

## WHAT FOLLOWS

What follows was mostly written the *wake* of presidential debate of Tuesday, September 29, 2020. It includes an item designed for the end of the scroll of the face page of the Declaration Era Educational Press (DEEP) website. That item is integrated into what is now created as an appendix to the first of the three overview booklets, *IT IS TIME TO DECIDE! Do You Want to Live in A Free Society?*

### TIME TO DECIDE APPENDIX

#### **AN UPDATE ON OUR CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION**

Current events are dangerous to our future, unless we understand them well enough to unify in a redesign for our common purpose.
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#### **The Week After the Debate**

The disgraceful performance of President Donald Trump on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 may well have set a low point for global and domestic respect for American Democracy. The front page of the *Wall Street Journal* on Thursday, October 1, featured an article titled “Debate Chaos Sparked Rule Review.” Among the comments in the article were references to “... his deflections when asked to condemn white supremacy groups.”

The *New York Times*, on the same Thursday, had three front page articles relating to President Trump’s performance. The titles are as follows: “G.O.P. Distressed by Failure to Disavow a Racist Group;” “Baseless Attacks Threaten Process in Place Since 1788”; and “President’s Call to Monitor Polls Raises Voter Intimidation.”

The threat to the electoral process, as presented by David E Sanger, in his news analysis of the “Baseless Attacks Threaten Process in Place Since 1788” opens with the paragraph as follows:

“President Trump’s angry insistence in the last minutes of Tuesday’s debate that there was no way the presidential election could be conducted without fraud amounted to an extraordinary declaration by a sitting American president that he would try to throw any outcome into the courts, Congress or the streets if he was not reelected.”

The Friday, October 2 op-ed column by David Brooks titled “At His Core, Trump Is an Immoralist” contains the following paragraph:

“During Tuesday night’s debate, by contrast, people got to see, in real time, how Trump’s vicious behavior destroyed an American institution, the presidential debate. They got to see how savagery made ordinary human conversation impossible. Debate watchers were confronted with a courtroom: what Trump did to that debate Tuesday night is what he’ll do to America in a second term.”

Earlier in the same column, David Brooks writes “He is first and foremost an immoralist whose very being was defined by dishonesty, cruelty, betrayal and cheating long before he put on political garb.”

Returning to the *Wall Street Journal* on Thursday, October 1, 2020 issue, on page 4 there is an article by Gerald F. Seib titled “Trump Gambles Big, but Payoff Is Uncertain.” The discussion focuses on “...the fundamental gamble of the entire Trump campaign.” Essentially, the Trump strategy is to attack his opponent in the search for relatively few wavering voters.

In the opinion of the LLC offering its strategic analyses, the LLC's conclusion is that Donald Trump's zero-sum negotiating approach has made a lot of bets that delivered a lot of failures. Donald Trump's debt, reportedly \$421 million, is "largely coming due in the next four years," according to a web search on Donald Trump's debt. He has made, and lost on, many gambles in business. The gamble that he made in politics as discussed in the Seib article is obviously failing.

President Trump has been making gambles to gain reelection putting at risk the future of American Democracy. His style of intimidation by aggressive actions was enough to prevent testimony of an eye witness in the matter of his impeachment with regard to the alleged *quid pro quo* was the leader of Ukraine. That result emboldened him, even though he had not been bashful, to even higher risks. It appears that according to a paid political advertisement by Former Republican National Security Officials for Biden [Former Republican National Security Officials for Biden ...](#) that appeared in the Charlotte Observer, on Thursday, October 1, 2020, as a paid advertisement, there were over 100 former national security officials that took the position, as excerpted from the advertisement with the narrative that concluded as follows:

"To that end, we are firmly convinced that it is the best interest of our nation that Vice President Joe Biden be elected as the next President of the United States, we will vote for him."

