



Heritage Academy's

INDEPENDENCE

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Our Mission

Thomas Jefferson stated, “If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be.” It is the goal of Independence and Heritage Academy as a whole is to keep our nation from a state of ignorance. To accomplish this, Independence will promote learning through the essays of Heritage Academy scholars.

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A Note from the Editors:

You are reading something beautiful. Twenty years ago, Mr. Earl Taylor founded Heritage Academy to teach America's youth the principles upon which their country is founded. Now, Heritage has three campuses, and its message of founding principles has reached thousands of scholars. But we, those fortunates who are learning of the genius of the Founders, and of the exceptional nature of America, believe this message must reach farther. The ideas of self-government and independence should be sung from sea to shining sea. Only then can this, the last true bastion of freedom, be preserved.

So as you ponder these words, don't simply agree and move on, don't simply dismiss them as the ramblings of idiot teenagers. Learn, realize, apply, and live these principles, because you are reading something beautiful. Join Heritage Academy in saving America and building her heroes.

Thank you.

The Inestimability of Freedom and Responsibility

Kyle Cloud

Human nature... it is among the most intriguing enigmas of the universe, yet it is too often overlooked. While it is the source of our most exceptional intelligence, it is also the root of our most severe irrationalities. Throughout time, men have dreamt of engineering a utopia, a perfect society of plenty, but the realization of this has always been thwarted by the nature of the very peoples who seek it. Perfection and humanity are nearly as antonymous as day and night. The United States of America was born when the Founding Fathers, a congregation of the most brilliant political thinkers ever to live, recognized that a truly functional government must serve its people, working with and around human nature, not against it. The Founders secured to the American people a treasure which few had ever before possessed, freedom. The individuals of the United States were left to pursue their own happiness, to create their own success, to ease their own hardships, and to remedy their own problems. Such was, and such remains, the responsibility which the preservation of our sweet, priceless liberty demands. There is neither a cause more noble, nor a task more rewarding than the protection, through diligence and courage, of this essential right.

What noteworthy feats were achieved by the empowered people of the U.S. following the commencement of the American experiment? Encouraging imagination in innovative minds, the Constitution allowed Congress: "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries" (Palmer 60). Almost immediately, the effect of this provision, which served to guard intellectual property, could be observed. In 1794,

Eli Whitney patented his cotton gin, adding tremendous efficiency and profitability to the production of cotton. During the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, a whole host of ingenious inventions enhanced the American lifestyle, allowing the U.S. economy to flourish. While inventors played a key role in American progress, ambitious business entrepreneurs, motivated by the free market, offered goods and services on a large scale to benefit the nation while simultaneously making themselves incredibly wealthy. Having amassed a multi-million dollar fortune in the steel industry, Andrew Carnegie celebrated the stunning flow of free enterprise when he wrote:

The poor enjoy what the rich could not before afford. What were the luxuries have become the necessities of life. The laborer has now more comforts than the farmer had a few generations ago. The farmer has more luxuries than the landlord had, and is more richly clad and better housed. The landlord has books and pictures rarer, and appointments more artistic, than the King could then obtain. (Palmer 27)

Even as the Great Depression plunged the country into the gloom of devastating impoverishment, American strength was present in the form of occasional charity. In "Pluto", an account of one woman's moment of charitable action, Dorothy West described a meal that she fed to a starving boy and his mother in the midst of the Depression. She concluded "that a child's faith is too fine and precious for the dump heap of poverty" (Palmer 74). Inevitably, the people of our nation, in the presence of liberty, will add to the triumphs which elate them, and solve the problems which plague them, if they act in a responsible manner.

