



**COMMON
SENSE
REVISITED:
AMERICA'S
THIRD
REVOLUTION**

by Maury Seldin LLC
with John Lillibridge





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**Common Sense Revisited:
America's Third Revolution**
Maury Seldin LLC
Charlotte, North Carolina

COMMON SENSE REVISITED: AMERICA'S THIRD REVOLUTION¹

by Maury Seldin LLC²
with John Lillibridge³

Abstract: The American Revolution was about justice; the tyranny of King George III was intolerable. The Second American Revolution, transforming a confederation to a federation, was about reorganization, creating the social capital legally adopted in the form of the Constitution. That revolution was a peaceful adaptation to the necessity of stronger bonds among the sovereign states of the Confederation. The United States of America that emerged was based upon a claim of political equality of the people as a source of authority for government. The claim of equality was an ideal toward which reality moved for two centuries; then decay of the state, the United States of America, set in. During two centuries, the United States adapted to changing environments and capitalized on economic opportunity. The new nation was able to make this great progress even though it was short in a fundamental understanding of the nature of the evolution of democracy as a complex adaptive system. Around the beginning of the twenty-first century, advances in nascent disciplines brought forth a substantial advancement in the understanding of democracy as a complex adaptive system. Historically, the state adjusted to a variety of discontinuities, and in some cases made progress in the pursuit of justice. But it botched the first economic discontinuity of the twenty-first century, the Subprime Crisis, resulting in an unnecessary Great Recession. Additional events in the twenty-first century are fostering further decay of the democratic institutions and are leading to the likelihood of a Third American Revolution.

¹ This treatise is related to the treatise titled *American Democracy: The Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment*. That treatise calls for a Declaration of Reform. Maury Seldin concluded after research on the subprime crisis and the capital market freeze that led to the Great Recession, that the debacle was not only unnecessary, but that it was not just a real estate finance issue. It was a societal issue best understood through the lens of complexity science, especially complexity economics. The focus on real estate finance and complexity economics is noted in a newsletter Supplement — “Homer Hoyt Institute Research Initiative...”, especially in the endnotes. The background includes the work of Maury Seldin and others associated with the Homer Hoyt Institute (HHI). The HHI funded along with industry (including the Mortgage Bankers Association, National Association of Realtors, and Freddie Mac) a pioneer

research effort, Spring 2008, and its Supplement — “Panic Doesn’t Help — Strategy Does..” The opening program was a Research Roundtable co-sponsored by the Homer Hoyt Institute (HHI), the University of Pennsylvania Urban Research Institute, the Hudson Institute, and the Institute for Public Policy at George Washington University discussed in a Fall 2007 newsletter and its Supplement — “Don’t Panic Yet...”

This prepublication paperback is provided for review and comment, and not for sale. After revision it will be published in hardback copy and digital format. That publication will be the first book of the trilogy titled *American Democracy Endangered*. The titles are as follows: (1) *Common Sense Revisited: America’s Third Revolution*; (2) *A Sense of Place in Perspective: Voter Empowerment*; and (3) *American Democracy: The Declaration Pursuit and Endangerment*.

²The Maury Seldin LLC is a company endowed with corporate personhood. As such it has some of the same rights that are possessed by natural persons. Included in such rights are the rights to enter into contracts and the rights to author and publish educational material. The Maury Seldin LLC is such a company, the nature of its business is to serve as a vehicle for innovative education by integrating development and dissemination of knowledge that would contribute to societal self-organization so as to lead to the evolution of the societal structure to better facilitate progress toward the ideals espoused in the Declaration of Independence.

Maury Seldin, the author of the trilogy, *American Democracy Endangered*, of which this is a part, has sold his authorship rights in the trilogy and the vast amount of supported material which he has authored to the Maury Seldin LLC that is designed to be a self-supporting entity capable of continuing the development and the dissemination of knowledge that emerged in more than a half century career of personal contributions to the arena of education development and dissemination, in which Maury Seldin as a person contributed working with others. Such cooperative efforts were not only in co-authorships and teams for research projects, but also through stimulating the self-organization of institutions.

Dr. Seldin, a chaired professor emeritus of the American University School of Business Administration, was the founding president of the Homer Hoyt Institute created to serve as the research arm of two of the schools programs. He is Chairman Emeritus of the Homer Hoyt Institute (HHI), founded in 1967 and Chairman Emeritus of the Maury Seldin Advanced Studies Institute (ASI), founded in 1982. Dr. Seldin served as leader and then co-leader of the Seminar on Strategic Decision-Making at ASPEC (Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College), an interest group that he founded in 2002 and that in recent years has focused on applications of complexity science to a variety of strategic decisions ranging from personal health to organizational management and societal issues.

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PREFACE



In January 1776, the Thomas Paine pamphlet *Common Sense* was published, addressed to inhabitants of America. In the preface published in February, the still-unidentified author wrote, “The cause of America is, in a great measure, the cause of all mankind.”

At that time, “...the American colonies were in open rebellion against the crown.”ⁱ “Advocates for outright independence from the British Empire were rather few, and with good reason. For one, the colonies had little sense of themselves as possessing a shared identity to unite them against England.”ⁱⁱ

Thomas Paine built his case in four parts beyond the introduction. The headings were as follows:

- COMMON SENSE. OF THE ORIGIN AND DESIGN OF GOVERNMENT IN GENERAL. WITH CONCISE REMARKS ON THE ENGLISH CONSTITUTION.
- OF MONARCHY AND HEREDITARY SUCCESSION.
- THOUGHTS ON THE PRESENT STATE OF AMERICAN AFFAIRS.
- OF THE PRESENT ABILITY OF AMERICA, WITH SOME MISCELLANEOUS REFLECTIONSⁱⁱⁱ

Our focus here is on the meaning of the term “common sense” as used by Thomas Paine for his pamphlet. He used it as a sound practical judgment that is independent of specialized knowledge. He apparently drew his meaning from the Age of Enlightenment, also known as The Age of Reason. He spelled out his reasoning in the four sections. He used examples from everyday life, and building on moral principles emerging in the Enlightenment, to foster a rise in the level of consciousness of the beliefs of colonists, particularly regarding the rights of man. The call was to gain independence from the injustices of King George III. It was a matter of justice.

Specialized knowledge is a form of uncommon knowledge, but so is misinformation. Such misinformation may be deliberate untruths. Misinformation (knowing of things that are not so), accepted as knowledge for any reason, is a great source of problems, especially

the denial of facts well established by science. I really like the epigraph used by Michael Lewis in his book *The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine*. It is as follows:

“The most difficult subjects can be explained to the most slow witted man if he has not formed any idea of them already; but the simplest thing cannot be made clear to the most intelligent man if he is firmly persuaded that he knows already, without a shadow of doubt, what is laid before him.”
— Leo Tolstoy, 1897

The treatise before you goes well beyond common knowledge. It builds upon sound practical judgment based upon general knowledge, but it enhances the quality of knowledge through the application of a blending of nascent disciplines with mainstream disciplines of the twentieth century. The roots for the nascent disciplines evolved from ancient thought. The Scientific Revolution and The Age of Reason were enamored with the analytics of linearity with a neglect of the non-linear analytics essential for improving the quality of knowledge about the complex adaptive systems of the social sciences. Significant progress was made in the latter part of the twentieth century; however, the curve may well have turned in the beginning of the twenty-first century. This treatise uses the lens of complexity, an uncommon knowledge, for an analysis of the potential of a Third American Revolution.