It lists over 100 names of former Republican national security officials for Biden expressing "concern about our nation's security and standing in the world under the leadership of Donald Trump. The President has demonstrated that he is dangerously unfit to serve another term." Their views are summarized in a single paragraph for each of the 10 items listed in the box that follows.)

The list of 10 items is as follows:

Donald Trump has gravely damaged America's role as a world leader.

Donald Trump has shown that he is unfit to lead during a national crisis.

Donald Trump has solicited foreign influence and undermined confidence in our presidential elections.

Donald Trump has aligned himself with dictators and failed to stand up for American values.

Donald Trump has disparaged our armed forces, intelligence agencies, and diplomats.

Donald Trump has undermined the rule of law.

Donald Trump has dishonored the office of the presidency.

Donald Trump has divided our nation and preached a dark and pessimistic view of America.

Donald Trump has attacked and vilified immigrants to our country.

Donald Trump has imperiled America's security by mismanaging his national security team.

The readers are urged to download the advertisement and seriously consider a path to the creation of a Grand New Republican Party (GNRP or GNP).

### **Our Common Purpose of Restructuring American Democracy**

Our American Democracy is suffering from decay. It has evolved to become a plutocracy as much as it is a democracy; and is on its way to become an autocracy. The integrity of American Democracy has been undermined by the pursuit of political power that is at the expense of democratic norms.

The major treatise of the timely trilogy is the call for a *Declaration of Reform*. By coincidence, a great deal that was hoped to be accomplished is being achieved by the report of the Bipartisan Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

That report (“*Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*”), sets forth a series of challenges faced in our pursuit of *Reinventing American Democracy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. It does so in about eight pages of the booklet that is only eighty pages long. This website has a [book review of the booklet](#) that relates it to our common purpose of restructuring American Democracy, although the missions are different.

The link to that [book review of the booklet](#) is as indicated. However, for your convenience, the box that follows contains an overview of the content and perspective of the report titled, *Our Common Purpose Reinventing American Democracy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

#### An Overview of the Content and Perspective

The report sets forth a series of challenges faced in our pursuit of *Reinventing American Democracy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. It does so in about eight pages of the booklet (about 10% of the content).

The link to those eight pages is as follows: [The Challenges](#). The sections (with the reviewer’s numbers added) are as follows: (1) A PREVAILING SENSE OF CRISIS; (2) ECONOMIC INEQUALITY; (3) A CENTRAL CONTEXTUAL FACTOR; (4) OBSTACLES TO VOTING; (5) DISTORTED REPRESENTATION; (6) DYSFUNCTIONAL INSTITUTIONS; (7) FRAGMENTED CIVIL SOCIETY; & (8) LACK OF A SHARED COMMITMENT TO CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY.

In the few months since the report was released, the challenges have been increasing. As will be discussed, the scope of this presentation goes beyond the booklet review. It goes to educational innovations that will facilitate improving outcomes as the evolution of American Democracy continues.

The main body of the report is in the section, linked and titled as follows, [The Way Forward: Essential Reinvention of American Constitutional Democracy](#). Its main content is in The Six Strategies and Thirty-One Recommendations. The list of strategies is as follows: Strategy 1 - [Achieve Equality of Voice and Representation](#); Strategy 2 - [Empower Voters](#); Strategy 3 - [Ensure the Responsiveness of Political Institutions](#); Strategy 4 - [Dramatically Expand Civic Bridging Capacity](#); Strategy 5 - [Build Civic Information Architecture that Supports Common Purpose](#); & Strategy 6 - [Inspire a Culture of Commitment to American Constitutional Democracy and One Another](#).

Some of the recommendations are discussed by the reviewer using an alternative perspective of the evolving complex adaptive system that has already changed in the months since the report was issued. Also, the challenges have increased since the booklet was published, and reviewer expects that the damages from the dual crises will bring the nation to a point in which reconstruction will take place in a different environment.

