

Part 5

We the People — **Will Decide Our Nation's Future**

*“It is Our National Decision –
Shall They Remain in Control
Or will,
We the People Take Control”*

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Deciding Not to Maintain the Dysfunctional Status Quo

We the People, under the sacred provisions of the *U.S. Constitution* are to be *In Control* of America. And as things stand today – We are not!

The *Constitution* is the Founders' gift to future generations and it is therefore our Duty and Responsibility to honor and maintain it as our nation's governing document. That is our solemn debt to all of those that preceded us in our national voyage – especially those that along the way paid the ultimate price to defend it. Therefore, We must determine to take action now. And to act decisively in order to wrestle the control of our National System and indeed our very government, from those Special Interest entities that are irresponsibly ignoring to the Common Good of the nation and our fellow American citizens.

As mentioned, those publicly irresponsible Special Interests include vital parts of the business community, as well as some of the politically influential whose narrow and self-serving agendas run contrary to the Common Good of the Masses. In all reality, this fight for ultimate control over the National System is happening right now in our America – a publicly damaging imbalance of power that already exists in too many countries around the world.

This particularly applies when the Few acting against the Common Good, threaten the day-to-day viability and peace of our domestic society and economic system, to say nothing of their putting our national security at risk.

To insure the protection of the average and all Americans is exactly what the Founders designed both the *U.S. Constitution* and the U.S. Congress to provide for and to oversee. And in the final analysis, the protection of the Masses from

the selfish desires of the Few remains in fact the common problem in too many countries around the world. That protection of the Masses is a core defining principle that makes our Constitution the great document that it is — why it is the envy of people around the world, and why it is so feared by the various forms of dictatorial style governments that cause most of the world’s problems today.

Practically speaking, the societal problems of the Many are not being resolved because our elected leadership cannot or will not (be allowed to) present, let alone implement socially acceptable and prudent solutions to the public’s problems. That is why that incomplete public Grievance List referenced several times herein exists and only continues to grow.

CS2 presents for public critique, viable solutions to several of our national issues and I sincerely hope has provided you with perspective on the complexity involved when developing such publicly acceptable proposals. With an understanding of the tediousness in developing the rationale and concepts required to explain the Change process at the national level.

At the start of my public problem solving journey some 25 years ago, I like most others had little insight into the difficulties in contending with the Special Interests and political zealots in that reconciliation process. However, the smoke screen was slowly pushed away, and I did figure it out! It is a truly complex problem solving challenge when you are talking about reconciling the varying concerns and opinions of some 200 million voters. As I pointed out before, while these are complex public issues and problems we are here confronting, do not allow yourself to continue to think for a single moment that they are impossible to solve. We can fix anything and everything. We only need to decide to do it.

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Rudely and un-fortunately for us, the current 535 members of the U.S. Congress have not and sadly do not collectively possess the political leadership and “guts” to implement such nationally necessary Changes over the interference and selfish cries of the Few — those that quietly benefit from the growing dysfunctional nature of the status quo within our National System.

This is more than partially due to the fact that our political leadership has grown so openly influenced and controlled by certain industries, various interest groups and individuals with narrow, self-serving interests. Those with agendas aimed only at benefiting the Few, without any practical concern for negative impacts placed upon the Many – that Common Good thing, again!

While some of the ideas and approaches originated by the Few *could be* well-intentioned in their narrow view of the world, in hard reality they do not

seek to address the concerns of the Masses. But, then that is not their job is it? And after all, why should the Special Interests care – even give a damn – about the Common Good when it interferes with whatever they want? You know – just ignore the little people, those millions of *peasants*...

After all, isn't that the way the world works most everywhere else? Yes it is! However, We cannot and will not allow it to be made that way under our American Democracy – and if not for our sake, then for our children and theirs.

What Directs Our Leadership

At the national level, it is technically our elected National representatives' job and responsibility to balance all of our needs and interests. It is not the care or responsibility of lobbyist's for Special Interests and the politically influential. In day-to-day reality — which is where the majority of us do find ourselves living, it is too easy to observe that those Special Interests are more and more getting the results “they want” simply because:

- They show up.
- They speak up.
- They get involved.
- They contribute money.
- They connect with the decision makers.
- And they will crush the opposition, as needed. Nothing personal, of course!

Any questions?

Therefore, since Congress is not being responsible to the Common Good, they get what they want far more often than the rest of us – you know the (Silent) Majority! Is that any big surprise? This irresponsible leadership has led, over the last few decades to a legislative process more focused to catering to the will of the Few in spite of the how it could negatively affect the Many. Again, that is why the Grievance List contains what it does, and it is far from complete!