PREFACE ENDNOTES

ⁱ From the introductory material provided by the Fall River Press in its 2013 edition of Thomas Paine: *Common Sense*, page xvi. The introduction was written by Gregory Tietjen, page xvii

ⁱⁱ Ibid, page xvii

ⁱⁱⁱ Web link as follows: *Common Sense* (<https://tinyurl.com/yyg338zx>)

PROLOGUE FOR COMMON SENSE REVISITED: AMERICA'S THIRD REVOLUTION



The future of American Democracy, as it may be impacted by a civically engaged and better educated electorate, is what this *Common Sense Revisited: America's Third Revolution*, and the timely trilogy (*American Democracy Endangered*) is about. The Thomas Paine pamphlet *Common Sense* is the model that inspired what was started as a hook (in the parlance of journalism) to lead to what is the main treatise¹ in the trilogy collectively titled *American Democracy Endangered*.

On July 3, 2019, the Thomas L. Friedman op-ed from *The New York Times* was titled “**The Biggest Threat to America Is Us.**” Here is a single excerpt from his article after the opening paragraph reported on the question Chuck Todd asked at Wednesday’s Democratic Presidential Debate, “who or what is the biggest geopolitical threat to America today?”

“Reflecting on that moment, I asked myself what I would say. It didn’t take long to decide. It’s not China or Russia or Iran. We became the biggest threat to ourselves.” [The entire column may be Googled.]

When I read that, I sent off an email to *The New York Times* asking them to forward to Mr. Friedman the attachment of a single page from the page proof of the opening chapter of this book. Please turn to that first page of the first chapter of this book and read the opening paragraph; or, consider that the first sentence is as follows: “The internal threat to American Democracy is greater than any of the external threats.”

As you read the rest of this prologue, you will note that the selection of principal concepts in the discussion of American

Democracy blends nascent disciplines with 20th century mainstream disciplines. Furthermore, as the book develops, it could become obvious that the analytics are ahead of the curve of what is currently being utilized in public policy and private sector decision making. The main narrative is not only supplemented with this prologue and epilogue, but a series of appendices as well as endnotes to facilitate a motivated learner delving deeper. A good start is to read the whole of the Thomas L. Friedman op-ed column.

The great irony is that after I drafted the preceding insert on July 5, 2019, I went to breakfast and noted that the front page of *The New York Times* had an article by Michael D. Shear titled “With Flyovers and Flags, Trump Plays M.C. for the Fourth.” The opening paragraph of the article is as follows:

WASHINGTON — In a made-for-television Independence Day production starring America’s military weaponry, President Trump on Thursday used the Lincoln Memorial as a backdrop for homage to the countries armed forces in a call for unity that has been largely absent during his divisive presidency.

Adding to the irony was an additional front page story about the intensity of the battle mounting at the state level for state legislature control of boundaries for state and congressional elections. The Supreme Court held 5 to 4 that it wasn’t intervening in the Maryland and North Carolina gerrymandering. See page 109 in this book about North Carolina gerrymandering.

Readership today seems to be enamored with brevity, especially the 140-character tweets (now 280) containing alternative facts and fake news that gets more circulation than information capable of surviving the test of verifiability. The seventy-six-page copy of the Thomas Paine pamphlet *Common Sense*, which I used as an inspiration, is preceded by about twenty-four pages of introduction, plus a few pages of a chronology of Thomas Paine’s life. The

introduction was written by Gregory Tietjen, and published by the Fall River Press in a thin four-by-eight-inch volume.

Readership also seems to be enamored with access to information via the internet and reading the electronic presentation of text online. Some of what is posted is free. In the case of the Thomas Paine pamphlet, *Common Sense*, it is easy to Google and then to download as a PDF. My preference is for hard copy because I make notes in the margins, underline passages, and in various ways leave clues to reach particular passages. Modern science has argued that this de facto extends the mind.ⁱⁱ

The text of *Common Sense Revisited* is limited to four chapters. The prologue and epilogue may be considered to be ersatz chapters. Substantial additions have been made in the form of appendices in order to facilitate the reader delving deeper before going to the other two books of the trilogy.

Paine's pamphlet was constructed of four parts after a brief introduction, and an appendix that was written after some events had unfolded.

His first edition was published anonymously on January 10, 1776. The next edition, published February 14, 1776, contained an introduction signed "The Author." The opening sentence of the introduction's last paragraph is as follows: "The cause of America is, in a great measure, the cause of all mankind."

THE CRISIS HAS ARRIVED

The major addition to the discussion is in the form of an additional overview essay, booklet, titled **IT IS TIME TO DECIDE!** It is linked, but here is the opening paragraph in the context of headings.

IT IS TIME TO DECIDE!
DO YOU WANT TO LIVE IN A FREE SOCIETY?
RECOGNITION OF REALITY
Our Freedom is Being Internally Challenged
The Current Political Situation. The current political situation is that our American Democracy is taking us on

the road to tyranny. You are losing your freedom, so if you want to live in a free society, then you had better get a really good understanding of your role in what it takes in societal design to achieve that goal. Obviously, you can make your own assessment of what you need to know and do. While you are at it, you would be wise to consider what others will do, especially your elected representatives.

The **second addition** is in the form of a submission to *The New York Times* as an op-ed piece. It is provided in a link, [ABUSE OF POWER incites PURSUIT OF JUSTICE](#). However, here is the opening that contains two paragraphs:

ABUSE OF POWER incites PURSUIT OF JUSTICE

By Dr. Maury Seldin

Chaired Professor Emeritus, American University

ABUSE OF POWER TRIGGERS DEMONSTRATIONS/REBELLION

Abuse of Power Triggers Demonstrations

They took to the streets! It was the abuse of police power that again sparked the pursuit of justice. The spark was the needless death of George Floyd caused by a police officer, who had the suspect under control, with three other police officers standing by, and none of the three chose to pursue justice.

The *sense of place*, especially of African-Americans, with knowledge of the abuse of power by white police officers in dealing with black suspects, even without probable cause, saw their freedom being threatened by a discriminatory system; and they rebelled. They were joined by others who believe in justice, and unfortunately by others with nondemocratic motivations, including capitalization on opportunities for theft.