Unfortunately, American liberty has recently been deteriorated not only by the infringements of our government but also by the apathy and ignorance of our people. Although many view government regulation as the ideal solution to a sizable spectrum of societal dilemmas, what they fail to realize is that in demanding security, they are forfeiting their freedom. Demonstrating his unparalleled wisdom, Ben Franklin observed, “Those who would give up Essential Liberty to purchase a little Temporary Safety deserve neither Liberty nor Safety.” While the civil rights movement furthered the spread of basic freedoms as late as the mid-1900’s, liberty started its gradual decline in the United States even before the twentieth century, when Americans began to seek financial security from the government. With a terrifying distaste for the Constitution, Woodrow Wilson was among the first to introduce socialist principles, which contradict American principles, into the U.S. When, in 1887, he denounced any “limitation of public authority by individual rights” and supported “the absolute right of the community to determine its own destiny and that of its members” in an article entitled “Socialism and Democracy”, America should have heeded the warning, but Wilson was nevertheless elected President of the United States in 1912 and was reelected in 1916 (Palmer 35). The sixteenth amendment, which was passed during his first term, set the U.S. on a collectivist path, a stealthily slow

“Let it be known in every city of every county of every state in this remarkable country that liberty is not only the most pleasurable condition that life has to offer but is also always within reach”

road toward the elimination of individual responsibility and therefore the destruction of individual rights. A decade after Wilson stepped down from the presidency, Franklin D. Roosevelt entered the White House and, while ignoring the U.S. Constitution, endeavored to expand the power of the federal government to the point where it would become like a parent over the millions of U.S. citizens, treating them almost as small children. In his 1944 State of the Union Address, Roosevelt remarked, “We cannot be content...if some fraction of our people...is ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed, and insecure” (Palmer 93). Obviously, the only way the government can fund this food, clothing, and housing is with other people’s hard-earned money. While Roosevelt aimed to punish success and reward failure, the American people became reluctant to take responsibility for the pursuit their own prosperity, prolonging the Great Depression until WWII commenced. Perhaps the biggest threat to American liberty, which we still face today, is the rapidly growing national debt, for Principle of Liberty 27 states, “The burden of debt is as destructive to freedom as subjugation by conquest” (Skousen). As our debt rises at an increasingly rapid rate, it becomes apparent that we must reduce the size of the immeasurably enormous government. Furthermore, the only way to shrink the government is for the people to reassume the responsibility that the government has gradually taken from them.

Hopefully, what liberty has been lost will soon be restored.

Let it be known in every city of every county of every state in this remarkable country that liberty is not only the most pleasurable condition that life has to offer but is also always within reach. On the other hand, one must remain aware that liberty can just as easily vanish as it can be obtained. Its preservation requires of the people self-reliance as well as virtue. Everlasting truth there is to the expression, "Freedom is not free." America is a vast ocean of possibilities, countless of

which have yet to be explored. Those astounding visions which have already become reality serve as a reminder of the exceptional potential of a free people. Why then should we be content to bring a miserable end to the sumptuous taste of liberty which we have so thoroughly relished for nearly two and a half centuries? No answer to this question is reasonable or even acceptable, especially in the United States of America. There is a natural and consistent desire for freedom in the hearts of innumerable Americans, and completely free we shall forever strive to be and to remain.

