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# AMERICAN DEMOCRACY ENDANGERED

## RESTRUCTURING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

THE ESSAY FOR THE  
TIMELY TRILOGY OVERVIEW BOOKLET  
PRESENTING THE PREVIEW OF  
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY ENDANGERED

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by Maury Seldin LLC  
with Camille Chaplin

The DEEP website contains this booklet as its centerpiece.

A PDF is available for free download.

**THIS IS A REVIEW AND COMMENT COPY OF THE ESSAY.**

This is a review and comment copy of the centerpiece for the website, Declaration Era Educational Press (DEEP). Although the citations are deemed to be *FAIR USE*, the authors have an opportunity to render an alternative view. Adjustments will be made if such views are received.

In all candor, aside from comments being most welcome, the enterprise is especially interested in recruiting thought leaders who will share their thinking for at least two purposes. The first is to help educate motivated learners. The second is to potentially become a member of the team that will help in the preparation of a Declaration of Reform.

Substantial additional information is available upon request.

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## RESTRUCTURING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

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AMERICAN DEMOCRACY ENDANGERED



**EMILY E PRESS & DEEP**  
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This booklet has a companion booklet that includes excerpts from three books titled  
*Common Sense Revisited: America's Third Revolution*  
*Perspectives for a Sense of Place: Voter Empowerment*  
*American Democracy: The Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment.*

It is provided in hard copy through Emily E Press and in digital form through its affiliated website [mleofthemauryseidnllc.net](http://mleofthemauryseidnllc.net).

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**American Democracy Endangered:  
Restructuring American Democracy**

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## BACKGROUND LEADING TO BOOKLET AND WEBSITE

THE WEBSITE, the **Declaration Era Educational Press (DEEP)**, an affiliate of Emily E Press, is the website for the Research and Publication Division of the Maury Seldin LLC. The founder, Dr. Maury Seldin, established it as a follow-on to an exploratory wiki derived from a Homer Hoyt Institute research program initiated because of the subprime crisis and capital market freeze. That research program evolved to become known as the “*Homer Hoyt Institute Research Initiative*.” A one-page description of it is on the web; but there is substantial detail in the several pages of end notes.<sup>i</sup>

The website is a vehicle for an innovative educational approach that is rooted in the idea of facilitating an increase in the productivity

of motivated learners by providing options for delving deeper to satisfy critical thinking, and by framing presentations in a fashion that facilitates using a lens of complexity. The lens of complexity focuses on dealing with uncertainty when the system contains nonlinear relationships among choices made and outcomes. The uncertainty exists because of choices made by others in the changing environment and because of contingencies. The approach calls for strategies such as a minimax approach in which the decision-maker seeks to maximize the benefits of outcomes within the constraints of tolerable unfavorable outcomes.

### *Lens of Complexity*

The shortest published presentation authored by the founder to describe the approach is in a four-page article, *Getting to the Roots of Terrorism: Strategic Thinking to Solve a Complex Problem* published by the *Cosmos Club Journal* (2004, Volume 13). The link to the article is<sup>ii</sup> [GETTING TO THE ROOTS OF TERRORISM — Cosmos Club] That short publication, and a monograph, evolved from the ASPEC Center for Scholarly Enterprise project titled *Improving Strategic Decisions*.<sup>iii</sup> The monograph, *The Challenge to Our Thought Leaders*<sup>iv</sup> includes the second chapter that is titled “Enhancing the Quality of Life.” The link to the monograph is as follows: <http://hoytgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/The-Challenge-to-our-Thought-Leaders.pdf>.

### *Interdisciplinary Approach*

Although the aforementioned projects utilize the lens of complexity that is built upon nascent disciplines including *network science* and *complexity science*, earlier work by the founder of the Maury Seldin LLC was using the interdisciplinary approach in developing strategies for dealing with uncertainty for courses in real estate and urban economic development, utilizing computerized games, starting in the late 1960s. The book titled “Environmental Laboratory for the Social Sciences” contains a chapter reporting on the experiences at the American University in real estate related courses, circa 1970.<sup>v</sup>

### *Educational Innovation*

The educational innovation was started with the very first research project conducted by Maury Seldin upon his arrival at The American University in 1965. It was to understand how land values in a section of Arlington, Virginia increased tenfold within a few years. The answer was an exceptional cooperation and coordination in the public sector among the planning/zoning authority, public works authorities, and taxation authorities. That led to a proposal to HUD for a market information system that would provide guidance. The result was a demonstration project by Fairfax County providing an urban development information system. Among the impacts, was a revision in state regulation by Virginia countering exclusionary zoning. That project led to numerous expert testimonies relating to land-use.