The Cause of All Mankind

“The cause of all mankind” may reasonably be interpreted to rest on the pursuit of the unalienable rights articulated in the Declaration

of Independence: “We hold these Truths to be self-evident, 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.” The creation of American Democracy, as an institutional arrangement, has been called *The Great Experiment*.

That experiment arose out of the pursuit of justice. It was a response to the tyrannical reign of King George III that morphed from a rebellion into a revolution that united what became thirteen sovereign states. The transition from the Confederation to the Federation has been called America’s Second Revolution. The hallmark of the Federation is the Constitution designed to avoid tyranny. It does so utilizing a separation of powers into three branches of government. It is the legislative branch that has oversight function regulating the administrative branch. It includes the power to impeach.

The impeachment is an indictment process by the House of Representatives. The trial process is in the Senate. Conviction requires a two thirds majority. The result is a removal from office. The criteria relate to the excessive use of power. The framers of the Constitution settled on the phrase “treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.” It is the judgment of the Senators that prevails in the decision for the removal from office based upon the articles of impeachment passed by the House of Representatives.

The global spread of democracy has picked up on *The Great Experiment*. It has done so with mixed responses. Part of the problem is in the electorate understanding and exercising its responsibilities and with the elected representatives fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities in the interests of the electorate, but with the knowledge and ethics expected in a representative form of government.

The populist views may not reflect sufficient knowledge of potential outcomes of potential changes in regulations to make a multitude of favorable decisions on highly complex issues. There is a reliance on the representatives to use their expertise much in the same way as there is a reliance upon physicians, attorneys, engineers, and others whose specialized knowledge can serve better

at making choices that will influence outcomes. The electorate is, however, responsible for the civic engagement essential to their expression of values and interests and their selections of representatives they trust to act in the best interest of those whom they represent, the electorate.

Great problems arise when the interests represented are severely skewed to those providing financial support in the electoral process and/or to the personal and professional interests of elected representatives. The structure and process make a difference. At one of the spectrum is populism.

The other end of the spectrum, in contrast to populism, is a technocracy. The problem with a technocracy is that values and interests of the technocrats may conflict with the values and interests of the electorate. The process is thus dependent upon the integrity of the elected officials; and that includes their wisdom and understanding potential outcomes as well as their morality.

Before going to a discussion of the development of this book that is leading to the main treatise presented in the third book of the trilogy, we have a brief discussion of the crisis that has arrived. It relates to how America will handle the challenge that by happenstance arrived and about the timing of the receipt of the first proofs of the bound version of the review and comment paperback version of this book.

A Pivotal Point for American Democracy

Pivotal points may be misnomers for our discussion because they are nodes in networks, and it is the interactions among the nodes that make the difference. Furthermore, it is the emergent properties that result from those interactions that are critical. That is so because they may in fact be the pivotal point. In case you have not been previously introduced to the lens of complexity as a way of viewing complex adaptive systems such as democracies, you have now been introduced to the approach.

The next section of this prologue introduces the structure of the presentation dealing with going beyond common sense and utilizing the paradigm just alluded to in the phrase of using the lens of complexity for dealing with complex adaptive systems. In this section,

we are highlighting one dramatic pivotal point in a process related to impeachment. It is focused on a tweet sent during the November 15, 2019 broadcast of the testimony of the former ambassador to Ukraine, Maria Yovanovitch.

While she was testifying, President Trump was tweeting derogatory claims in what appears to be an attempt to intimidate a witness by smearing her decades-long performance in the State Department, and by extension to intimidate other potential witnesses. It has been his style to intimidate others for his own interests and to do so without regards to truth. As a standalone event it may not rise to the level of an impeachment, but it is in the context of the development of an indictment alleging either extortion or bribery, or both. The Latin term, *quid pro quo*, refers to the exchange of favors or whatever. The extortion refers to withholding of funds appropriate by Congress as a matter of national security unless the president of Ukraine agreed to a public announcement of a criminal investigation of a major contender for the Democratic nomination for the present United States in competition for Trump's campaign that was declared the day after his inauguration. The bribery may go beyond that exchange to include the offer of an invitation to the president of the Ukraine to visit President Trump at the White House.

The discussion of this event turned out to be appropriate for use of this example in the opening chapter of what is now the trilogy's third book, *American Democracy: The Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment*. That chapter happens to be Appendix 1B - The Declaration and The Other Invisible Hand. It starts on page 191 of this book. But, the most relevant section, *Morality and Interaction*, starts on page 197. However, the discussion of a pivotal point among the network of pivotal points is in a subsection titled *Moving from the Individual Level to the Societal Level*. The first paragraph heading in that subheading is "Building Social Capital." The next paragraph heading in the same subsection is "Destroying Social Capital." It is added to the original text created in 2015. Under the circumstances it is put into a shaded box to differentiated from what was drafted as the opening chapter of the treatise leading to the call for a Declaration of Reform. The shaded box starts on page 203.

We now turn to the rest of prologue, but with the added comment that this educational innovation approach of the trilogy is designed to allow the reader to move about amongst the books, and has under development a website to facilitate that process. Additionally, that website will have more narrative as the impeachment process continues and, hopefully, action is taken to restore American Democracy back on its path towards the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence.

SOME DIRECTIONS FROM THE PAMPHLET

Consciousness and Moral Principles Grounded in Common Sense

Tietjen's comments on the power of Paine's style included the influence of the "Quaker virtues of sincerity and direct address... [being joined]... to the Enlightenment believe [belief] in universal moral principles grounded in "common sense." [See page XXIV of the Fall River Press Edition.] Two pages later, Tietjen starts a powerful paragraph as follows: "Paine's skill as a polemicist ultimately lay in the uncanny psychological insight he displayed in raising to consciousness the underlying assumptions of the American colonists."

Tietjen concludes that powerful paragraph with the following sentence, "After reading *Common Sense*, the colonists discovered they could now believe inevitable what only a short time earlier had seemed preposterous: breaking with the crown English rule." My position is that the motivated learner after reading this first book of the trilogy, *American Democracy Endangered*, will proceed to read the main treatise that is the heart of the third book, *American Democracy: The Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment*. That third book calls for a Declaration of Reform. It was written before the 2016 election and the events unfolding since 2017 that are ringing alarms, so since that third book of the trilogy was first written, it has been slightly modified.

By happenstance, the second bookⁱⁱⁱ in this trilogy was written about level of consciousness in that it is about a sense of place.^{iv} It also happens that Thomas Paine was a radical in the Enlightenment movement. Understanding the role of the Enlightenment era in the

creation of American Democracy may be pursued with a path that starts with Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense*.^v

The Importance of a Selection of Principal Concepts

This brings us to the importance of a selection of principal concepts that lead to a better understanding of American Democracy, its origin, its pursuit, and its endangerment. Understanding these concepts may be critical in the process of fostering the survival of American Democracy.