Opportunity Mixed with Innovation

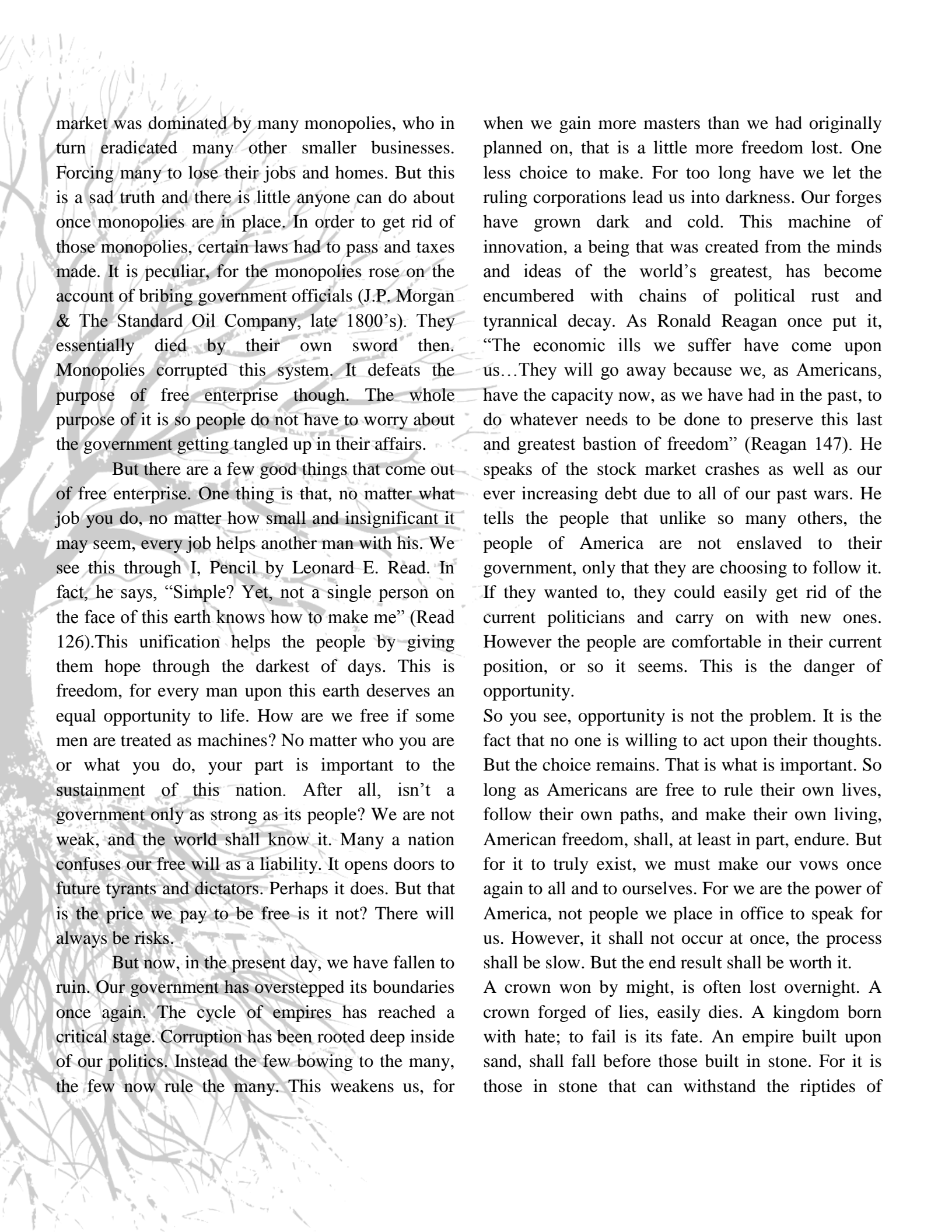
Jake West

America, home of the free, land of the brave. The poor, persecuted and perseverant enter the land for one reason alone. That is to do what they could not do in any other country in this world. The opportunity to live as they please. Here, within the confines of this great nation, a man could live as a teacher, a carpenter, a mason, a smith, even an accountant. But the big difference between the jobs here vs those in Europe are that your job is not determined by where you are born or what your family does. Sure, you could keep up the family business, but the road to other jobs is always open. You could do this in another nation sure, however, it would be extremely difficult and many do not have the time to waste doing so.

Humans are very fickle creatures. We hate to have walls around us. We despise having doors closed to us and roads blocked off. America is all about choices in fact. Since man is created equal, then it makes sense that America would focus on equality. From the poorest farmer to the richest merchant, they all have the chance to better themselves through their own work, not just by the

allowance of an overlord. The entire world can see this revelation. When Lafayette came to America, he said, "All the citizens are brethren. In America, there are no poor, nor even what we call peasantry" (Lafayette 43). This is where innovation steps in. America may not have been the first to come up with these ideas, other empires before them had a few of these. Such as Rome with democratic policies, allowing any citizen to voice his opinion. But this nation was the first to implement them in this fashion, for no other nation upon this earth has this amount of freedom; the freedom of free wills free enterprise.

