

Prologue

Where we are versus where we were supposed to be.

To begin this discussion, we have to first examine how this nation was founded and what our Founding Fathers were attempting to create. We need to review, and renew our appreciation for, what those 55 angry, middle-aged, 1%er, elite, white men (sic) did in the summer of 1776. These were definitely men who decided to *demand different*. We need to see what made the Revolt of the American Colonies a *Revolution*.

To begin to address this issue, we need to understand the world in which they lived. In 1776, the following was true:

1. There was not, nor had there ever been, a nation that outlawed slavery. From the beginning of civilization, slavery existed. That had not changed prior to July of 1776. No nation had been established for exclusively free men. The belief that freedom for men was even possible was different.
2. In every nation that had existed prior to July 1776, the rights of citizens were determined and provided to them by the sovereign of that society. The Declaration of Independence created for the first time a nation in which the government existed, not to create rights for its citizens, but to merely protect the rights already given to them by God. This concept of government, not a military victory, WAS the American Revolution, and began the American Experiment. To put this experiment into the current political vernacular, our Revolution was the result of a 'populist' movement.

The American Experiment, as our Founders call it, had no guarantee of success or longevity. The notion that free people can be responsible and live civilly with one another rocked the entire political establishment of the world. Were it not for the petty disputes among the crowns of Europe, it would never have succeeded, either. Ironically, the support of the French Crown was essential to our success against Britain. Our success led to the French Revolution just a few years later. At that point, the rest of the world (especially the European Crowns) was so scared by this

movement towards freedom and independence that they did all that they could to reinstate the Royal family in France. All they were able to do was to prevent Napoleon from eliminating all royal houses from Europe, but the seeds to destroy the American Experiment were planted and have been growing since. Wars have been fought and economic crises have been created to prevent and limit the spread of populism. We are now seeing the fruits of those seeds unlike any we have seen in over 100 years.

Thomas Jefferson famously declared that “the tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants.” This was not a constant call to arms akin to the violence of the French revolutionaries. Rather, he rightfully understood that the nature of government was at odds with the nature of man. Where man’s nature was towards freedom and independence, the nature of government was towards control and dependence. Freedom can only be maintained if it is defended. For decades, we have allowed for an erosion of freedom for the security of state controls. My generation has egregiously allowed this to happen. We stand to be the first generation in American history to leave our leadership of this nation to our children in worse condition than when passed down to us.

The purpose of this movement is to begin to correct that mistake. To begin that correction, we must *demand different*.

Today, we are governed by a bureaucracy that is FAR more concerned with its self-preservation and placating its benefactors than it is a protecting the God given rights of each and every American. The idea that the rights of ONE supplants the will of the majority has been so wholly disregarded that to even mention it causes those in power to roll their eyes and vilify anyone that makes the suggestion.

When I am faced with a question that needs an answer, I often seek the guidance of those far more equipped than me. One of those sources I often seek is Thomas Jefferson. His wisdom and world view offers a clarity of what this nation is supposed to be. I encourage every American to research the topic “Top 10 Quotes by Thomas Jefferson” and see just how far adrift we have become.

This provides the backdrop for our current condition, but not all is lost. I firmly believe that WE, the People can change the course of this great nation, but to do so, we must ***demand different.***

Now that we have a foundation of where we are, let's look at how we can proceed.