In short, the **reviewer** is endorsing all six strategies as worthy of pursuit at this time through fostering the civic engagement leading to improvement of process and structure through the intervention paradigm. The focus of the review goes beyond that. It goes to a paradigm shift that utilizes a homeostatic strategy to be discussed, but it is briefly identified in the opening paragraphs of the third overview booklet, [Great Danger Emerges: Democracy Challenged](#).

The committee's report is advocating specific activities for civic engagement although the reviewer endorses those activities, there are differences in the missions. As noted in the booklet review, the reviewer is an educational organization. The excerpt from the book review is as follows:

"It should be clear that the *Declaration Era Educational Press (DEEP)* is an educational organization, and while it endorses the Academy's excellent efforts to enhance *civic engagement*, DEEP's educational mission goes beyond the case study of *American Democracy Endangered*. It goes to educational innovation, especially in higher education. As such, it is integrating the fine work of the Academy's *Report of Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship* into the website of *Declaration Era Educational Press (DEEP)*. This is being done as a matter of **fair use**. If the Academy has any objection to the interpretation of the **fair use**, the LLC will be pleased to make appropriate adjustments."

The overview of the trilogy is in the booklet *American Democracy Endangered: Restructuring American Democracy*. An additional overview, focused on the current situation in relation to the pandemic, is in the booklet titled *It Is Time To Decide! Do You Want To Live In A Free Society?* A third overview booklet, focused on the recovery from the crises underway, is titled *American Democracy Endangered: Restructuring American Democracy*. The [Motivated Learner Platform](https://mleofthemauryselfinllc.net/ml-plaform/) <https://mleofthemauryselfinllc.net/ml-plaform/> contains the essential additional material related to the content that is just been mentioned.

### **A Commentary on the Website Structure**

This website of the Declaration Era Educational Press (DEEP) has multiple discussions of various aspects of the evolution of American Democracy as *The Great Experiment* made progress for two centuries, but in recent decades has decayed enough to fail as a free society. It has moved from what was claiming to be a democracy to be more of a plutocracy; on the road to an autocracy. The discussion that follows includes some links to the relevant files, in some cases preceded by boxed excerpts. All of this is part of a demonstration case in educational innovation designed to increase the productivity of the efforts of motivated learners.

The destructiveness of social media serving as an alternate to critical thinking is part of the problem; but there is more as discussed in the timely trilogy, *American Democracy Endangered*.

#### **The First Column on the Motivated Learner Platform**

The [Motivated Learner Platform](#) [needs correct link] has three columns. The opening item in the first column is titled [2020s SYSTEMIC VISION](#). That file is currently only eight pages. It starts off with discussion of the quality of what you're learning, example from Michael Lewis book, *Moneyball*; also made into the movie of the same name. It then turns to a discussion noting that political economies are not immune to dying. It then turns to a botching of the preparation for epidemics. The excerpt is in the box that follows:

The current administration has botched the preparation for epidemics, the use of intelligence on the arrival of the coronavirus, and the containment the spread of COVID-19. [link] The result is not only the worst performance from the human health and survival perspective of all the world's advanced economies, but the onslaught of a recession that will rival the Great Depression. [link] Also, the presidential motivation from start has been his reelection as the top

priority resulting in endangerment to your personal freedom. [link] Thus, if Donald Trump is reelected, the path towards more of a plutocracy than a democracy will continue towards an autocracy. [link]

What is on the ballot may be assessed by comparing what President Trump said in his acceptance speech and what Joe Biden said. The full text of each speech is available on the web. Also, on the web is available on number of accounts of lies spoken by Donald Trump, and commentary on his attack on his opponent. A sharp contrast to the negatives is the quote from his speech that may well be the most widely accepted, on both sides of the aisle. It is as follows: "And yet, despite all of our greatness as a nation, everything we have achieved is now endangered. This is the most important election in the history of our country. At no time before have voters faced a clearer choice between two parties, two visions, two philosophies, or two agendas."

