

MFSE – The American Story



Christian Revival Sweeps Europe

The Reformation of the Church in Europe during the 1500's created a revival of Christianity and a transformation of thought from which many new ideas began to form. These transformations in thinking extended beyond the practice of religion itself and into the sciences and politics. These ideas quickly found their way to the new world as they were widely rejected by the established churches and governments of Europe. Europe's rejection of this revival was America's gain, for these were the ideas that later formed the foundation of the United States; they included ideas such as:

- Man is free to directly approach God.
- The Bible belongs in the hands of the people, in their own language – it requires no special interpretation by clergy.
- The freedoms granted and laws given in the Bible are still true today and will always be true.
- Man is created to serve God, not the state and not human masters.
- Mankind is meant to serve only one king, God! Earthly governments stand in the way of the blessing of this service when they usurp God's authority.
- The Bible is the standard of right and wrong, not the leaders of the Church or state.
- All men, even kings, are under God's authority and therefore subject to His law – there is no "divine right of kings".
- Every law, right or freedom comes from God, not government, therefore, government has no authority to alter or abolish them.
- No liberties can remain secure when we remove the conviction that these liberties are the gift of God.
- Christ died to make men free – all men, in all nations, in all times.
- If Christ died for men, where does any government derive the power to force men to die for it?
- Christianity is necessary – it is impossible for the free to remain free without Godly self-restraint.
- Government exists only to defend the individual and his right to life, liberty, property and the pursuit of happiness. After God, the individual comes first, not the state.
- Man is a fallen creature not capable of being his own law-giver or judge.

We must obey God rather than men. Acts 5:29

Pennsylvania – A Land of Religious Freedom



The people who immigrated to a new home on a distant continent against staggering odds did so from many places and for a variety of reasons. The first came for religious freedom from England and mainland Europe. They faced the deadly Atlantic crossing which claimed more than 10% before they even arrived on the shores of North America. Once they were here, they had to start life completely over from nothing at all in a land inhabited by primitive natives that weren't always happy to welcome the newcomers. Coming to America meant leaving behind the civilized world and your friends and family never to return.

In 1681 William Penn was a religious prisoner whose father was owed money by the king of England. In exchange for the debt the king granted the younger Penn a colony in the new world where he "could perform his experiment in religious freedom". By the time Penn died in 1718 Pennsylvania was the most religiously diverse nation on earth.

In many ways the nation that Penn created went on to create the nation we know today as the United States. The ideas of religious freedom and freedom of thought, the separation of government and church, freedom to gather together and the freedom to disseminate these diverse ideas that began here were later incorporated into the fabric of the United States as a whole.

The government Penn founded, today being the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, is the oldest in North America. Penn's 1681 treaty with the Lenape Indians was ground-breaking in that it recognized them as people with rights under the law. Penn's treaty is regarded by some as the world's oldest standing peace treaty.

Penn, and many of the religiously persecuted who made their way to Pennsylvania, believed that they were creating the new world spoken about in Revelation. That here, in Philadelphia, all the nations could live together in peace. This is represented in this painting – the animals living peaceably together represent the kingdoms of the earth.



A revolution of the heart – a nation of Godly people

In the mid 1700s a Christian revival swept through the 13 colonies known as the Great Awakening. It was this revival that in many ways set the stage for the American Revolution. The revival brought many of the Protestant denominations back together and inter-mixed them with the Anabaptists. While it did not make Americans a single religion, it did awaken all to the ideas of God's will for His people and the society they lived in. Jonathon Edwards' sermon Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God was first delivered in 1741, but it was preached across the entire continent. The sermon essentially challenged Americans to become the men God called them to be. In little more than two years 1/6 of the population of New England had joined the movement Edwards' sermon began. Christian revivals would play pivotal roles in America's development for more than 150 years.

The Great Awakening was an intellectual awakening as the American Church, as a whole, began to view the sciences, economics, sociology and humanities as the study of God's Creation. The College of New Jersey, today known as Princeton University, became the ideological center of this movement. All Americans began to feel that they played a necessary part in God's plan and that they needed to continually seek the power of the Holy Spirit to work in their lives to become a better people. America's Founding Fathers were the intellectual children of the Great Awakening.

In many ways it can be said that the American Revolution was won in the hearts of the citizens long before it was won on the battlefield. A Christian people submitting themselves to the authority of God is able and ought to be free! In many ways, the Great Awakening was the revolution.

America Not the Land of Backwoods Hicks

America's predominantly Christian populace was not filled with ignorant, uneducated, backwards, superstitious hicks as her European enemies, then and sometimes yet today, portrayed. American Christians valued education and believed that all should read and know their Bibles and that the sciences were the studies of God's universe. The churches founded eight out of the nine colonial colleges: Harvard (Puritan, 1638), William & Mary College (Anglican, 1693), Yale (Puritan 1701), Princeton (Presbyterian, 1746), Dartmouth (Congregational, 1754), Columbia (Anglican, 1754), Brown

(Baptist, 1764) and Rutgers (Dutch Reformed, 1766). The University of Pennsylvania was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1740.