The Special Interest lobbyist's driving motivation is to perpetuate the Status Quo for their portion of the National System, regardless of anything or anybody else. Or making their piece of the pie even sweeter! Forget about ethics, morals, and much abused concept of family values? Winning is all that counts – Period...

It has created a political environment in which elected officials, at all levels of government are not solving, let alone seriously addressing the really tough problems facing our society. To be fair local, county, and state governments are doing a better job than the U.S. Congress because they are closer to the day-to-day reality of life on Main Street in America – where the problems are

felt. It is too easy for the Congress to ignore problems at home when their world is primarily inside the DC beltway. And the Congress' growing habit of inaction or wrong action in national legislation too often perpetuates and/or causes more problems for lower level governments, e.g., health care, the IO invasion, the No Child Left Behind program, and the failed (and domestically destructive) War on Drugs.

Their individual and collective dysfunctional performance, my fellow Americans, is not what our society requires of its elected leadership, and it is absolutely not what the Founders intended.

The Second Coming of Common Sense

I absolutely know that We, the until now Silent Majority do not desire nor do we intend to endure this sad state of national affairs any longer. The growing chaos must now be brought to proper order, and only We the People can actually force the required Changes to occur.

And the grim and undeniable, Plain Truth of that reality my fellow American men, women, and children — is the reason why I determined to write this book! And write it to you!

Because just as Thomas Paine attempted to do and did for his fellow colonists, one of us had to step forward and attempt to *rationaly* write such a book for the rest of us to review and openly debate.

To present to my fellow Americans, objective perspectives on the key issues of our day, background on the forces that are selfishly attacking the Common Good, and the sometimes hard solutions to long-standing public problems that you have thus far read in CS2.

This is my sincere and patriotic effort to say what needs to be said – and to put it in writing for all to read and consider. To encourage the Masses as Paine did, that there is a way out of this growing national chaos. To challenge us all to action and action now starting in 2008 – not to wait some more years when things get even worse and are far more difficult to reconcile and repair.

This political writing is only what one of us had to do. And I what have attempted to humbly and boldly present. The plans for constructive Changes to the National System laid out in CS2 are not perfect, but it is very fair to say that they are the best plans we actually have or are likely to have any time soon — if ever!

Therefore, it is now upon us to join together and become active in what we could call, *Common Sense Politics* and boldly begin our Revolution. And as has been the case throughout history, you start into battle with a good initial plan and as things unfold and progress, you modify that plan as required to insure final success. That is what the Founders and the colonists did, and now it is We that must be about our nation's business.

Again, We the People must join together and take it upon ourselves to determine and direct how our society and our economy – the American National System – will be properly restructured over the next seven (7) years. And it will all be done in order to insure our Common Good today – and that of the Generational Groups 5, 6, 7, and beyond.

Generational Group and Birth Year Range	Age in the Year 2008	Number of Years	Number of Males	Number of Females	Total Population
<u>Group GG7</u>					
1995 to 2008	0 to 13	14	27,433,805	26,152,136	53,585,941
<u>Group GG6</u>					
1979 to 1994	14 to 29	16	33,440,299	31,782,595	65,222,894
<u>Group GG5</u>					
1963 to 1978	30 to 45	16	32,534,722	31,974,819	64,509,541
<u>Group GG4</u>					
1947 to 1962	46 to 61	16	32,809,341	33,655,232	66,464,573
<u>Group GG3</u>					
1931 to 1946	62 to 77	16	17,418,133	19,207,656	36,625,789
<u>Group GG2</u>					
1915 to 1930	78 to 93	16	9,027,139	12,921,676	21,948,815
<u>Group GG1</u>					
188x to 1914	94 & over*	25+	982,124	2,527,269	3,509,393
Totals				153,645,563	158,221,383
311,866,946					

Our Second American Revolution need not take seven years to accomplish.
And it will not if WE act decisively, and do it NOW.

The Future of “Our” National System

You have been reading a 2007 critique of and literary assault upon the way some things are currently being done and run in our country.

To be crystal clear, the message of *The Second Coming of Common Sense* is written and presented with the same confrontational intent as Thomas Paine’s writing in *Common Sense*. Only time and your response will tell if this equally sincere call to my fellow citizens rings as true today.

As noted earlier, our “national condition” could simply be framed as follows:

- Negative social and economic conditions in the National System have slowly grown to feel customary just because they have been allowed to exist for so long.
- Certain conditions appear normal or acceptable, even though they are a burden to society and/or are a functionally counter-productive, if not destructive part of the National System.
- There are day-to-day parts of the National System that the Masses are forced to tolerate — that the existence of which would be difficult to justify if they had to be explained to an outsider.