Free enterprise is important in America, for it, in itself, is full of opportunity. The ability for a business to provide a service, any service it wishes, and tries to outdo the others. However, there are many who argue that this system is flawed in the way that a company can dominate a market to such an extent that is completely gets rid of the other competition, thus resulting in a tyrannical monopoly. Unfortunately, this is true. Such situations can and have occurred. Looking back at the early 1900's the



market was dominated by many monopolies, who in turn eradicated many other smaller businesses. Forcing many to lose their jobs and homes. But this is a sad truth and there is little anyone can do about once monopolies are in place. In order to get rid of those monopolies, certain laws had to pass and taxes made. It is peculiar, for the monopolies rose on the account of bribing government officials (J.P. Morgan & The Standard Oil Company, late 1800's). They essentially died by their own sword then. Monopolies corrupted this system. It defeats the purpose of free enterprise though. The whole purpose of it is so people do not have to worry about the government getting tangled up in their affairs.

But there are a few good things that come out of free enterprise. One thing is that, no matter what job you do, no matter how small and insignificant it may seem, every job helps another man with his. We see this through I, Pencil by Leonard E. Read. In fact, he says, "Simple? Yet, not a single person on the face of this earth knows how to make me" (Read 126). This unification helps the people by giving them hope through the darkest of days. This is freedom, for every man upon this earth deserves an equal opportunity to life. How are we free if some men are treated as machines? No matter who you are or what you do, your part is important to the sustainment of this nation. After all, isn't a government only as strong as its people? We are not weak, and the world shall know it. Many a nation confuses our free will as a liability. It opens doors to future tyrants and dictators. Perhaps it does. But that is the price we pay to be free is it not? There will always be risks.

But now, in the present day, we have fallen to ruin. Our government has overstepped its boundaries once again. The cycle of empires has reached a critical stage. Corruption has been rooted deep inside of our politics. Instead the few bowing to the many, the few now rule the many. This weakens us, for

when we gain more masters than we had originally planned on, that is a little more freedom lost. One less choice to make. For too long have we let the ruling corporations lead us into darkness. Our forges have grown dark and cold. This machine of innovation, a being that was created from the minds and ideas of the world's greatest, has become encumbered with chains of political rust and tyrannical decay. As Ronald Reagan once put it, "The economic ills we suffer have come upon us...They will go away because we, as Americans, have the capacity now, as we have had in the past, to do whatever needs to be done to preserve this last and greatest bastion of freedom" (Reagan 147). He speaks of the stock market crashes as well as our ever increasing debt due to all of our past wars. He tells the people that unlike so many others, the people of America are not enslaved to their government, only that they are choosing to follow it. If they wanted to, they could easily get rid of the current politicians and carry on with new ones. However the people are comfortable in their current position, or so it seems. This is the danger of opportunity.

So you see, opportunity is not the problem. It is the fact that no one is willing to act upon their thoughts. But the choice remains. That is what is important. So long as Americans are free to rule their own lives, follow their own paths, and make their own living, American freedom, shall, at least in part, endure. But for it to truly exist, we must make our vows once again to all and to ourselves. For we are the power of America, not people we place in office to speak for us. However, it shall not occur at once, the process shall be slow. But the end result shall be worth it.

A crown won by might, is often lost overnight. A crown forged of lies, easily dies. A kingdom born with hate; to fail is its fate. An empire built upon sand, shall fall before those built in stone. For it is those in stone that can withstand the riptides of

revolution. The people are the sand, for they are washed away by the waves of time, but America and its ideals are the stone. So long as this earth exists, it

shall never be gone. For stone may be shattered or broken, but it shall never bend.