"All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind are convinced that the fate of empires depends upon the education of youth". - Aristotle

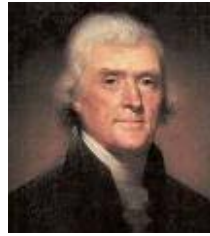
The Founding Fathers



**Benjamin
Franklin**



**George
Washington**



**Thomas
Jefferson**



**John
Adams**



James Madison



Samuel Adams

The Founding Fathers of the United States is a term Americans use when speaking about the men whose ideas helped shape and create the United States. They were men from a variety of backgrounds and a variety of places. They were really an entire generation of people who caught a glimpse of the Great Awakening. They were ordinary people, farmers, businessmen, ministers, lawyers, scientists – northerners and southerners. All were Christians influenced by the Great Awakening and very familiar with their Bibles and the ideas of their day. All were learned men. They were the signers of the Declaration of Independence, the framers of the U.S. Constitution and the men who would birth and lead a new nation. In their generation, for the first time in human history, the reins of government power would pass peaceably from one man to another unrelated man as the result of an election.

Benjamin Franklin was a newspaper and magazine printer as well as a scientist, author and statesman from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Franklin was one of the few Founding Fathers to participate in the writing of both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. He was the founder of the University of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia Free Library. Although he was never President, Franklin served his new country as the Ambassador to France and the first Ambassador to England.

George Washington was a farmer and surveyor from Virginia. He was appointed by Congress as the general of the Continental Army during the American Revolution. The Revolution was marked by defeat and deprivation for the American military, losing more men to frostbite and illness than in battle. But, Washington held it together and against the most staggering of odds won the war. Following the war, Washington was selected to preside over the U.S. Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in September 1787. Under the new Constitution, Washington was elected the first President of the United States.

Thomas Jefferson was a farmer, scientist and philosopher from Virginia. He was 33 years old when he wrote the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson was an avid reader, writer and political philosopher. Jefferson learned seven languages so he could study the works of previous scholars in their own words so that nothing would be lost in translation. His book collection was donated to the U.S. Congress upon his death and became the Library of Congress. Jefferson became the third President of the United States and, unlike his two predecessors, took a far more libertarian approach to governance.

John Adams was a lawyer from Massachusetts who led opposition to British violations of the English Bill of Rights beginning in 1766. Adams' persuasion led to the resolution to declare independence from England ten years later. Adams' financial negotiations with the Netherlands helped fund the Revolution and craft the original banking system of the United States. He was adamantly behind the adoption of the U.S. Constitution and co-wrote numerous articles to persuade his fellow Americans to get behind the new federal government it formed. Adams became the second President of the United States.

James Madison was also a Virginian farmer and philosopher like his nearby neighbor Thomas Jefferson. Madison was the author of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. During the Jefferson administration, Madison helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase, doubling the size of the United States. He became the fourth U.S. President. In that capacity, he worked for a more libertarian banking system and fought the War of 1812.

Samuel Adams was cousin to John Adams. He was a Boston businessman and political philosopher who was able to get the people of the colony behind the idea of freedom and independence. Adams was a leader of the 1773 Boston Tea Party. Following the Revolution, he returned to Massachusetts where he served as governor of that state.

In spite of their differences in religion, background and section, the Founding Fathers were all well read political philosophers. America's Founding Fathers flatly rejected the idea that any nation could have morality without religion. The very basis of morality is the existence of God. There can be no society if everyone does what is right in his own judgment. They also rejected the idea that morality cannot be legislated as absurd. They saw all laws as moral. The question was, as they saw it, whose morality would be legislated? They believed that the Bible established permanent standards transcending all societies and feared that, without religion, a "whatever is legal is moral" attitude might set in. (An example of precisely this concept would be the Nazi's claim that they were acting legally during the holocaust.)

Declaring independence

After several attempts were made and petitions were sent to the king and parliament of England to work out their grievances it became increasingly clear that the American colonies were simply being ignored by their government in Europe. Specifically, these grievances included the denial of rights promised in the English Bill of Rights, taxation without representation, a European government that dissolved local governments in the American colonies, an unresponsive and far-off government that took months to respond if it did at all and more.



In response, the colonies began to send delegates to a new Continental Congress that they created to deal with their grievances with England as a more united front. By the summer of 1776 it became clear that neither Parliament nor king would respond and the Continental Congress voted unanimously on June 2, 1776 that the colonies would stand together and declare themselves a new nation no longer governed by the English king or Parliament. A committee was formed to write a document informing England that the colonies now considered themselves free and independent nations.