Make no mistake, in recent decades democracies around the world have been decaying. Authoritarianism has been rising. There is a cyber war underway, adding to the variety of wars existing and looming; and, what is discussed later is that even though American Democracy suffers from substantial external endangerment, a greater risk to its survival is in its internal endangerment from its decay.

Understanding a number of principal concepts is essential to the process of a successful pursuit of the survival of American Democracy.

Discussion of those concepts is what this trilogy is all about. It is presented in an innovative approach that I started using during my three decades in academia with professorial status, I further explored the approach leading an advanced studies institute (now named for me), and further developed it leading to this trilogy as my last hurrah.

Going beyond the discursive form with a presentational form structured to enable the reader to delve deeper and return to the mainstream of thought is designed to provide the reader with an exceptional opportunity for further development of the reader's critical thinking. It is structured for the motivated learner to pursue knowledge in an exceptionally efficient manner; especially integrating multiple disciplines into the main line of reasoning. It builds upon traditional disciplines, integrates nascent disciplines, and sets forth an interdisciplinary approach to deal with understanding American Democracy as the complex adaptive system which seems to befuddle our leadership and the electorate to which they are presumably responsible.

As a start in the discussion of critical concepts, it occurs to me that the self-organization of the thirteen colonies resulted in the creation of what is today known as *social capital*.^{vi} Understanding the concept of social capital is critical because the decay of our democracy is in

part an erosion of social capital. The point is that there are numerous key concepts that have long historical roots, but it is only in recent times that science has put them together for more rigorous analytics than previously used. Consider that it was social capital that moved a rebellion rooted in fighting the injustices of tyranny to become a revolution that produced a confederation of states.

The confederation of states was an emergent property that resulted from the interaction among the states that formed the network of what had been colonies. That structure went through an organic evolution with a discontinuity that produced the United States of America, a federation. The result was the creation of what may be called *The Great American Experiment*. That experiment provided a governmental structure based upon the concept of pluralism.^{vii}

The Northern and Southern States that formed a confederation that morphed into a federation containing populations with different economic interests, lifestyles, and other varied ethnographic characteristics, but a commonality in what they viewed as unalienable human rights. The jargon used in these introductory remarks is further discussed in the third book of the trilogy. Pluralism is an ingredient in the social capital of American Democracy. It is being destroyed by the divisiveness that is rampant.

American Democracy is in great danger today because its social capital has been eroded. This first book provides a perspective of that erosion by way of a discussion that opens with the so-called tax reform of 2017 as the introduction.

In addition to the identification of social capital as a key concept, and its close relative pluralism, we have a concept at least as equally important. It is Adam Smith's metaphor of the *invisible hand* which is simply a particular case of *emergence* in the operation of markets. Emergence is a critical concept as is *complexity science* of which it is a part. Also included is the concept of *self-organization*, which is also discussed in this trilogy.

The foundation for these concepts goes back to the Enlightenment era, and especially the Radical Enlighteners. The main treatise has substantial discussion of the Enlightenment. But now, our discussion turns to a takeoff from Tietjen's introduction that has a first section titled "A LIFE LIVED TO SOME PURPOSE."

Now for the First Part of Tietjen's Introduction

Particularly significant for the timely trilogy, *American Democracy Endangered*, is Gregory Tietjen's introduction. It is in its first part titled "A LIFE LIVED TO SOME PURPOSE." That is significant because "The unexamined life is not worth living..." is famous dictum apparently uttered by Socrates at his trial for impiety and corrupting youth, for which he was subsequently sentenced to death, as described in Plato's *Apology* (38a5-6)." [The unexamined life is not worth living — Wikipedia.] The significance is in the context of two philosophical eras with bursts of creativity.

The era of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle is the marker for the heart of the first burst of creativity in which "...philosophy flourished within Western civilization during two bursts of creativity that lasted about 150 years each." [See *The Origins of Creativity* by Edward O. Wilson pages 195-196.] The second was, according to an excerpt from Anthony Gottlieb's *The Dream of Enlightenment* quoted by Wilson [on page 196] as follows: "The second... stretches from the 1630s to the eve of the French Revolution in the late eighteenth century. In those relatively few years, Descartes, Hobbs, Spinoza, Locke, Leibniz, Hume, Rousseau, and Voltaire — most, that is, of the best-known modern philosophers — made their mark."

From an economic perspective, the eras of the Industrial Revolution and the Information Revolution were also eras of creativity, and they were rooted in the Enlightenment and the Scientific Revolution (that for the most part was contemporaneous with the Enlightenment, also known as the Age of Reason).

A third burst of creativity may have started early in the second quarter of the twentieth century. My case for a third burst of creativity starts with Alfred North Whitehead in the late 1920s, writing *Process and Reality*. Using the corrected edition edited by David Ray Griffin and Donald W. Sherburne, the passage that marks, for me, the beginning of a third century-and-a-half philosophical and analytical era may well be the following: "The philosophy of organism in its appeal to the facts can thus support itself by an appeal to the insight of John Locke, who in British philosophy is the analog to Plato...this doctrine of organism is the attempt to

describe the world as a process of generation of individual actual entities, each with its own absolute self-attainment [page 60].”

Also in that same second quarter of the twentieth century, Mordecai Kaplan wrote about the organic nature of Judaism as a civilization. The first edition of *Judaism as a Civilization: Toward a Reconstruction of American Jewish Life* was published in 1934, but in the preface to the 1967 edition he wrote the following: “Organismic thinking is the latest stage in the maturation of the human mind. First came mythology, then philosophy, then science, and now we are learning to think organismically [page xxv].” Kaplan discusses the concept in his concluding chapter with a discussion analogizing Judaism to an organism in which there are elements that are maintained in the adaptation to a changing environment much the same way that organic systems adapt while retaining some essential ingredients as they are being integrated in a pluralistic society. *Otherness works in pluralism* was his approach to Eastern European Jewry’s adaptation to the new environment of a free society, American Democracy.^{viii}

Most of us educated in the twentieth century are accustomed to looking for cause and effect in a linear relationship. It works well for linear structures, but for complex adaptive systems, systems that are characterized by nonlinear relationships in dynamic structures that evolve over time, it is much too simplistic. Such is the case identified in the opening discussion of this re-visitation of *Common Sense* that started with a focus on the 2017 tax reform.

Shortly to be discussed in this prologue is the progress made towards further conceptual development of looking at societal systems as organic being heavily relied on nonlinear relationships. Additionally, the epilogue serves as a transition to the second and third books in the trilogy.

Moving on to Specialized Knowledge

This third burst of philosophical creativity, arguably marked by Alfred North Whitehead, moves from philosophy to science. In his preface to *Science and the Modern World* (1925) he wrote the following: “If my view of the function of philosophy is correct, it is the most effective of all intellectual pursuits. It builds cathedrals before

the workmen have moved the stone, and it destroys them before the elements have worn down their arches...”