Not a very comfortable “national condition” is it?

As stated, the ‘direction’ of our National System increasingly over the last couple of decades has been determined by a minority of socially irresponsible, self-interested people, organizations, and corporations, as well as questionable business practices that are slowly destroying the fabric of our society and the future of America — one person, one family, one community, and one business at a time.

That pretty well sums it all up.

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The Public Grievance List

The following is the public Grievance List initially presented in Part 1, identifying some of the public's areas of concern that the U.S. Congress and White House are not addressing:

- Automobile/Truck Theft
- Commodity Market Abuses
- Contaminated Food Supply
- Crimes of Physical Assault
- Crimes of Financial Assault
- Drug War in our Streets
- Employment/Income (viable and legal)
- Ending the Iraq War
- Gangs in Our Communities
- Global Warming
- Homelessness
- Housing Costs
- Hunger
- Illegal Immigration – ending it
- Interest Rates on Primary Family Residence
- Katrina Clean-up
- Judicial Legal Complex (JLC)
- Medical Insurance for all American citizens – cradle to grave
- Military Industrial Complex (MIC)
- Oil Industry Windfall Profits and Other Abuses
- Over-weight children, teenagers, and adults
- Poverty Among Our Citizens
- Public Education
- Pre-meditated Murder
- Pre-meditated Pedophile Crimes Against our Youth
- Pre-meditated Rape
- Prescription Medicine Costs
- Stem Cell Research
- Social Security Solvency
- War on Terror

Certainly not all, but many of our primary concerns will be positively addressed with the timely and appropriate implementation of the proposals presented in Part 3 — An American Agenda.

The Water is Getting Too Warm

There is a simple analogy I heard some years ago that applies to our situation – have you heard the one about the frog and the pot of water? Incidentally, my son and I absolutely enjoyed actually seeing it actually presented in animated form in Al Gore’s worldwide, environmental wake-up call movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*? It is cute, but all too serious in both scenarios.

If someone were to throw a poor frog into a pot of boiling water it will jump out immediately if it can, to save itself.

However, if the frog is placed into a pot of ‘cool’ water and the water is then slowly heated to boiling, the frog will not jump out, and it will cook! Please do not try that at home.

Now, my fellow Americans take one more, hard look at that list and consider how each item individually and collectively contribute to treating our society like a very large pot of water and you know who the 300 million frogs are. And not all of our national issues are even on that list.

That is where we realistically find life in America today. But things do not need to be that way anymore. The various preventable and correctable conditions listed above can no longer be ignored – for they are slowly eroding American society and the very economy required to support it. Viable changes must be made for the Common Good of the Masses, and in particular for the welfare of the younger generations of Americans that are observing this decline as their lives are just beginning.

It Will be Our Second Coming

Be encouraged! These are all correctable issues that are currently impacting the daily life of our families and that threaten their future peace and opportunity. In the final analysis, the current status quo of the National System will not be allowed to continue unchallenged, for it is threatening the very “Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness” deemed to be the Inalienable Rights of all American citizens.

The Power of the People, that Thomas Jefferson so boldly wrote about in the opening of the *Declaration of Independence*, will be brought to bear in the defense of our Common Good,

“That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men,
deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed,
that when ever any Form of Government
becomes destructive to these Ends,
it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it,
and to institute new Government,
laying its Foundation on such Principles,
and organizing its Powers in such Form,
**as to them shall seem most likely
to affect their Safety and Happiness”**

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The Origin and Design of Our Representative Government

If you review Thomas Paine's original vision on the design of representative government "**described**" in *Common Sense*, those elected to Congress are chartered,

“to solve the problems that arise in society
that are too large in scope for the “local” citizenry
to work out or resolve amongst themselves.”

That is the official job description of the U.S. Congress in 25-words, plain and simple.

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Thomas Jefferson was of course the central author of the Declaration of Independence. After serious debate and several revisions, that document which gave birth to our nation was finalized and signed by the Founders in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. Paine and Jefferson knew each other. They were revolutionary colleagues. If you take the time to review both documents you will find they share many themes and a common vision.

In *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine presented the American colonists with his vision of how an entirely new society could start and grow into a self-governing entity. He presented a *vision* to the colonists ***of the origin and design of government***. It helped to clarify and lay the very foundation for our representative form of government.

This is very interesting reading. It provides a perspective on the times in which they lived and the actual rationale and concepts from which our American Democracy was born.