The resulting document, the Declaration of Independence, was written by Thomas Jefferson and adopted by Congress on July 4, 1776. The Declaration is the birth certificate of the United States – in fact; it is the first place that the term "United States of America" was ever used. More than that, the Declaration spells out a new idea: "that we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". Human rights come from God – no government has the authority to take them away. The Declaration of Independence is unique among all acts of government throughout history in that it asserts God's universal law and the rights it provides to all people.

The Declaration was the ultimate act of treason from the British perspective. The signers knew that they singled themselves out for punishment by signing the document, yet they signed. Benjamin Franklin said while he signed, "We must now hang together or we will surely hang separately". Many of the 56 signers did, in fact, endure especially harsh treatment during the Revolution – in some cases their wives and children were carried off or imprisoned. Their homes and fortunes were frequently destroyed. But, non-the-less, they did "hang together" – not one renounced the Declaration!

Slavery – Without it there is no American nation, with it America cannot fulfill her destiny

Slavery is the cruelest of institutions in which one person owns another as property and the slave has no human rights at all. It is often asked, how could the Founding Fathers of a country like the United States allow such an institution to stand? Some believe that the Founders didn't believe what they wrote or that they were blinded by racial prejudice. In reality, it was a necessary compromise that allowed the institution of slavery to carry on for nearly 90 more years.



By the time the Declaration was signed, slavery in the north was already on the decline and would be totally outlawed within a generation. There were movements in many northern cities to eliminate slavery. Some of the signers of the Declaration such as Benjamin Franklin and Benjamin Rush from Pennsylvania were members of these movements and prominent spokesmen for emancipation. Many of the religious communities, such as the Anabaptists, believed slavery was immoral and against Christian principles. Even in the slave-holding southern states, many questioned the morality of the institution of slavery including Washington and Jefferson. In fact, before congress redacted the clause, Jefferson's Declaration of Independence did, in fact,

blame the government of England for allowing slavery, set the slaves free and make them equal citizens of the new nation. Some in the south did free their slaves, usually upon their death.

But, in the summer of 1776, the confederation of American colonies that desired independence from England, the world's mightiest military power of the time, knew that it needed to stand together if it wished to succeed in gaining independence. There was no compromise available that would allow the slaves to go free. The British also knew that slavery could be an issue used to divide the colonies. If the north stood fast against slavery, England would promise the south to defend their rights to slave ownership.

It would take nearly 90 more years and a Civil War to end the institution altogether. And, since human nature is what it is, it would take another 100 years after that until many southern blacks would begin to equally benefit from citizenship and civil rights.

The Founders knew the imperfection of what they had done, but they knew also that it was the best they could do in their day and that every generation would be faced with this political dilemma. It was for this reason that they tried so hard to limit the impact of government on the lives of future people – to free them from such political calculations.

The U.S. Constitution

Once the states won their independence from England, they had to begin the task of governing themselves and the confederation they had formed. Each state was basically a country. In the Treaty of Paris, which ended the American Revolution, the English government did not surrender to the United States, but rather separately to each independent state.

At first, a loose confederation was formed, but this confederation was too weak to stand against the empires of the world. A stronger confederation bringing the states together and establishing a more powerful "national" government was necessary if the United States was to survive. However, there were still vast differences between the states and none wished to recreate an imperial central government like that of England.

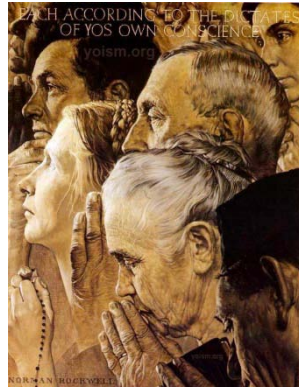
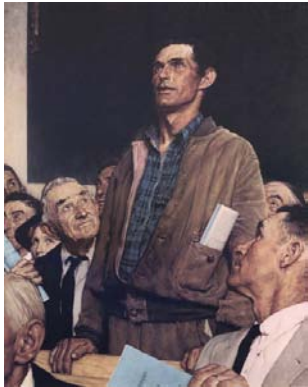


The U.S. Constitution is the document that dictates what powers are reserved to the United States federal government and outlines how it shall function. It expresses our Founding Fathers' concepts, intentions and ideas for the country they created. The Founding Fathers believed that the Constitution was designed to perpetuate Christian order. Having just freed themselves from overreaching government, the Founders were very concerned that they not create another beastly government, but rather a restrained one. Additionally, they realized the primary job of any government would be self-preservation. So, how do you create a government strong enough to stand, yet too weak to oppress? The U.S. Constitution is the oldest document of its type still in force in any government today.