True Meaning of American Freedom

Collin DeWitt

America is sometimes known as a land of plenty, freedom, opportunity, justice, and prosperity. Since the birth of the United States of America, millions have flocked to her shores in pursuit of life and liberty, taking an enormous risk in doing so. Countless stories are told of families who sold all they owned and set sail for America, individuals who submitted to indentured servitude, people who lived aboard ships for months, all who made immense sacrifices to embark on an excursion into the unknown. 2013 statistics from the Department of Homeland Security report that a staggering 779,929 people endured the exhausting process and agonizing wait of becoming naturalized American citizens. (United States, Department of Homeland) Men and women from Mexico, India, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, and China are the top five countries with citizens immigrating to America. These people from the far reaches of the earth have all set out to achieve what can be called “the American Dream.”

The American Dream is something that has been sought after for centuries by every civilization known to man. This dream is the pinnacle of what every society wishes to become, and the epitome of perfect government balanced in every way. To

summarize the American Dream, Reverend Jesse Jackson said it is, “a one big tent America with five basic tenets under the tent: equal protection under the law, equal opportunity, equal access, and fair share” (Jackson). These four points are the same ideas that 41 million immigrants followed to America. Immigrants come to the shores of the American continent to enjoy the privileges of living in what Abraham Lincoln called a nation conceived in liberty. The American Dream is made possible by American freedom under the constitution. Benjamin Franklin said to the Constitutional Convention regarding the whole of the Constitution, “Thus I consent, Sir, to this constitution because I expect no better, and because I am not sure, that it is not the best” (Franklin 72). The United States Constitution is regarded by many great minds to be the best organization of government ever created. It is the organization of government that allows true American freedom, and the American Dream, to exist.

The entire concept of American freedom rests on freedom through law, and in the words of Frederic Bastiat, “Law is organized justice” (Bastiat 141). All the ideas of equal protection, opportunity, access, and fair share are able to become a reality

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under the rule of law. Law when established correctly can allow freedom to flourish and prosper in a nation. The philosopher John Locke said, “the end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom: for in all the states of created beings capable of laws, where there is no law, there is no freedom” (Locke). In a state of anarchy, the absence of law or government, freedom is obsolete because in the words of Nelson Mandela, “For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others” (Mandela), a practice that is impossible when there is a lack of respect for others that is ensured by law.

Bastiat continues to say that, “For truly, how can we imagine force being used against the liberty of citizens without it also being used against justice, and thus acting against its proper purpose” (Bastiat 141)? Law cannot change as man can. Law is

definite unlike the opinion of man that can change at any point in time. In the time of Ancient Rome, laws were written on stone tablets for all to see, and they were impossible to change. Laws of the United States, while not literally written in stone, are almost as permanent but they can be changed by a just and thorough process. Whims of men therefore cannot dictate the laws of the country. American freedom is fully dependent on law, and because law should not change, neither should freedom.

However, freedom only allows for the American Dream. Freedom can only enable us to work and to become better. Americans must use their freedom to achieve that which they seek. It will not simply be given without work. If we do not exercise our freedom to achieve, then we cannot expect to gain anything. American freedom is the opportunity to make our own choices, to learn from them, and to make better choices in the future.

Reclaiming our Government: A Challenge for our Generation

Ric Freeman

Three weeks ago at Saguario Lake, three young girls tipped off their raft into the water. None of them wore a life jacket. One of them was drowned. A few days after the story appeared in the Arizona Republic, a well-meaning reader wrote a letter to the editor proclaiming that the government should make a law requiring children to wear life jackets (Vinyard). The author seemed to believe that government intervention could provide the only effective solution.

This is just one of many examples in which people run to our government and cry for a solution to our problems. Seat belt laws, regulations by nanny politicians, stupid liability laws, welfare and

entitlement programs, increasing intrusion by national security organizations and law enforcement, restrictions on businesses' market activities...the list of government “fixes” goes on and on. “There oughta be a law!” we yell, and the government is happy to oblige. But every time we run to government for more laws, we are giving it permission to intrude more and more in our lives, taking away our liberties. We are selling the birthright our Founding Fathers gave us.

Our Founding Fathers taught us that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of

happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed” (Declaration 30). “We the People...do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America” (Constitution 64). The most important messages of liberty we can carry forward are that We the People set up government to safeguard our God-given rights, and we must be very careful to keep the government's power within those bounds.