The next file in the column is [unity counts](#). It is well-known that Mr. Trump has only a nodding acquaintance truth in science in that he says things designed to evoke the response desires, without regard to truth or science. There is an excerpt from the second item in the column, [unity counts](#).

Here is an update based upon Bob Woodward's latest book on presidents of the United States. The book has a one-word title, *Rage*. According to a Wall Street Journal article (September 10, 2020) by Rebecca Ballhaus, *Trump Says He Played Down Severity of Covid-19 in Public*. An excerpt from the article (the second paragraph) states:

"I wanted to always play down," Mr. Trump told Mr. Woodward on March 19, according to audio recordings of the interview and by CNN on Wednesday. "I still like playing it down, because I don't want to create a panic."

Later in the article, here are two more paragraphs:

On Wednesday, Mr. Biden said Mr. Trump's comments to Mr. Woodward showed he had "lied to the American people."

"He knowingly and willingly lied about the threat posed to the country for months," Mr. Biden said during a campaign event with autoworkers in Warren, Mich. "He failed to do his job purpose. It was a life -and betrayal of the American people."

The readers may make their own judgments as to motivations. However, Americans suffered for more infections per capita and higher death rates than the other advanced nations.

Although the Republican Senators in 2017 at first resisted domination by Mr. Trump, it didn't take long until they fell in line because of his aggressive treatment of opponents, going well beyond the long-established norms in the Senate. Until Newt Gingrich, the worst thing that one Senator would say about another senator is that "I hold him and minimal high regard."

The third file in the first column is A Book Review of [Our Common Purpose Reinventing American Democracy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#) a report of the American Academy's Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship published in June 2020 by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. That is discussed starting on page 2 of this appendix. The relationship of that report to the trilogy is discussed in the excerpt from the trilogy's third book in Chapter 5, Building a New Paradigm. It is used as Appendix D of the third overview booklet, *Great Danger Emerges: Democracy Challenged*. It is also available as a standalone item in the third column that is oriented towards team members, mostly thought leaders whose work is cited in the trilogy.

The Second Column Provides an Evolutionary Perspective

The first item in the second column is titled “[Our Democracy is Destroying Itself: Power Without Morality Is Cancerous.](#)” It is a heavier treatment of one of the main issues noted in the first column of the platform. The easiest overview is in the table of contents. That is shown in the box that follows.

<b>Our Democracy is Destroying Itself Power Without Morality Is Cancerous</b>	
Current Events in Recent Context	
Our Tragic Loss of The Notorious R.B.G.	
The Pursuit of Power by Political Party	
The Nomination Process	
Confirmation Fallout	
Republican Revolutions Over the Last Half-Century	
An Early Marker	
Reagan’s Republican Revolution in the Early 1980s	
The Powershift Dimension	
The Fiscal Dimension	
The Gingrich Led Republican Revolution	
The Fiscal Dimensions	
Power Pursuit Dimensions	
George Walker Bush Republican Revolution	
The Fiscal Dimensions	
Power and Policy Dimensions	
The Trumpian Takeover of the Republican Party	
The Fiscal Dimensions	
The Ratio of National Debt to GDP	
Presidential Policy on the Pandemic	
The Fiscal Significance Presidential Policy	
Power and Policy Dimensions	
The Intended Design Not Being Realized	
The Coming End of the Fourth Republican Revolution	
Understanding Reality and Outcomes	
That Which What Was Just Discussed	
Pursuit of Justice Responding to Oppression	
Understanding the Evolution	
Social Capital	
Our Salvation as a Free Society	
Creating a New Age of Enlightenment	
Consider Survival Through Justice	
An Envisioned Societal Structure	
An Evolutionary Process	
Lessons from Donald Trump	

The second file of the second column provides a sharper focus on the evolution of the Republican Party over the last half-century. It is a setup for a fifth Republican Revolution. The title of that file is [The Fourth Republican Revolution](#). It is summarized in that column’s first file; [Our Democracy is Destroying Itself: Power Without Morality Is Cancerous.](#)

A quick overview is contained in the outline that follows.