The United States, as originally conceived, was premised upon the concept of the Biblically morally ordered community. The government of the United States as formed under the Constitution was to have virtually no day-to-day impact on the citizens; they were free to institute more intimate arrangements with their local governments. The thought was that only a local government could be responsive enough to be involved in any greater detail. The very limited role of the federal government established by the Constitution included:

1. The authority to bear the costs of its operations in various taxes (understood to mean various tariffs and excises – taxes on business, exports and direct taxes on citizens are forbidden – states can be taxed according to population if Congress approves).
2. The authority to normalize commerce with other nations, between the states and with Indian tribes.
3. The authority to naturalize citizens and establish bankruptcy courts.
4. The authority to coin money (understanding that a dollar was defined just prior to the Constitutional Convention as 375 grains of fine silver or 24.75 grains of fine gold – no paper money was to be issued by the U.S. government), regulate weights and measures and punish counterfeiters.
5. The authority to establish post offices and post roads.
6. The authority to issue patents and copyrights.
7. The authority to establish lower courts and the Supreme Court.
8. The authority to defend American commerce from piracy on the high seas.
9. The authority to raise an army, maintain a navy and provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions.
10. The authority to issue letters of marque and to declare war.
11. The government shall have no other power which has not been granted herein.

As I imagine you are now thinking – this really isn't how it is anymore. Unfortunately, the federal government has not lived within its Constitutional constrictions, but has rather grown into the overreaching beast our Founding Fathers feared it might. For example, where in this list do you see that the federal government has any say whatsoever regarding medicine?



A Bill of Rights to further restrain the beast



The Constitution, as originally written, did not include a Bill of Rights because the federal government was expected to have no bearing whatsoever on the life of the individual – its decisions would deal only with interstate or international issues. However, in order that enough states would ratify or support the new U.S. Constitution, the Founding Fathers had to promise a Bill of Rights which specifically outlined the rights of a citizen that could not be impinged by the new government. These include things like freedom of speech, religion, the press and the right to bear arms. The Bill of Rights is the first ten amendments or additions to the U.S. Constitution:

- **First Amendment** Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.
- **Second Amendment** 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.
- **Third Amendment** No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.
- **Fourth Amendment** The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no **Warrants** shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.
- **Fifth Amendment** No person shall be held to answer for any capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a **Grand Jury**, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.
- **Sixth Amendment** In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district where in the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defense.
- **Seventh Amendment** In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.
- **Eighth Amendment** Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.
- **Ninth Amendment** The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

- **Tenth Amendment** 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.

Following the ten amendments of the Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution has been amended 17 more times. These amendments ended slavery and involuntary servitude, established citizenship for black Americans, extended voting rights to blacks and to women and did a variety of other things. There have also been attempts to amend the Constitution which have failed to gain the necessary support to stand.

The Three Branches of Government

The U.S. Constitution establishes a three-branched federal government; each branch having power to keep the others in check. Under the Constitution, the federal government would be accountable to the states through their Senators.



Legislative (Congress)

The Senate represents the will of the states

The House represents the will of the people

Passes laws and bills

Enacts treaties

Confirms appointments

Controls government spending

Can override Presidential veto

Both chambers must approve in order for a bill to be approved



Executive

The President is elected by the states and their population

The Vice President presides over the Senate

Executes the law, bill or treaty

Can veto unwanted decisions

Makes appointments



Judicial

9 Justices appointed for life by the president, approved by Congress

Interprets the law, bill or treaty

Determines Constitutionality of the actions of the other branches

America created to be a beacon to the world's nations



America's Founding Fathers believed that they were changing the entire course of human history from that point in time forward. They believed that the creation of a safe-haven from tyranny and their new governmental creation would grow to encompass the rest of North America and the world as well – not by military force, but because the rest of the planet would soon need to adopt the freedoms of America or be utterly lost in the dustbin of history. They believed the citizens of the world would throw off the shackles of tyranny and follow a similar course as the one set here. America was supposed to be the place where you go to escape overreaching government, not the place where you come to see what government can do for you.

The enduring symbol of this beacon and of liberty is, of course, the Statue of Liberty standing in New York Harbor. She holds the torch, or beacon, in one hand and the Declaration of Independence in the other. Directly behind Liberty is Ellis Island, the U.S. Immigration Service's port of entry into the land of the free for those escaping tyranny and poverty.

Today, more than 100 million Americans can trace at least one ancestor through the gates of Ellis Island.

The inscription on the base of the Statue:

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

Natural Law = God's Law

Natural law can be described as law set by the very nature of man and therefore valid in all human circumstances. It is permanent and unchanging. Natural law is God-given in the sense that it is universal and based upon how man was

created. It stands in contrast to man-made laws which vary from society to society, but all, none-the-less must, in some way, refer back to natural law. At the time of America's founding, the common belief was that natural law included the entire realm of God-intended law and that the fewer man-made laws, the more freedom and thus the closer to God's intent for His people and their society.