### *Markets and Emergence*

That project was among numerous projects that provide a better understanding of the role of markets in blending diverse interests. Other expert testimonies built upon understanding of markets and values including being the last expert in the Exxon Valdez case testifying that preservation land has market value. Another understanding of markets was demonstrated in a research project for the Northern Marianas Political Status Commission. It was land valuation to be used for negotiations of rights for use of the land for national security purposes. These all relate to understanding how systems work, frequently focus on the valuation process. Maury Seldin's first publication on valuation process was published by the *Appraisal Journal* while he was still a doctoral student in the late 1950s. The most recent publication on valuation was about 65 years later. The article titled, "Hidden complexity in housing markets: a case for alternative models and techniques," is co-authored by David Wyman, Elaine Worzala, and Maury Seldin. It is published in the *International Journal of Housing Markets and Analysis* Volume 6, Number 4, 2013.

### *Books Published and Other Stuff*

The book publications started with *Real Estate Investment Strategy*, co-authored by Richard Swesnik, and published by John

Wiley & Sons. It was in publication for two decades and three editions. Most of the other works were published by Dow Jones Irwin, but some were published by Prentice-Hall companies. These were focused on real estate analytics.

The Maury Seldin perspective of real estate as an interdisciplinary subject is recorded back to the early 1960s in a keynote speech to Rho Epsilon, the national real estate fraternity, at its national convention held at the University of Southern California. Maury Seldin was on the faculty as an assistant professor. He was a full professor by the age of 40, and retired from the American University as a chaired professor emeritus in 1990, after 25 years of service.

Since then his work continued with Hoyt Group activities, seminar leadership and ASPEC (Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College) and varied authorship activities.

The DEEP website and the trilogy are part of the to-be-transferred property to a to be created not-for-profit organization designed to carry forward the innovative processes designed to improve the effectiveness of higher education. The LLC vehicle is serving to provide an intermediate stage during which an appropriate leadership team may be developed.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>i</sup>See Fall 2011 —“Homer Hoyt Institute Research Initiative.”



<sup>ii</sup>See GETTING TO THE ROOTS OF TERRORISM — Cosmos Club; in the *Cosmos Club Journal* (2004, Volume 13).

<http://www.cosmosclub.org/journals/2004/seldin.html>.

Maury Seldin (CC 1982) is a chair professor emeritus from The American University in Washington, D.C., and heads a Florida-based social science think tank (<http://hoytgroup.org/>).

<sup>iii</sup>See ASPEC Center For Scholarly Enterprise (ACSE)

<http://www.spicequest.com/acse/>.

ASPEC Center For Scholarly Enterprise (ACSE) Scholarly Enterprise is evidenced by creative and rigorous research, undertaken either for personal intellectual satisfaction or with the goal of adding to the literature of the field, which leads to results that are subject to peer review.

<sup>iv</sup>See *The Challenge to Our Thought Leaders*

<http://hoytgroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/The-Challenge-to-our-Thought-Leaders.pdf>.

<sup>v</sup>An *Environmental Laboratory for the Social Sciences*. <https://tinyurl.com/wb986eu>.

## PERSONHOOD

The 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 a 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 with 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 school's 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.

### PERSONHOOD ASSISTANT

Camille Chaplin is the Personhood Assistant to the Maury Seldin LLC and the manager of the website, Declaration Era Educational Press, identified as DEEP.



PREFACE TO THE OVERVIEW  
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY ENDANGERED  
RESTRUCTURING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY



*The Trilogy Presents an Understanding of the System*

The body of American Democracy is an array of organs interacting. Organs include the economy, the political structure, and the societal structure. They are best understood using a lens of complexity. An analogical approach may be used to understand the body of American Democracy using the same principles as are used to understanding the human body.