<b>The Fourth Republican Revolution</b>		
Introduction		1
A Half Century Ago		2
What Happened Around 1970	2	
The Seeds of the Republican Revolution Was Around 1970	3	
More on the Environmental Change	5	
The Industrial and Information Revolutions	5	
The Great Disruption to Our Social Order	6	
Design for Regaining Societal Balance	7	
The Relevance of All This	9	
Understanding Reality	10	
Causes of The Great Recession	12	
Lack of <i>Epistemological Modesty</i> in the Recovery	12	
Gross Deficiency in Knowledge and Ethics	13	
The Three Republican Revolutions		13
Reagan’s Republican Revolution in the Early 1980s	14	
The Powershift Dimension	14	
The Fiscal Dimension	14	
The Gingrich Led Republican Revolution	14	
The Fiscal Dimensions	14	
Power Pursuit Dimensions	15	
George Walker Bush Republican Revolution	16	
The Fiscal Dimensions	16	
Power and Policy Dimensions	17	
The Trumpian Takeover of the Republican Party		20
The Fiscal Dimensions	21	
The Ratio of National Debt to GDP	21	
Presidential Policy on the Pandemic	22	
The Fiscal Significance Presidential Policy	22	
Power and Policy Dimensions	23	
The Intended Design Not Being Realized	23	
The Coming End of the Fourth Republican Revolution	23	
The Grand New Republican Party		24
It Is <i>This or That Time</i> Again	24	
The <i>This or That Time</i> Goes the Other Way	25	
Power Addiction or Our Common Purpose	25	
Restructuring American Democracy		26
The Role of the Next Administration	26	
The Fifth Republican Revolution		

The third file of the second column will be ***this appendix*** the first overview booklet, IT IS TIME TO DECIDE! Do You Want to Live in A Free Society? The standalone file of the appendix is titled “WHAT FOLLOWS.”

The overview booklets contain appendices, as do the books in the trilogy. This website is designed to enable leadership to follow the line of reasoning quickly as possible, but facilitating critical thinkers delving deeper, with greater efficiency.

### Leadership Team Column

The leadership team column is the third column on the Motivated Learner Platform. It contains a series of components that provides an overview of the case study that is designed to lead to a paradigm shift.

The column consists of excerpts from three of the chapters in the trilogy's third book, *American Democracy: The Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment*. It starts off with the fifth chapter, [Building a New Paradigm](#). That is the heart of the main treatise. It focuses on developing a team to better understand the system and create and disseminate the knowledge that will improve the productivity of the efforts for returning to the path towards the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence.

The treatise calls for a Declaration of Reform, an idea generated at least five years ago when the first of the three books was drafted for use as a case study for an exploratory wiki site designed for education innovation. The idea of some of what was planned to be accomplished by the *Declaration of Reform* was preempted by study started two years ago, and just completed earlier this year (2020). A discussion of the relationship between the trilogy's third book and the report study, *Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, is the third item of the first column, A Book Review of [Our Common Purpose Reinventing American Democracy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#).

The second file of the third column presents an abbreviated form of the model being used for the analytics. It is a biological analogy applied to the societal systems. The outline of the third book may be linked. In any case it is readily available, as is the first chapter of the book.

The third file in the third column, an excerpt from chapter 4, Understanding the System, uses the theme that injustices in our society are cancerous to its survival. Those injustices have been increasing over the last half-century, in contrast to progress that has been made over the first two centuries in which the evolution of the democracy made significant progress.

All of this is a lead to the further development of the timely trilogy, *American Democracy Endangered*. Each of the three overview booklets as a description of the role of each of the books. However, the front matter in the first chapter of the three books may be linked starting from the home page.