Making laws that contravene natural law is counter-productive in that it creates animosity between people and causes society to function less efficiently, if not break down altogether. The Founding Fathers were very concerned that man-made law would take a weaker stance on some natural laws while elevating human desires – a situation that eventually leads to the elevation of immoral behavior, legal chaos and ultimately the loss of a free republic.

Imbedded in the concept of natural law is the concept of natural rights, which are also necessarily universal. Natural rights are those which everyone can innately exercise without infringing upon society. The Declaration of Independence mentions three natural rights – life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The pursuit of happiness is not about fun and good times; it is the natural right to determine how to productively invest one's energies. The right to property is also a natural right. The Declaration originally mentioned this, but it was redacted out so as not to be construed to mean that people were entitled to property they did not invest in. However, without a right to property, all others become mute quickly – if you're not entitled to the tool you just bought, then you are a slave to whomever is.

A right to food, however, would require that someone provide the food and is therefore not a natural right. Any right that is granted beyond natural rights requires that something produced by another be removed from that individual, which would be theft, and thus violates natural law.

Godly vs. Outside of God's Law

So, given these beliefs about natural law and its subsequent inalienable rights, what does it take to keep God on the throne? Essentially, our Founding Fathers believed that there were only two possibilities for man: Godly or outside of God's law – there was no gray area. A few examples:

The Bible is clear that it is possible for a government to steal – not all activities of government are sanctioned by the Bible. Theft occurs whenever one man is deprived of his property for the benefit of another. The government cannot be employed to do any task that an individual cannot Biblically do. In other words, if it is wrong for me to take money from one neighbor for the benefit of a poorer neighbor, it is equally wrong for the government to do so. Natural charity is the key – better a nation of happy givers than one of miserable taxpayers.

How much force can the government apply to the "giver" until that which he "gives" is no longer love and charity? How much theft is appropriate for the government to engage in?

The only legitimate or Biblical reason for government to exist is to uphold natural law – that is, to protect the individual and his property by vanquishing evil.

Equal justice under the law vs. equal outcomes from the law



America's Founding Fathers realized that humankind has a choice when it comes to government. Government can either work Biblically, applying the law to everyone equally or it can work to ensure that everyone has an equal amount of stuff. These two ideas are mutually exclusive and, therefore, cannot both be achieved simultaneously. For example, if a wealthy person is required to pay tax at a higher rate than a poorer person, the government is not treating the two equally under the law. This, our Founders believed, was an abuse of the law which is ungodly since all righteous law comes from God. They believed that this would lead to a situation whereby people became dependent upon the government for their common needs. Independence and freedom cannot be achieved or maintained while people are dependent upon their government. In other words, if you need the government to feed you then you must comply with the demands of that government.

A Free Economy

A free economy is an aspect of natural law and was actually referred to as natural economics.

At the same time the American Revolution began the ideas of a Scots economist named Adam Smith were beginning to take hold as well. Smith shared a Calvinist Christian background with those leading the Great Awakening in America and was deeply influenced by his religious background as were nearly all academics in his day. His ideas soon became foundational to economic thought in the young United States. Smith came down firmly on the side of a free economy believing that the individual members of a society acting on their own accord would provide a wealthier



economy than one controlled by a government. Smith famously said, “It defies the intelligence of the genius that he cannot devise a way to prosper society any better than free men prompted into action by the invisible hand of God”.

Smith’s prescription for economic greatness was drawn from the Bible and its economic principles – he had not seen it in action, because it wasn’t in action anywhere. Smith believed that the hardest law to follow would be to protect the wealth of the wealthy rather than steal it for the benefit of others.

Under the U.S. Constitution, the federal government of the United States was not intended to create a central bank, which, through the creation of paper money printed out of thin air would in essence give the government unlimited power and the ability to control the states. For this reason, the government was to “coin” gold and silver coins only, thus keeping the banking system in private control, not government control. Safeguarding the power of money and keeping the power to print it out of the hands of politicians was believed by our Founding Fathers to be at the core of remaining free. The ideas of our founders are best depicted on the American Eagle, a coin that complies with the Constitution’s requirement that the federal government mint gold coins.



On the obverse, the coin displays Liberty carrying the torch – a symbol of truth and vigilance. The light of that truth is then radiated out of government (notice the U.S. Capitol in the lower left). When government functions in truth under the vigilance of free people, peace is delivered to mankind – this is the meaning of the olive branch being extended in Liberty’s left hand.



On the reverse, the coin depicts an eagle, the symbol of the United States and also a symbol of eternal vigilance, delivering peace to future generations – the heritage of the American family.

Unity vs. Uniformity

The thirteen colonies that formed the United States were a diverse collection of people many of whom had beliefs that were quite a bit different from each other. Obviously, issues such as slavery divided the nation as did religious differences, economics, language and heritage. If the United States was to be a single nation, how could such a vast array of differences be melded together?