Specialized knowledge of science links progress between speculative philosophy and the innovation in production. The Scientific Revolution and the Age of Reason (also known as the Enlightenment) preceded the Industrial Revolution. That was the second burst of philosophical creativity.

Arguably, the organic view of social science along with scientific advances in biology is leading us to another era of scientific advancement and enlightenment. The key is the ability to use analytics for nonlinear systems, especially in understanding how the mind works. Much of the process that has developed in the last three quarters of a century is applied without using the terminology of nascent disciplines. But, in the last quarter of a century there has been an increase in the use of the terminology of the nascent disciplines. Furthermore, that which started as an application of multiple disciplines has morphed into an interdisciplinary approach, in which the lens of complexity science is used to improve policy decisions related to societies as organic systems.^{ix}

NOW FOR THE MAIN DIRECTION BUILDING ON THE PAMPHLET

An Interdisciplinary Approach

It is the organic structure of the world, its political institutions, and its people, as well as the rest of nature, that is best understood with a lens of complexity science dealing with nonlinearity, in contrast to relying only on the tremendous advances made in science in the previous centuries, with an inordinate focus on linear relationships that were most testable with experiments that through inductive reasoning fostered a better understanding of reality.

It is the understanding of reality with which we are concerned. It goes back to the *Allegory of the Cave* in Plato's *The Republic*. Our concern here is with the analytics that brings us closer to reality. The next major breakthrough in what may become the third historic burst in philosophical creativity may have come about a quarter of a century after Whitehead's book, *Process and Reality*, when Jay Forrester

started working on system dynamics and modeling interactions in complex adaptive systems of business enterprises and urban development. The third name that occurs to me as early in the third burst of philosophical creativity is that of Herbert Simon, whose work on bounded rationality took us further into complex adaptive systems.

The halfway point for a third century-and-a-half era is along about the turn-of-the-century to the twenty-first century. Two books that marked an inflection point for me, based upon my focus on a strategic approach to uncertainty, are as follows: (1) *Harnessing Complexity: Organizational Implications of a Scientific Frontier* by Robert Axelrod and Michael D. Cohen (1999); and (2) *Emergence: From Chaos To Order* (1998), by John H. Holland. The first of the two discusses altering structure in order to improve outcomes. The second indicates patterns that help influencing the selection of options to improve outcomes.

My apologies for omitting some names of authors and books not discussed. I have underway a docent-led tour of my library that would facilitate the reader giving credit closer to other preferences. My focus for the first of the three books in this trilogy is simply to make some progress in the analytics used for strategic decisions impacting the future of American Democracy. As to the analytics for the so-called 2017 tax reform, if the future of American Democracy is judged on the criteria of rewarding the wealthy that supported the campaigns intended to benefit the wealthy, then the analytics worked. But, if the analytics used were designed for the purpose of pursuit of the values identified in the Declaration of Independence, those related to the unalienable rights, it gets a failing grade.

Dealing with Disruption

An economic downturn is on the horizon. It is uncertain as to whether it will be triggered by a break in the stock market, a jolt from uncontrolled inflation, or retaliation for a wisdom-challenged tariff program. But, as will be discussed, there will be a weakening of the fiscal ability of the federal government to spend its way out of what may well be an economic downturn worse than the Great Recession. The downturn may even rival the Great Depression.

The problem is that American culture has evolved to a point where the power of the electorate is so eroded by the decay in individual behavior, as well as by a manipulated structure designed to move towards a plutocracy, that some form of a discontinuity is likely to occur. In order to improve the likelihood of a better outcome that would occur with the trend underway, the next two books of the trilogy are designed to shed light on processes that have a chance to improve outcomes.

Before identifying the role of the next two books of the trilogy, some background on the pursuit of justice is in order. A place to start is with Socrates and Plato. Drawing on my earlier writings, I authored (with Liz Johnson as my co-author) a 2017 article titled “Plato’s Cave to Unite Americans and Save Democracy but Not Without Analytics.” A lengthy excerpt is provided in the box that follows:

Building on Learning from the Enlightenment Era
A Knowledgeable Electorate

Returning to views of justice in the ancient era, and recalling the idea that democracy requires an accountability of the administration to the electorate (in addition to the monopoly of force by the state and the rule of law); we may ask what Plato’s view was. For a quote relating to the knowledgeability and the effectiveness of the electorate and the elected, we reference the ACE site, “Plato’s Cave Unites Americans” (Seldin, 2016b). Plato doubted that the democratic process would work, in part because of capacity, but in part, it was as is interpreted by Gardner Coates (2016) and presented on pages 26–27 of her *David’s Sling: A History of Democracy in Ten Works of Art*. ACE’s wiki page of “Plato’s Cave Unites Americans” notes that with the following excerpt: *David’s Sling: A History of Democracy in Ten Works of Art*. He argues that blind pursuit of freedom can become a kind of slavery when the city is governed by those who know how to win elections, not those with the people’s best interests at heart (Seldin, 2016a, pp. 26-27). [The Journal on Policy & Complex Systems:

Plato's Cave to Unite Americans and Save Democracy but Not Without Analytics. Maury Seldin, Liz Johnson. *Policy and Complex Systems* — Volume 3 Number 2 - Fall 2017.]

This main direction of building on the Thomas Paine pamphlet is by going beyond common sense and introducing a blending of nascent disciplines with mainstream disciplines so as to facilitate averting debacles and further threats to the progress of American Democracy in pursuing the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence.

Learning from Our Recent Experience

The Great Recession was an unnecessary debacle. It was spawned in part by a cultural change that occurred in the evolution of American Democracy. According to one author, the cultural change under discussion began to evolve shortly after the end of World War II when leadership in public service started to move from *doing good* to *doing well*.^x This is discussed in this book's third chapter, "A Historical Perspective." But as that chapter discusses, it took decades for the toxic flower of selfishness to bloom.

A different author, Charles A. Reich, highlighted the era of the 1960s with the 1970 publication of the book, *The Greening of America*, with what looks like a subtitle on the paperback as follows:

"There is a revolution coming. It will not be like revolutions of the past. It will originate with the individual's culture, and it will change the political structure only as its final act. It will not require violence to succeed, and it cannot be successfully resisted by violence. This is the *revolution of the new generation*." [Emphasis added.]

That is also discussed in the first book. The point of the trilogy is that we are dealing with justice and competence; the justice being part of the morality in the system based on the values underlying democracy, and the competence being the understanding of the

reality of how the system operates in the proficiency limitation of that understanding. This prologue notes that the first book is introducing scaffolding for the rest of this trilogy including for the main treatise, *American Democracy: The Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment*.

The unnecessary debacle known as the Great Recession was part of the reversal in recent decades of the two centuries of progress made towards the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence. The distrust of the establishment, represented by both of the major political parties, resulted in what history may record as a major turning point to the decline of American Democracy; the election of a president not qualified for the leadership of a free society. That event triggered my shift in writing to prioritize a re-visitation of Thomas Paine's pamphlet, *Common Sense*, and to write what I hope to be a productive effort at a contemporary counterpart that not only dealt with the level of consciousness, but moves to include nascent disciplines improve the quality of decisions.