From the exact, original text of *Common Sense*:

In order to gain a clear and just idea of the design and end of government, let us suppose a small number of persons settled on some sequestered part of earth, unconnected with the rest, they will then represent the first peopling of any country, or of the world. In this state of natural liberty, society will be their first thought. A thousand motives will excite then thereto the strength of one man is so unequal to his wants, and his mind unfitted for perpetual solitude, that he is soon obligated to seek assistance and relief of another who in his turn requires the same. Four of five united would be able to raise a tolerable dwelling in the midst of a wilderness, but one man might labour out the common period of life without accomplishing anything; when he had felled his

timber he could not remove it, nor erect it after it was removed; hunger in the mean time would urge him from his work, and every different want call him a deferent way. Disease, nay even misfortune would be death, for though neither might be mortal, yet either would disable him from living, and reduce him to a state in which he might rather be said to perish than to die.

Thus necessity, like a gravitating power, would soon form our newly arrived emigrants into society, the reciprocal blessing of which would supercede, and render the obligations of law and government unnecessary while they remained perfectly just to each other; but as nothing but heaven is impregnable to vice, it will unavoidable happen, that in proportion as they surmount the first difficulties of emigration, which bound them together in a common cause, they will begin to relax in their duty and attachment to each other; and this remissness, will point out the necessity, of establishing some form of government to supply the defect of mortal virtue.

Some convenient tree will afford them a State-House, under the branches of which, the whole colony may assemble to deliberate on public matters. It is more than probable that their first laws will have the title only of Regulations, and be enforced by no other penalty than public disesteem. In this first parliament every man, by natural right will have a seat.

But as the colony increases, the public concerns will increase likewise, and the distance at which the members may be separated, will render it too inconvenient for all of them to meet on every occasion as at first, when their number was small their habitations near, and the public concerns few and trifling. This will point out the convenience of their consenting to leave the legislative part to be managed by a select number chosen from the whole body, who are supposed to have the same concerns at stake which those have who appointed them, and who will act in the same manner as the whole body would act were they present. If the colony continue increasing, it will become necessary to augment the number of the representatives, and that the interest of every of the colony may be attended to, it will be found best to divided the whole into convenient parts, each part sending its proper number; and that the *elected* might never form to themselves an interest separate from the *electors*, prudence will point out the propriety of having elections often; because as the *elected* might by that means return and mix again with the general body of the *electors* in as few months, their fidelity to the public will be secured by the prudent reflexion of not making a rod for themselves. And as this frequent interchange will establish a common interest with every part of the community, they will mutually and

naturally support each other, and on this (not on the unmeaning name of king) depends the *strength of government, and the happiness of the governed.*

Here then is the origin and rise of government; namely, a mode rendered necessary by the inability of moral virtue to govern the world; here too is the design and end of government, viz. freedom and security. And however our eyes may be dazzled with snow, or our ears deceived by sound; however prejudice may warp our wills, or interest of reason will say, it is right.

I draw my idea of the form of government from a principle in nature, which no art can overturn, viz. that the more simple any thing is, the less liable is it to be disordered, and the easier repaired when disordered; and with the maxim in view, I offer a few remarks on the so much boasted constitution of England. That it was noble for the dark and slavish times in which it was erected is granted. When the world was over-run with tyranny the least remove therefrom was a glorious rescue. But that it is imperfect, subject to convulsions, and incapable of producing what it seems to promise, is easily demonstrated.

Absolute governments (tho' the disgrace of human nature) have this advantage with them, that they are simple; if the people suffer, they know the head from which their suffering springs, know likewise the remedy, and are not bewildered by a variety of causes and cures. But the constitution of England is so exceedingly complex, that the nation may suffer for years together without being able to discover in which part the fault lies, some will say in one and some in another, and every political physician will advise a different medicine.

– *Thomas Paine*

to continue

As you just read, Thomas Paine's vision of the primary function of Representative Government was that the peoples' *selected* representatives are responsible for solving the problems that become too large in scope for the local citizenry and their officials to resolve. I have repeated that baseline requirement many times herein. The representatives of government in a free society such as ours are chosen by the popular vote of the Masses to represent their interests.

The functions of government tend to expand as the population increases and societies' problems become more complex. The elected representatives are expected to identify, debate, and resolve issues and/or problems in order to protect the Common Good of the Masses. What a concept!

And when they don't — it is the People's Right and our solemn Responsibility to call them on it, and to then take prudent corrective actions to Insure, Protect, and Defend — the Common Good.

An American Agenda is a baseline framework with which to initiate those corrective actions. We will start with those requirements and build upon it to make our Vision for a better America a near-term reality.

We the People must do what needs to be done.

For if it is not us, then who?

If it is not to be done now, then when? If ever...