The answer, from our Founding Father’s perspective, came from the Protestant Reformation of the Church and out of the Pennsylvania Experiment. Pennsylvania was practically as diverse within her own borders as the rest of the colonies combined, but yet Penn’s Experiment in religious diversity proved that a unity of toleration could be formed. It was never the perspective of the Founding Fathers that the United States should become a homogenous nation, but rather that unity might best be achieved without enforcing some sort of uniformity. In unity, through the mutual toleration of differences, we could love one another and form a nation. But, with uniformity, we would live in fear that another’s ideas or preferences would be forced upon us and we would grow to fear and hate one another.

Federal vs. State – Who is supposed to be more powerful?

The U.S. Constitution forming the federal government was written and ratified by the individual states. The entity that the states created was never meant to become more powerful than its creators according to the framers of the Constitution. The Constitution was to ensure the strictest limits on the federal government and the various state governments were to act as a check and balance against federal power. It was reasoned that the states must remain powerful enough to protect the liberties of their inhabitants from an overreaching federal government yet answerable to federal law which had primarily to do with interstate and international commerce and issues. If an individual was unhappy with the policies of his state, he was free to remove himself to a neighboring state.

The idea of federalism was to answer a dilemma: The Founding Fathers believed that no large republic could survive; that sooner or later it would become tyrannical. Sooner or later it would try to establish uniformity in a place where it absolutely need not exist. The Founders believed that all sovereignty was contained within the individual and that representing the people's sovereignty could not be judiciously done by the creation of a single large government. So, the responsibilities of the government were split between a federal government, the various state governments, municipal governments and the people themselves.

The idea that sovereignty was contained within the people was considered the difference between a citizen and a subject. Citizens were sovereign while governments are sovereign over their subjects. In other words, according to our Founders, all power comes from the people, not a king or government.

The Founders believed the states could interpose their authority if they believed that the federal government had overstepped its bounds or if they believed that an act of the federal government infringed upon the rights of their citizens or placed an undue burden upon them. Several founders believed that the states had the authority to nullify federal laws and acts which violated the state's power to decide on the appropriate course for that state.

America – a Republic not a Democracy



America's Founding Fathers were very clear in their writings and in the governmental acts that they created and ratified that the new nation they were creating would be a republic not a democracy. A republic is a form of government in which the population elects representatives to speak for them and in which written law trumps the will of a governing body or the masses. A democracy, by contrast, is rule by popular opinion or majority rule. Our Founding Fathers feared that there would be no way to protect the rights of minorities from the will of the masses and that their new nation would dissolve into immorality, mob-rule and civil war if they were to create a democracy. They believed that this would lead America right back under the rule of a tyrant who would promise to make things right for all if he were only given enough power to do what he wanted to do. The Founding Fathers further believed that the wealthy would always

need to be afraid that their possessions could be confiscated if they created a democracy and, therefore, such a system would work against progress keeping us all poor. The Constitution and the Bible were to form the written law underpinning the new republic. The republic, they believed, was the system that ensured the highest level of freedom for all. The majority is not sovereign, only God is sovereign – majorities can be influenced by fanatics, emotions, self-interests and wrong-headed ideas. Some ideas, no matter how popular at any given time, should never become law.

In addition to trying to ensure that the American people would remain free under a republican form of government, the Founding Fathers specifically limited the power of their new government and established a system whereby each citizen was also represented by the state government in the state in which he lived. In this way, they believed, the abusive power of one government could be kept in check by the power of the other government. The United States was never intended to have a centralized or national government, but rather a federal government surrounded by coequal state governments. The Constitution they wrote specifically limited the power of the federal government to handling disputes between the states and representing American interests internationally.

Please be aware that the news media and certain politicians frequently try to describe America as a democracy. Democracy, in their understanding, is socialism and it is what brought the Soviet Union into existence. The radicals of the 21st century, just like our 18th century Founding Fathers, realize that in a true democracy the people will vote to seize the wealth of the wealthy and that it will be the government who then controls all.

Keeping the inviolable individual secure in his personal liberties and possessions by preventing the government from seizing and using the assets of the individual in whatever way it sees fit is the ultimate goal of any constitutional republic. Even the unfortunate fact that these rights did not extend equally to all individuals at first does not diminish the audacity of such an idea which had never previously been codified in any other country.

Without Debate No Republic Can Survive

Putting ideas through the scrutiny of honest debate is the purpose of a legislative house. It ensures that good, solid ideas prevail while more questionable ones fail. Without debate we might as well have a king. The same can be said for today's group-think, logocracy (meaning rule by repetitive slogan), victim mentalities, the crafty naming of legislative acts to make them sound more appealing on the surface or any other thing that prevents ratiion and reason to enter into the arena of debate. When the field of debate is crushed by attacking the debater there is no honest debate. It is for this reason that our founders called for men of highest moral character in government.