This new book turned out to be blended with the two books that I had already posted on the wiki site under construction. This book, *Common Sense Revisited: America's Third Revolution* has now been transformed into the first book of the trilogy called *American Democracy Endangered*.

Thomas Paine used the concept of common sense to represent practical knowledge as well as the morality that was implicit among the colonists. The practical knowledge did not require specialized knowledge. His concept was that practical knowledge would raise the level of consciousness so as to remedy the tyranny of King George III through a revolution that would gain independence for the colonists. My intent was to write what could be considered a contemporary counterpart, going beyond common sense by applying the lens of complexity science and other nascent disciplines. That perspective would better educate the electorate and thought leaders so as to assist them in taking the appropriate actions.

The disruptiveness of the Information Revolution has accelerated societal change to such an extent that specialized knowledge is essential to the development of substantially better policy in both the public sectors and private sectors. What started out to be a pamphlet

turned out to be a book from which a pamphlet could be extracted. That book, *Common Sense Revisited: America's Third Revolution*, is now the first book of the trilogy, *American Democracy Endangered*. The third book of the trilogy contains the discussion of an approach leading to reform of American Democracy.

BEING PART OF THE TIMELY TRILOGY

The Roots of This Trilogy

The timely trilogy, collectively known as *American Democracy Endangered*, is rooted in an essay titled "Liberty and Justice for All Some." That essay was drawn from an earlier work of mine titled "*Liberty Enlightenment: The Quest of 36 Thought Leaders*," intended to discuss liberty and justice through the ages. That shift to the main treatise in the trilogy, *American Democracy: The Declaration Pursuit and Endangerment*, came with sharpening the focus to dealing with liberty and justice using the case of American Democracy. That book is now the third book in a timely trilogy known as *American Democracy Endangered*.

Since democracy is a self-organized enterprise, its success is dependent upon the individuals in the electorate. The motivation of the individuals is heavily dependent upon their beliefs, especially as related to religion and/or science. As a foundation for better understanding the main thesis (the core of the third book), what is now created as the second book is titled *Perspectives for a Sense of Place: Voter Empowerment*.

This book, because it is the first book of the trilogy, is designed to bring the readership into the trilogy placing it in the context of the current endangerment to American Democracy. It provides a discussion of one of the most significant items of the new administration, the so-called tax reform legislation. A better understanding of the reality of the motivation for that legislation and the potential outcomes is likely to foster significant assistance to the individual's pursuit of a greater understanding of reality.

This first book was designed to be as close to as feasible a twenty-first century counterpart as it might be, in the role of raising the level of consciousness of Americans, to the magnificent pamphlet written

by Thomas Paine during the American Revolution. It takes the next step by going beyond common sense envisioned by Thomas Paine. His vision of common sense apparently included the morality associated with human rights and the logic applied to human experience. This trilogy adds an additional factor in the form of analytics so as to assist in influencing better outcomes.

Paine built his case in four parts. This ambitious twenty-first century counterpart stayed with four parts for the body of the discussion so that a pamphlet could be extracted. However, this book in its current form contains both a prologue and epilogue, which I view as two ersatz chapters. It also contains appendices facilitating an easier process for motivated learners choosing to delve deeper.

The second book of the trilogy was designed as a supplement to the main treatise, *American Democracy: The Declaration Pursuit and Endangerment*. Both were written before what is now the first book of the trilogy. Both of those two books are heavily supplemented by appendices in order to enable the reader to encounter the thrust of the reasoning with as brief a narrative as seemed feasible. They were originally published in draft form in a wiki (under construction) intended to serve as a pilot project for an educational innovation. The underlying concept is that a motivated learner could tour the literature much in the same way as she might tour a museum; pursuing knowledge to whatever depth is of interest. It provides resources supportive of the pursuit of critical thinking in an innovative approach utilizing networks that go beyond the new limit of 280 characters for tweets.

The design of the multi-staged business model utilized the first two books as a pilot project to be expanded with a discussion of the housing finance bubble and capital market freeze that led to the Great Recession. The discussion utilizes the lens of complexity science and other nascent disciplines blended with mainstream disciplines in order to improve business policy and public policy. What seemed to be a housing finance and capital market problem was in reality a shortfall of ethics and analytics resulting in wisdom-challenged decisions in both the public and private sectors of the political-economy.

The Strategic Approach to the Presentation

The strategic approach to the presentation of *American Democracy Endangered* is built upon the three books being published digitally as well as the timely trilogy in hard copy. Additionally, an electronic copy of the collection of the three books may be published as a single volume, provided with links among the three books within the single volume: (1) *Common Sense Revisited: America's Third Revolution*; (2) *Perspective for a Sense of Place: Voter Empowerment*; and (3) *American Democracy: The Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment*.

A hard copy of the three books published as a trilogy in a single volume, titled *American Democracy Endangered*, would obviously not have electronic links. However, each of the books will have appendices and references to one or both of the other books in the trilogy as well as to appendices designed for the companion books.

A Hybrid Self-Publication Route. The timely trilogy titled *American Democracy Endangered* was started with the intention of using a hybrid self-publication route to a third-wave educational innovation for higher education. The trilogy's third book (*American Democracy: The Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment*) contains the main treatise that sets the stage for a significant contribution to that third-wave educational innovation for higher education, as well as to returning American Democracy to its path towards the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence.

The third wave as discussed by Steve Case in his book, *The Third Wave: An Entrepreneur's Vision of the Future* refers to what Case identifies as three waves in the internet age. The first (1985-1999) was "BUILDING THE INTERNET" (the foundation for the online world). The second wave (2000-2015) was the "APP ECONOMY AND MOBILE REVOLUTION," that brought search and social networks as well as media for ecommerce. The third wave, INTERNET OF EVERYTHING (2016-) is a "Ubiquitous connectivity [that] allows entrepreneurs to transform major, real-world sectors." One of those sectors is discussed in his section on transforming education. His opening paragraph in that section starts with "More personal. More Individualized. More data-driven."

The second paragraph starts thus: “Third Wave organizations — both for-profit and nonprofit — will leverage technology to revolutionize the way we learn.”

The third wave calls for the integration of web interaction as an extension of minds leveraging one another’s knowledge. In order to facilitate that it would need to utilize some computerized shortcuts to patterns, possibly built on information science ontology.

At This Stage of the Project. As of this writing, the website DEEP (Declaration Era Enterprise Press) is under development. It is an innovation designed to increase the productivity of learning efforts. It utilizes one of the greatest issues of our time, the endangerment of American Democracy, as a demonstration case hopefully indicating that improving the productivity of the learning process when applied to complex adaptive system may be achieved by using a lens of complexity that blends a variety of nascent disciplines and traditional disciplines.