This preface is for the essay that is an overview of the trilogy of books collectively titled *American Democracy Endangered*. The trilogy's first book, *Common Sense Revisited: America's Third Revolution*, picks up on the inspiration of the Thomas Paine pamphlet, *Common Sense* in the idea of being designed to raise the level of consciousness of the electorate and its leadership. The book goes beyond common sense to call for analytics better suited to favorably influencing outcomes when dealing with the complexity of evolving systems.

The trilogy's second book, *Perspectives for a Sense of Place: Voter Empowerment*, focuses on the fact that democracy is intended to build upon the behavior of individuals. That behavior may be viewed in the context of the sense of place each person feels and her or his abilities and activities, especially in the realm of civic engagement. Essentially, this book is supportive of understanding the trilogy's third book, *American Democracy: The Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment*. An excerpt from the prologue of that third book is as follows:

“The biological evolution of American Democracy having encountered decades of decay could become in its demise an autocracy. It is already arguably a plutocracy or least a hybrid combining a plutocracy and a democracy. The 2018 midterm elections, producing the greatest representative diversity in the House of Representatives that Congress

has ever experienced, indicated an inflection point for a different path. This book sees the potential of a different path that would take considerable time to evolve, but would eventually cross the aisle to what will become a GNP (Grand New Party) once the Trumpian Republican Party is defeated at the national elections and the Republican Party restructures again.

The evolutionary process may be expedited by a Declaration of Reform in the spirit of what has been called America's Second Revolution, the transition from a confederation to a federation with the adoption of a constitution that was designed to avoid tyranny, the injustices of concentration of power.

As a matter of presentational style, this overview-essay when presented on the website will be provided with a companion presentation of the front matter of each of the three books. Each of the three presentation will include a table of contents and supplemental material. These presentations, centered on the overview essay, are designed to serve as part of the opening content of the website. They also serve as an introduction to Emily E Press, the publisher of the trilogy.

Understanding the system enhances the selection of choices that favorably impact outcomes. The trilogy is thus designed to aid motivated learners to improve outcomes for themselves and others. Consider the individuals as being the cells in the system, and the cancerous choices become dangerous to the health and survival of the system that provides the individuals' freedom and opportunity. It makes sense to understand the system so as to make choices that impact the health of the system in order to continue to enjoy freedom and opportunity that it provides. Enough failure in civic engagement will cause democracy to fail.

### *The Website Enhances the Productivity of Learning*

The website, DEEP (Declaration Era Educational Press), 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 a complex adaptive system may be achieved by using a lens of complexity that blends a variety of nascent disciplines and traditional disciplines.

This case study demonstration evolved from some research on what has come to be known as the *2008 Financial Crisis* emanating from the housing bubble and capital market freeze. Some of the research that evolved included the application of complexity economics to better understand system. Research revealed that it wasn't simply a real estate finance problem, it was a societal problem of inadequate analytics and unethical behavior.

The approach is simply to develop a line of reasoning that explains behavior of the system, and the emergence of outcomes, as briefly as seems possible given that the knowledge necessary for understanding the system goes beyond common sense. It goes on to include nascent disciplines that are beginning to bloom the 21st century. Among such disciplines are complexity science, network science, and cognitive science; but complexity economics played a special role in the path that led to the creation of the sponsoring enterprise, the Maury Seldin LLC.

The development of a line of reasoning that is most intelligible may be presented in the context in which the motivated learner has some interest, and especially with an approach of critical thinking that avoids being misled by so-called *alternative facts*, that are actually fiction. The disrespect for truth resulting in dissemination of misinformation that is simply designed for impact, using only a bit of truth ensconced in a gross misrepresentation, or falsehoods (also known as lies), is cancerous to the health of a free society. The development of the line of reasoning thus goes beyond simply lining up concepts and linking them by algorithms.

The development of apps designed to take that algorithmic approach is part of the process under exploration and development of the website. An alternative comfortable approach for the motivated learner may be able to read an essay that tells the story. But the essay must be built upon truth, if it is to be credible, and should facilitate the motivated learner delving deeper. That is exactly what this overview essay is designed to do.

The process is underway of providing links to sections in each of the three books that put the concepts in context so that the reader may satisfy her critical thinking by checking out sources and making her own judgments. Thus, each of the three books not only provides numerous links connecting concepts that explain ideas, but they are supplemented with essays in the form of appendices as numerous as chapters in the body of the book.