Destroying honest debate is always the goal of the tyrant and his propagandists. Replacing ration and reason with emotion and feeling was so feared by America's Founding Fathers that many believed women should be barred from politics and voting because of their emotions. Women – I would suggest that you find the political pleas upon your emotions to be offensive since they would prove our founders right if they actually work.

The Political Left vs. Right in the American Understanding

Please understand when you read the newspaper and it refers to the political left vs. the political right it is often referring to the European understanding of this concept, not the American one. In the European houses of Parliament members sit according to the political party to which they belong. On the far left are the communists, in the middle the more moderate parties and on the far right are the fascists or Nazis. For the reason above, the Communists are considered more democratic while the Nazis are considered more conservative, or authoritarian.

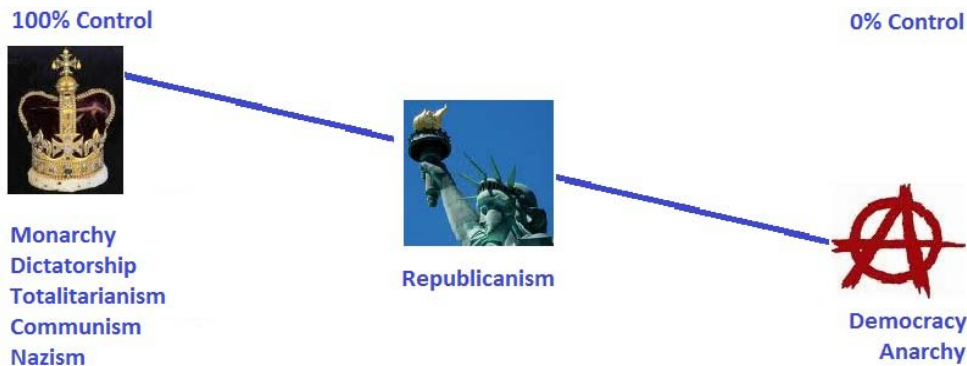
Left vs. Right – the European understanding



In the United States there are two primary political parties, the Democratic and the Republican. In the American understanding, the conservative or Republican viewpoint is interested in a more strict interpretation of the U.S. Constitution as it is written while the Democratic viewpoint is more interested in social justice, or the redistribution of wealth, and a more flexible Constitution, which can only mean a more powerful federal government. So, when the news media speaks about American Conservatives as "right-wing" and insinuates that they are Fascists, this is factually inaccurate and intellectually dishonest.

America's Founding Fathers operated under a completely different perspective. They saw the political spectrum as a continuum of less government control from left to right. To them, the political left was more government control – the extreme left being a king or monarch. The political right meant less government control – the extreme right being mob-rule or anarchy. The Founding Fathers believed that the only way to secure freedom was the middle way – the creation of a republic. In their way of thinking, both communism and fascism would be far left, while a direct democracy would be far right. To preserve freedom a government must exist and be strong enough to survive, but its power must be limited. So, if the news media were interested in being intellectually honest about American politics, they would label American Conservatives as centrist, while their political rivals tend to fall on both extremes.

Left vs. Right – The American understanding



There can be no freedom without God

Although America is sometimes called a Christian Nation or the news media makes America appear to be a Christian theocracy in the same way Iran is an Islamic theocracy, neither of these expresses the concept of our Founding Fathers. America's Founding Fathers believed that a nation of people who just did whatever they felt like doing whenever they wanted to do it would not be free for very long. The maintenance of freedom requires the moral growth of the people. It requires them to handle life and the situations they find themselves in within the appropriate moral framework. There simply can be no lasting freedom without faith from the American perspective.

However, the Founders did not establish a national church. They did not write into the law that one ideology is superior nor did they require church attendance. They did everything they could to establish the idea that government could not interfere with religion. Primarily they did this because they believed that religion would control government through the hearts of the citizen and they feared that giving government any say-so in religious matters would enable the government to escape from the check on its power they intended religion to be. This has been confused in modern American society to mean that the church has no place in the public debate or in government and that the two entities ought to be completely separated.

It has been the case in other revolutions that freedom from religion was seen as necessary for freedom to be freedom. In the long view of world history, these revolutions fail to achieve their goals and maintain any decent level of human freedom.

All other systems but the one that places God on the throne are byproducts of the first lie: Genesis 3:5 You will be like God knowing (deciding for yourselves) good and evil. When a nation follows the lie:

- It dethrones God and deifies man and his achievements.
- It exalts human reason as supreme.
- It trusts education and science to solve its problems.
- It believes mankind is evolving into perfection.
- It replaces God's moral standards with situational ethics.
- It believes government can establish a worldwide Utopia of prosperity and peace.
- It makes the state the sovereign dictator over everyone.
- It perverts justice engaging the government in murder and theft.
- It calls evil good and good evil.