The use of a wiki site is under consideration for a later stage, as is the development of apps that would provide excerpts from the three books and their appendices and opportunities for access to the texts from which the excerpts were drawn. **At this stage we would welcome options involving traditional publishers, but the enterprise is proceeding with launching hard copy publication.**

My hard copy book publication record started with John Wiley & Sons, and ran through three editions and a couple of decades. Also, I have published with Dow Jones-Irwin for a few books — mostly in analytics, and Prentice Hall companies for a couple of others. The quest is for the right publisher serving multiple markets and integrating digital publication, potentially with apps leading to supporting literature.

If an approved, traditional publisher is available in a timely manner, that is a desirable option, especially if the publisher would like to have a shortened version, but with access to the e-book version that would contain all of the appendices and links to the other books in the trilogy. **In any case, each of the three books will be completed in the full format both in hardcopy and digital publication so that research for the educational innovation can continue, and the not for sale review and comment paperback version will be used for building**

a leadership team to carry the project forward to a to be form not-for-profit organization.

The website DEEP (Declaration Era Educational Press), <http://www.mleofthemauryselfdinllc.net>, is designed for the addition of links and apps with the digital versions of the three books and external sources. The website is also designed to provide links to e-book versions of the books that contain the links to the website and the other books on the website. Also, to be provided is an opportunity to purchase trilogy books in hard copy form directly from the Emily E Press, the sister press in the Motivated Learning Enterprise (MLE) division of the Maury Seldin LLC; a division design spun off to a to-be-created not-for-profit organization.

The plan is to have e-books provide links to other books, at least within a website through which e-book versions could be purchased. I made unsuccessful efforts with Barnes & Noble to start off with an approach in hard copy publication leading to the digital approach, at least competitive with Apple's e-book structure in which the three books to be part of a single volume. But it would go further to include what was envisioned for the wiki under construction. Under that approach, it would provide links to the internet for other literature with the opportunity to easily return to reading from the e-book at the point from where the delving deeper was pursued. It would also provide opportunity for cross-selling in the chain store operations. That approach is still viable, but the website development containing an overview of the trilogy built around an essay titled *American Democracy Endangered: Restructuring American Democracy* is taking priority.

That approach is now being pursued with the establishment of a digital published Declaration Era Enterprise Press (DEEP) as an affiliate of the Emily E Press. The e-book publication of the three books will permit links among the books and from the overview essay on the centerpiece of a pamphlet titled *Restructuring American Democracy*.

Considering the time constraints, and the fact that the three books could be read in any sequence, the plan is to follow up from this review and comment version of this first book in a paperback copy form with a hardback publication to follow; but to move as quickly as possible

to repeating the review and comment paperback approach with the second and third books of the trilogy. The strategy is to provide an outreach to other authors and thought leaders leading to the building of a team for the construction of a Declaration of Reform.

The website is designed to promote the enlistment of supplements of essays, articles, or even just op-ed pieces by other authors, most of whom may be cited in the trilogy.

The hardback publication of the third book, *American Democracy: Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment*, containing six chapters and six appendices is the pivotal point in the mission to launch a team pursuing a Declaration of Reform. Although, only a paperback review and comment of the books will be ready before the 2020 election. It is clear to me that there is a substantial potential relationship between the Democratic Party's potential platforms for the 2020 elections in the reconstruction of the party's big-tent approach that has already been started with the result of the 2019 elections to the House of Representatives.

The Republican Party has morphed into the Trumpian Party, but my guess is that it will not survive in that form for very long in the sense of the Senate leadership deferring to presidential preferences on all matters up until some critical foreign policies arose. These are fractures in the system, but the great forces of some event has not occurred, although it may be looming.

It is possible but not likely that the Trumpian Party may break up before the 2020 elections, not only from the fallout of what might be revealed from the House investigations, but the start of an economic downturn. However, it may take a major economic and/or political disruption of the international scene. Even if the Trumpian Party makes it to the 2020 elections, by 2024 it may evolve back to some form of the Grand Old Party with conservative values for a free society rather than its current path to a plutocracy, with its autocratic leader pressing the boundaries of his authority on his path to an autocracy, considering that his playbook has an astounding resemblance to the Putin playbook.

I believe in, and trust, the resilience of the democratic system; it is just a question of the extent of pain and struggle en route to restoring our path to the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence.

However, my fear of disaster is great especially because we are being alienated from our democratic allies by trade and other environmental policies, and by increasing threats to our national security, some of which arise from the president's abuse of power.

The constitutional design was intended to protect from the injustices of tyranny, both from the majority as well as the minority and by the creation of three co-equal branches of government. American pluralism of democracy will do best with a blending of conservatism and liberalism in dealing with the changing global environment. This first book, focusing on raising the level of consciousness, also discusses how the building of social capital is spurred by the necessity of bonding among diversities as was done in the recovery from the Great Depression and leadership among the allies in the winning of World War II. The role of education of the electorate is critical in this process; and the pace of change and complexity of what is emerging is increasing the challenge.

A Later Stage of the Project.

Emerging in the form of a wiki, or a comparable format using apps, a later stage of the project under consideration, beyond the electronic publication of all three books as a single volume, is returning to the original exploration project in the form of an Academy in The Cloud for Motivated Learners. It was being designed as a lead to the research project built upon empowering the learner. At that stage we would be looking to provide the learner's mind with a tool that can serve as an extension of the mind. The mind is going to select information, process it in a paradigm, utilize a value system, and operate to defend or advance interests.

Andy Clark, in his book *Supersizing the Mind: Embodiment, Action, and Cognitive Extension*, in his third chapter, "Material Symbols," has sections on Language as Scaffolding, Augmenting Reality, and Sculpturing Attention. In that third section, the discussion may help us understand how to further empower the learner.^{xi} All of that is leading us to the other invisible hand, a concept that I coined as I was writing the *American Democracy: The Declaration Pursuit and Endangerment*, the main treatise of the series. It refers to the emergence of the evolving structures of

the political economy as there is a coevolution in societal behavior with a coevolution of the resulting structure of the political economy. It is the basis of a strategy for harnessing complexity in a free society.

Linear modeling, as in a closed system, is excellent for forecasting outcomes as long as the relationships do not evolve substantially during the forecasted time period. The nonlinear modeling as with agent-based models that deal with uncertainty utilizing patterns that emerge from the interaction of networks at various layers of a structure do better in assisting decision-making to achieve more favorable outcomes. But it is more than analytics; it is the ethics rooted in the morality of really caring about others in the pursuit of justice. That can be enhanced with analytics as well as with faith. It calls for a coevolution of the individual and society; a cultural change that takes time.

My best guess is that there is resilience in American Democracy that will return it to the path towards the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence. But it will take another binding together in the class of America's Second Revolution that transformed the Confederation to the Federation, what I am calling America's Third Revolution, a peaceful evolution of process and structure; a coevolution of individuals and society.