The process that uses the development and dissemination of knowledge relevant to the issues at hand is a blend of disciplines utilizing the lens of complexity for complex adaptive systems. This is in contrast to the processes used in the last couple of centuries that gave us a boon in the physical sciences, in which experimental methodology was able to test hypotheses by experiment and improve knowledge by incrementally using falsifiability tests. The quality of knowledge was enhanced when explanations were discarded because they could not survive appropriate falsifiability tests.

The social sciences became enamored with that scientific method, and has suffered from physics envy, not having a laboratory by which to experiment. The use of the lens of complexity in economics, political science, and sociology, has begun to take hold. The transition from closed models to evolving systems has not been easy.

Some of this is discussed in the trilogy, but the overview essay tries to gear the presentation to appeal to motivated learners who are on their way to their primetime. For those in their primetime, retooling is expensive, and the most feasible approach for most is to become part of an interdisciplinary team, in which the team produces an interdisciplinary approach to the issues at hand, when issues are part of a complex adaptive system.

### *Enhancing Empowerment Through Outreach*

Empowerment in the Enlightenment era was fostered by the advent of the rapid growth of the publication of books, facilitating the spread of knowledge. That was the beginning of a second blooming of an innovation in the thought process, the first had begun in the time of the great Greek philosophers. A third may have started with the seeds of nascent disciplines better able to deal with the fast-changing complexity of society, now impacted by the *Information Revolution*.

Unfortunately, the people participating in social media are to a great extent the commodity rather than the client of the platform provider whose revenue is most heavily dependent upon selling the information to parties who are looking to sell goods and/or services to the users, or to parties that are looking to influence the thinking, for whatever reason. Some of those reasons are cancerous to democracy, and current regulations do not do much to all the platform providers responsible for facilitating the distribution of misinformation.

Accountability by law and by norms is essential for preserving fair processes essential to the health of democracy. The consequences for lack of accountability are looming, or have already been manifested in a wide range of activities, including but not limited to the opioid crisis, environmental degradation, and manipulation of government regulations in fiscal matters.

The case in point is illustrated by timely trilogy's first book, *Common Sense Revisited: America's Third Revolution*. The administration's only major legislative act in its first year, 2017, came in December with the so-called Tax Reform Act. That was designed to provide tax relief to the wealthiest individuals as well as to the nation's largest business enterprises, especially those conducting business globally.

The trilogy's first book discusses how that legislation weakens the nation's fiscal ability to be able to facilitate a recovery from the next recession. It is a déjà vu of what happened in earlier tax regulation that so eroded the nation's ability to use fiscal stimulation for an economic recovery that heavy reliance was on monetary policy. Monetary policy is better suited for short-term regulations, but its heavy use led to a decade of unusually low interest rates that were harmful to the baby boomers. That includes those employees whose savings in retirement programs did not earn very much, and those who relied on defined-benefit plans that have now been failing because they were not able to meet their obligations. Aside from those other retirees, the absence of adequate fiscal stimulation to the economy adversely affected a lot of people because there was inadequate progress with infrastructure construction, and other government spending that could have been made, but for the excessive debt.

On December 31, 2019, the lead front page article of *The New York Times* is titled “Business Got Big Tax Cut; Lobbyists Made It Bigger.” The subhead is titled “Campaign to Add Loopholes to the Law - Deficit, Up 50%, Nears \$1 Trillion.” My summary, and structuring of a selection of a few points in the article by Jesse Drucker and Jim Tankersley, is as follows:

- The “budget reconciliation” process was used by the Republicans to pass the tax bill with a simple majority. They met the budget reconciliation test through expected elimination of deductions in introducing new taxes.
- The hasty construct of the bill, and the choices left open for its implementation, provided exceptional opportunities for lobbying for interpretations and exceptions.
- The result is that billions of dollars expected to be collected under the plan in coming years will not be collected; and, partly as a result of the tax law 2020 deficit be in the neighborhood of \$1 billion.

Obviously, the interests of the public were not well represented; and that issue of nonrepresentation is discussed in the essay. What is heavily discussed in the first book of the trilogy is the idea that the next recession will have a difficult recovery because of the limitations on fiscal policy. Now, add to that the consideration that prevailing interest rates are so low, that we don’t have the opportunity present after the Great Recession to make great reductions in interest rates.