The Progressive Transformation of America

Following the writing of Karl Marx' Communist Manifesto in 1848 socialist and humanist ideas spread quickly around the western world, including throughout the United States. The industrial revolution in the United States brought many benefits with it; however it also created a great deal of economic upheaval in that it changed traditional economic understandings about investment returns and profits. It also exponentially accelerated productivity and efficiency resulting in falling prices throughout the economy. In a good economy, falling prices are the norm, not the constantly rising ones associated with central banking we have grown accustomed to.

In spite of the fact that lifestyles and standards of living we undoubtedly improving, rapid industrialization brought with it a more efficient dollar, which in turn resulted in lower paychecks. The socialists, known in America as Progressives, were able to exploit this situation painting free-market capitalism and capitalist investors as bad and used this as a wedge to gain political power beginning in the late 19th century.

The Progressives have moved America off its originally intended course in a variety of ways. They have worked to replace the role of the Church in the American culture, taking a more European view of religion as freedom-hampering rather than a necessary component of freedom. While the government's rightful role is protecting individual liberty, the Progressive sees government more as the source of freedom and, therefore, empowered to deny freedom whenever it feels necessary. While America's Founding Fathers believed that the law, being from God, would always be universal; the Progressives introduced the concept of evolving law and used this concept to redefine the meaning and intent of previous laws and governmental acts including the U.S. Constitution itself.

In 1913, the Progressives ended private control of the U.S. money supply with the creation of a central bank called the Federal Reserve. From that time forward, the U.S. has essentially had a socialist (Keynesian) money supply system coupled with the expectation that the capitalist economy would continue to function. From that time forward, with few exceptions, the U.S. federal government has grown into the freedom killing beast our Founding Fathers wished to avoid. Given the power to print money out of thin air by the new central bank, the power of the federal government was essentially unlimited and ever since government power has continually centralized in Washington D.C.

Although people inherently hate paying taxes, they love getting presents – something for nothing. A central bank allows governments to give without first taking. Or, at least it seems that way on the surface. What is really happening is that the central bank is stealing the value of the money from all who use it. While in the first 100 years of U.S. history the value of the dollar gained more than 100%, since 1913 the dollar has lost 98% of its value. Because of the promise of economics without sacrifice, central banks are a very popular option for politicians and voters who do not understand how they work. The devaluation of currency caused by central banking sets a vicious cycle in motion whereby ever more government intervention in the economy or people's lives is necessary.

The resulting dependence upon the government makes government spending ever harder to control since it is no longer some vague government bureau that will bear the loss, but rather the lifeline to some individual which will need to be cut. Plus, people feel entitled to the things their politicians have promised them making it ever more difficult for politician to call on the population for restraint and disciplined economics. Precisely this has destroyed Greece and Rome before us.

Today, virtually every government in the world operates a central bank.

Crisis – The Playground of Tyrants

Nothing blurs the vision of a man quite like fear. Perhaps this is why our Bibles tell us not to fear 365 times! Christ died to set mankind free from the fear of sin and death. So, what does this say about the fear-mongering of politicians?

Politicians as far back as Pharaoh have realized that people in crises, real or perceived, are willing to surrender their God-given freedoms and treasure for the promise of government protection. They will turn a blind eye to government run amok, violating its very constitution on the good intentions of a leader. While there are plenty of true crises in the world, there are also plenty of politicians willing to spin up a crisis, playing on emotion, fear or even sense of duty, to win elections or seize more power. This is particularly dangerous when a government is connected to a central bank willing to supply the money for any government initiative.

The fact is freedom involves risk! Crafting a government powerful enough to protect everyone from everything will cost us everything and no one would be free. It is possible to be free and dependent at the same time. Risk, though, has its rewards.

“Crisis is the playground of tyrants” - John Adams

“They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety” - Benjamin Franklin

“A government large enough to give you everything you want would be large enough to take it all away” -Thomas Jefferson

Nation-guiding quotes of America’s Founding Fathers



Please continue to follow our website and learn more about the philosophies and ideas of America’s Founding Fathers. Their wisdom is important for all humankind, not just Americans. There are only two ways – freedom or servant- hood. Either people are independent and free – or they are dependent upon their government and, therefore, servants to that government.

The world has entered into a time when these ideas are by and far lost or untaught. Today, the world faces unprecedented economic upheaval and world-wide fear abounds. The purpose of this section is not to speak about how great and perfect the United States has been – it has made many mistakes along the way. Rather, the intent of this section is to encourage the reader to consider his/her beliefs about the world, government, economics and whether faith does play an active role in these areas. Today’s generation must be prepared like none before it, if freedom is to return to the human race as America’s founding generation left it.