But government does not want to stay within those bounds. It craves more and more power, and does what it can to get that power. Ronald Reagan's 1964 speech “A Time for Choosing” raised the issue very well. He said:

...The full power of centralized government was the very thing the Founding Fathers sought to minimize. They knew you don't control things; you can't control the economy without controlling people. So we have come to a time for choosing. Either we accept the responsibility for our own destiny, or we abandon the American Revolution and confess that an intellectual belief in a far-distant capitol can plan our lives for us better than we can plan them ourselves. (144)

Our time is turning into a dark period in United States history. Whether or not we recognize it, we are slipping into socialism. Our government takes fruits of labor from the people who are willing and able to produce and gives to those who cannot or will not do so. Our government is trying to monitor and control us to an extent that makes Big Brother's ever-present telescreens from George Orwell's 1984 seem tame. The police forces are becoming more militarized, and the military more and more present...and threatening. All this is done in the name of defending freedom, but it violates our rights

to liberty. In fact, since September 11, 2001, our government has done more to destroy our liberty than any foreign terrorists ever could have done.

With all the liberties we have lost already, it could be really easy just to give up and say, “There's nothing I can do.” But we must not give up.

In his 1981 inaugural speech Ronald Reagan told how Dr. Joseph Warren, president of the Massachusetts Congress, called on his fellow Americans to be strong in spite of the dangers they faced. “Our country is in danger,” Dr. Warren said, “but not to be despaired of.... On you depend the fortunes of America. You are to decide the important questions upon which rests the happiness and the liberty of millions yet unborn. Act worthy of yourselves” (149).

As a people we have lost ground, but we do not have to lose hope. In recent history, we have seen several examples of people in other countries rising up to reclaim liberties they had once lost. East Germany and the former Soviet Union both saw relatively bloodless revolutions in which people swept away governments that had oppressed them. The transitions were not easy; they were messy and painful, and in some ways still unfinished. But the moment came and the people took action.

One day we too, We the People of the United States, will wake up and realize that we are stronger than we thought we were.

Another work by George Orwell, a short story entitled “Shooting an Elephant,” shows a poignant example of the power “the masses” can exert to limit the actions even of an oppressive government. As an officer of the British army in Burma, Orwell on one occasion had to bring a mad elephant under control. As a precaution he ordered that an elephant gun be brought to him. As soon as the Burmese peasants saw the gun, they began to follow him in droves to watch him shoot the elephant. By the time he found the elephant, a very

large crowd had gathered to see the fun. Orwell could see that the elephant was no longer mad, but he realized he would have to shoot the elephant anyway. He said, “The people expected it of me and I had got to do it; I could feel their two thousand wills pressing me forward, irresistibly” (152). He marveled at the power the unarmed, skinny peasants could exert on him, an armed representative of the world's most powerful empire, to force him to do their will instead of his own.

Only a few years later, Mahatma Gandhi would awaken masses of very similar people and teach them how to use that power. They would quietly but firmly oppose the British Empire until it simply gave up and left. The masses awoke when a leader arose.

Each of us can become that kind of leader. People who are used to following will follow the leader they see in front of them. How do we prepare to take that leadership role when the time comes?

First, we must study and learn the concepts that built our nation, including free markets and adherence to higher law. We must live what we learn and do what is right in our own lives. We could easily get away with many kinds of compromises, but we need to have the integrity to live in accordance with moral law ourselves, no matter what the letter of the law says. We must do what we can for others, looking for ways we can act without crying to the government for help. And we must teach other people what we are doing and why we do it. As we lead by precept and example, other leaders will arise also, and more and more people will be preparing for the coming challenge.

Recognizing that a correction is coming is not the same as advocating rebellion. I think Reagan said it best in his inaugural address:

So, as we begin, let us take inventory.

We are a nation that has a government—not the other way around. And this makes us special among the nations of the Earth. Our Government has no power except that granted it by the people. It is time to check and reverse the growth of government which shows signs of having grown beyond the consent of the governed. (148-9)

By bringing our government back into its rightful bounds, we are simply being true to the legacy given to us by our Founding Fathers. There is no higher form of patriotism.

