletter/CriminalAssault/CertsOfAssess.pdf to view certified Treasury Department Certificates of Assessment showing that the United States does not dispute Peter and Doreen Hendricksons' positions regarding the legal character of their earnings, and admits to an outstanding refund balance still owed to them of over \$10,000. To see the returns the Hendricksons filed relevant to these certificates, see losthorizons.com/overpay.htm and follow links from that page as indicated.

37. To view educated refund claim filings and results in cases involving explicit tax agency scrutiny, fussing and/or resistance, or which are distinguished for other reasons from the vast majority of claims which are simply honored without comment, see losthorizons.com/tax/Highlights.htm and losthorizons.com/EveryWhichWayButLoose.htm

38. To enjoy an introduction to some of the heroic American men and women who have been feeding their Good Wolves and standing up for the Rule of Law, see losthorizons.com/Victory.htm.

Research for many of these footnote references was handled by Thomas Jefferson Hendrickson, whose father is most proud of his good work.