As it happens, the same day (December 31, 2019) the *Wall Street Journal* had a front-page story titled “Stocks Set to Clinch Best Year Since 2013 as Tech Dominates.” It is by Paul Vigna. My interpretation is the rise in a great many markets makes room for a very large decline, and the rising debt situation will aggravate the adjustment. Add to that, other regulatory changes in the resurgence of derivatives in other markets is exposing the economy to great risks.

The overview essay includes some discussion of outreach through the Internet and self-organization of dealing with some of the shortfalls of representation, such as the gerrymandering, indicate some hope for reform arising from the citizenry seeking to assert their rights. The second book of the trilogy is subtitled, “Voter Empowerment.”

PROLOGUE FOR  
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY ENDANGERED  
RESTRUCTURING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY



This booklet, *American Democracy Endangered: Restructuring American Democracy*, provides the overview to the timely trilogy of books collectively titled *American Democracy Endangered*. The books are titled as follows:

1. *Common Sense Revisited: America's Third Revolution*;
2. *Perspectives for a Sense of Place: Voter Empowerment*; &
3. *American Democracy: The Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment*.

Each of the books is first published in a review and comment only paperback version that is not for sale. It is distributed primarily to cited book authors and columnists for three purposes as follows:

1. To enlist thought leaders and others in an educational endeavor to foster a declaration of reform returning American Democracy back to its path towards the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence;
2. To provide an opportunity for any objections to the extensive fair use of quotations and excerpts in citations designed to facilitate motivated learners to delve deeper in their critical thinking pursuits; and
3. To facilitate the continuation of the educational endeavor for innovation in higher education initially marked by the exploration of the use of a wiki site for research on the learning process as an approach to dealing with the outrageous costs of higher education.

This booklet is also provided in digital format on the website titled *Declaration Era Educational Press (DEEP)*. That developing website will facilitate distribution of the books when published for sale in hard copy and in digital format. Considering time pressures, especially facilitating other authors contributions and modifying the review and comment only paperbacks, and the time it takes to move the already drafted books from current files to book design and publication, it is possible to provide links to yet unpublished

passages or sections of the book in order to enable motivated learners to delve deeper without having to buy anything.

Apps provided for that purpose are free and used as a successor to the earlier wiki format exploration. When digital books are available, the website will provide substantially discounted prices for purchasing any or all of the three books. In the interim, the booklet and the website contain excerpts from the front matter from each of the three books.

Each book was designed to present as briefly as deemed feasible the line of reasoning providing the path towards the main treatise contained in the third book of the trilogy. The handful of chapters is supplemented with prologues, epilogues, and endnotes. Additionally there are appendices that are as voluminous as the core text. The hard copy publication of each book will contain the full range of supplements designed to enable the motivated learner to delve deeper. Additionally the *Declaration Era Educational Press* digital version will contain links among the books in the trilogy and to the web to enable the reader to delve deeper. In some cases, discounted versions of related books may be available through the website.

Traditional book publishers heavily focused on cutting costs relative to competitive prices may desire to significantly cut costs by not including any or all of the appendices, and by reducing the number and/or length of endnotes. Additionally, because the jargon of nascent disciplines is used to explain the concepts in dealing with complex adaptive systems, some of the traditional publishers may choose to engage in what is known as a *translational science* approach (known in medical research as “bench to bed”) by use of editing and potentially even rewriting text to facilitate the knowledge dissemination more directly to the broader trade market. **The Maury Seldin LLC acquired from Maury Seldin the individual authorship rights that he possessed, and is willing to permit substantial translational science presentations by traditional book publishers so that they could target segments of the book market.**

The marketing plan for the trilogy is focused on three markets as follows:

1. The prime constituency is the motivated learner because it will take motivated learners to delve deeply enough to grasp



the complexity of the interdisciplinary nature of the organic structures that are impacting the quality of life in America. Life in America is significantly impacted by the interaction of systems historically studied as separate social science disciplines. That silo structure worked reasonably well for the first couple of centuries of our nation's evolutionary development. However, the acceleration of the pace of change, and the associated nature of change, calls for using a lens of complexity that clarifies the understanding of the interdisciplinary nature of the system. Fortunately, nascent disciplines are developing rapidly so as to assist in grasping the nature of process and structure impacting the quality of our lives.