That transformation may well call for the information revolution serving the public with it social media rather than using the public as a commodity for merchants or others seeking contracts for profit and power. A shift to serving the social media clients, and motivated learners, whose interests are the priority to be served, calls for leveraging through the motivated learner and the pursuit of truth in the sense of understanding reality and the ethical behavior in the common sense understood by Thomas Paine in his pamphlet. However, the pace of societal change in globalization calls for more powerful analytics. That shortfall in the use of such analytics, and the abusive ethical behavior, led to the 21st century's Great Recession and under the current administration is leading to the next great disruption.

The choice should be clear. On the one hand, continuing with the divisiveness is likely to lead to great discontinuities in the economy and politics in the quality of life. The survival of

democracy is in danger; but its resuscitation may be possible with a binding together to the return to pluralism. As part of the process, a better educated populace aided with learning technology and leveraged with networks of motivated learners resulting in leadership with the capability and ethics essential for democracy provides a less disruptive process for the return to the pursuit of the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence. One way or another, it could be described as America's Third Revolution, hopefully in the tradition of America's Second Revolution.

This trilogy is offered as an assist to the process that may well have reached an inflection point in the 2018 midterm elections after having been jolted with the inflection point of the 2016 presidential elections. In time the trilogy could be compressed into a single volume, but the process will take an integration of disciplines, and leveraging with thought leaders, and the more knowledgeable and ethical leadership. Both sides of the aisle are welcome to the ideas in their restructuring to return to the pluralism essential to enhancing America's social capital that is current in short supply, but that could be enhanced with the application of better analytics and the restoration of the essential ethics for a democratic system.

PROLOGUE ENDNOTES

ⁱThat main treatise, *American Democracy: The Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment*, was intended as a centerpiece for a network of a selection of readings, facilitating the readership to pursue the variety of ideas to the depths of their interests.

ⁱⁱSee for example Andy Clark's *Supersize the Mind: Empowerment, Action, and Cognitive Extension*. An appendix titled *Empowerment through More Effective Learning* is being added to this timely trilogy's second volume, *Perspectives for a Sense of Place: Voter Empowerment*. That appendix contains a brief section from which the following excerpt is taken:

Cognitive Extension of the Mind Empowers Effective Action

Cognitive extension can contribute to effective action, as information, strategies and routines acquired or accessible from environmental sources inform decisions and result in empowered and effective outcomes. Access to technology and useful cognitive structures can also advance empowerment.

Clark cites the cognitive extension example of the contrasting behavior of Otto and Inga. Otto is an Alzheimer's patient who uses a notebook as memory. He reads and writes in it. Inga is an ordinary person who uses her brain, mentally perceiving and acting to gain information. For both of them, remembered information is used in their mental processing in essentially the same way and they consider the "memory store", whether in a notebook or the brain, to be part of themselves.

The lead co-author (Dr. Jack Lillibridge) is a psychologist who is now the interest group leader of the Seminar on Complexity Matters at ASPEC (Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College).

ⁱⁱⁱThe second book, *Perspectives for a Sense of Place: Voter Empowerment*, has as its core three essays that became chapters. They discuss science and religion in the context of nascent disciplines. One of those chapters has two appendices containing discussions of empowerment. A psychologist (Dr. John Lillibridge) is the lead co-author of those essays.

^{iv}It was also written before the 2016 elections; however, a chapter with the appendix previously noted is being added in 2018 as part of a new introductory section.

^vGregory Tietjen's introduction to Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense* is a great place to start understanding Thomas Paine, his sense of place, and his pamphlet. My choice for a path going further in the context of the Radical Enlightenment is, for the motivated learner, to read eight pages in Jonathan I. Israel's book, *Democratic Enlightenment: Philosophy, Revolution, and Human Rights, 1750-1790*. Those eight pages start on page 450. It is Chapter 16, titled "The American Revolution." That Jonathan I. Israel's book, *Democratic Enlightenment*, is Israel's third in the trilogy that starts with *Radical Enlightenment: Philosophy and the Making of Modernity 1650-1750*.

^{vi}According to Alejandro Portes (of the Department of Sociology of Princeton University) in his article titled "Social Capital: Its Origins and Applications in Modern Sociology:" "Despite its current popularity, the term does not embody any idea really new to sociologists. That involvement and participation in groups can have positive consequences for the individual and the community is a staple notion, dating back to Durkheim's emphasis on group life as an antidote to anomie and self-destruction and to Marx's distinction between an atomized class-in-itself and a mobilized and effective class-for-itself. Tracing the intellectual background of the concept into classical times would be tantamount to revisiting sociology's major nineteenth century sources." Portes continues: "The first systematic contemporary analysis of social capital was produced by Pierre Bourdieu, who defined the concept as "the aggregate of the actual or potential resources which are linked to possession of a durable network of more or less institutionalized relationships of mutual acquaintance or recognition" (Bourdieu 1985, p. 248; 1980)."

^{vii}The concept, as discussed by Isaiah Berlin is "...the conception that there are many different ends that men may seek and still be fully rational..." The

relevance, also as discussed by Isaiah Berlin is “We are urged to look upon life as affording a plurality of values, equally genuine, equally ultimate, above all equally objective; incapable, therefore, of being ordered in a timeless hierarchy, or judged in terms of some one absolute standard.” [That is from page 11 of Isaiah Berlin’s *The Crooked Timber of Humanity: Chapters in the History of Ideas*, edited by Henry Hardy. It is in the first of a collection of eight essays. That essay is titled “The Pursuit of the Ideal.”] The point here is that pluralism is in an essential ingredient for balance and diversity in our democratic society.

^{vii}The epilogue moves beyond our focus on a free society’s pursuit of goals articulated in the Declaration of Independence to consider an alternative. It is a philosophy for viewing a political economy as an unfree society under the leadership of a “redeemer” (a tyrannical leader in an autocratic structure). That was also early in the twentieth century. That discussion is contained in the section titled *Some More Thoughts on Learning*. It is near the end of the subsection titled *The Innovative Approach Continued* and is closely followed by the section titled *A Personal Story about My Learning in One Boring Course*.

^{ix}My personal experience with the use of an interdisciplinary approach that evolved to include using the lens of complexity science is in part discussed in the epilogue to this book.

^xSee chapter two of Charles Peters’ book *We Do Our Part: Toward a Fairer and More Equal America* (2017).

^{xi}Empowerment is what education is all about; in part for one’s own life and in part for the communities within which one functions. A sense of place is good one way to approach the empowerment, especially because it involves networks and emergence that impacts structures. In the second book of the trilogy there is an appendix, *Sense of Place and Empowerment* that discusses the topic. It is followed by another appendix, *Empowerment of a Society* that discusses how individuals may gain empowerment by networking with others who have a sufficient commonality of interests.