Our time to “act worthy of ourselves” is coming. In the Gettysburg Address, Abraham Lincoln laid out the perfect challenge, not just for those of his time day, but especially for us and our day:

It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth. (161-162)

Hero or Heretic?

Madeleine Touchette

Many of today's most revered figures were believed to be heretics, or insane dreamers, during their own lives. Were they merely, men born before their time? Great scientists and philosophers have lived in every age, however they are not always considered great till years after their deaths. Galileo Galilei is one such man. Popular in his youth as a scientist and lecturer, he went on to suffer the persecution of the inquisition and a fall from the graces of all but his few friends. Nevertheless, society of today, praises Galileo as one of the most influential men of all time.

Even as a junior professor at the University of Pisa Galileo's genius was apparent. He gained fame among others at the University when he discovered the Law of the Pendulum, while sitting in the back of church. Within a few years he gained a reputation across the European continent for being an outstanding lecturer and scientist (Linder). However his brilliance came at a price:

Galileo developed an arrogance about his work, and his strident criticisms of Aristotle left him isolated among his colleagues. In 1592, his contract with the University of Pisa was not renewed. [However,] Galileo quickly found a new position at the University of Padua, teaching geometry, mechanics and astronomy. (Galileo Biography)

Galileo loved to learn, and explore new ideas, but this would be his downfall. When he took an interest in Copernican theory while at Padua, he came under the scrutiny of the Catholic church who had proclaimed Copernicus' heliocentric theory to be against the teachings of the Holy Bible. Hearing of a telescope built by the Dutch, Galileo decided to

build his own and turn it to the sky: "in 1609 [it] enabled him to confirm his beliefs in the Copernican system and emboldened him to make public arguments in its favor" (Linder). This discovery however, did not do him any good. In 1604, he was first formally investigated by the inquisition and found innocent of the charge of heresy. Nevertheless he was warned not to show support of Copernican ideas in any way. In the next few years, "Galileo prepared a subtle argument, in the form of a conversation between three friends discussing the structure of the universe. The resulting bestseller, the Dialogue of the Two World Systems" (Galileo Galilei). Sixteen years later, he was again called upon to stand trial by the inquisition. This round, the inquisition found Galileo guilty; "unlike many less famous prisoners, he was allowed to live under house arrest" (Bellis). This life long sentence served to extinguish the admiration of all but a few close friends.

Today Galileo is revered by many. As of 2013, public opinion ranks him forty-ninth, most significant historical figure, with individuals such as Jesus (#1), Charles Darwin (#12), Albert Einstein (#19), and Gandhi (#46) who were before him (Skiena). Even the church slowly embraced Galileo's teaching, "lifted the ban on most works supporting Copernican theory, and by 1835 dropped its opposition to heliocentrism altogether... in 1992, Pope John Paul II expressed regret about how the Galileo affair was handled"(Galileo Biography). Galileo has even been given the moniker The Father of Modern Science (Galileo Biography). He is appreciated now possibly even more than he was despised before.

It is a common irony that people are not truly admired until after their death. Such was the case of Galileo Galilei. Admired briefly for his intellect, but punished for perusing truth, Galileo was spurned by his generation. However science broke through the dogmatic belief of the Catholic Church. While people can't go back to promote Galileo teaching Copernicus' theory, they can admire his legacy and the many discoveries he made. Children learn the story in school, of how his

views were smothered. Yet how many others do they not learn about? How many, like Copernicus himself, were afraid to publish? How many advancements and ideas have been lost, taken to the grave, for fear of the institution? Galileo stood up for the ideas that he believed in. Though those ideas were not accepted in his time, they have gone on to benefit society today, and a man who was once called a heretic, is now fondly remembered as one of the world's greatest thinkers.

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Independence would like to apologize for any miscited references or works.



Let the bells of Liberty and Independence be
heard ringing throughout the Land