2. The secondary constituency has multiple classifications, starting with book authors and critics. The marketing strategy is utilizing the publication of a not-for-sale paperback version prior to the publication of the hard copy designed for the trade, and the associated digital versions. Beyond book authors and critics, there are other thought leaders in academia, government, and not-for-profit institutions who have explored approaches to a variety of societal issues. In essence, the second constituency, who by virtue of education and/or experience is not only able to grasp an interdisciplinary approach using nascent disciplines to develop a paradigm shift for dealing with the issues facing American Democracy, is also able to make significant contributions to the content of the approach and/or to its distribution.
3. The tertiary constituency is researchers. As a start, we have researchers in the cognitive sciences particularly interested in longitudinal studies that can enhance the productivity of learning efforts. As a second classification in the tertiary constituency, there are social science researchers with capability in the nascent disciplines of complexity science and network science. Or put another way, the classification is of scientists familiar with complexity science and network science that are prepared to model the

social sciences. Either way, the idea is to build agent-based models that are of assistance to the enhancement of our understanding of patterns of behavior that would lead to better outcomes by improving process and structure in the social sciences. In our pilot case at hand, we are looking at American Democracy; but it just happens to be a situation of exceptional concern in the evolution of mankind.

This essay is amazingly nearly free of footnotes and/or endnotes in comparison with the essays that found their way to be chapters in the books of the trilogy. To some extent that will be rectified by the digital version of the essay as posted on the website of Emily E Press where links will be provided to content within the trilogy and apps will be provided taking the reader on paths facilitating delving deeper with great efficiency.

This extension of the trilogy is being posted on the website, with the booklet as an overview, so as to enable a much wider readership to get a better understanding of what will help them in learning how to fulfill their responsibility of living in a free society. It is being provided as a free good on the website. The idea is to foster access to knowledge with much greater efficiency, and ability to exercise critical thinking, than it is available by most alternatives. **The motivated learners have a significant role to play in this process by sharing their knowledge on social media, and providing links to the site so that others may delve deeper, and do a better job in filling their obligations to protect the existence of the free society that provides them with the opportunity to have the choice.**

# AMERICAN DEMOCRACY ENDANGERED RESTRUCTURING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

## THE CURRENT SITUATION

### *Establishment Rejection Signals Reconstruction*

Although the establishment, as represented by both major political parties, was rejected in the 2016 presidential election, the inflection point for restructuring American Democracy did not occur until the 2018 midterm elections when the election of the members of the House of Representatives produced a diversity of Representatives that was closer to the diversity of the electorate than that of any other time in modernity. The rejection of the establishment turned out to be a continuity of a cultural change that increased the concentration of political power among the wealthy and reduced the representation of the eligible electorate in state and federal government.

The process of restructuring American Democracy is heavily dependent upon restoring a commonality of pluralistic values, especially valuing truth, respect for institutions, and the recognition of mutual dependence. That restructuring is a lengthy process, but it may be fostered by the disaster waiting to happen. That disaster will emerge from the election of a president whose shortfall in character and competence is fostering an economic disaster with which the federal government is not prepared to handle.

### *Capability and Issues for Reconstruction*

Historically, federal government policies for countering economic downturns started with fiscal policy that could be supplemented with monetary policy. The administration's only major legislative achievement was a so-called tax reform that mostly rewarded the wealthy for their political support. It increased the federal debt continuing to weaken the availability of fiscal policy to counter an economic downturn. The last debacle, the Great Recession, had to rely so heavily upon monetary policy that the current situation reflects an erosion of a resiliency needed for recovery from the next economic downturn. Additionally, the

regulatory system has been intentionally eroded resulting in a weakening of the ability to constructively deal with a broad variety of societal issues.

Of particular concern here are the dimensions of characteristics of American Democracy as envisioned in the Declaration of Independence and the famous claim as to unalienable rights, “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. [Emphasis added.]” The equality refers to the dimensions of rights; especially as to rights of equality of representation in the operation of a democratic government and the equality of reciprocity in the operation of the economy.

As to the rights of equality of representation, the most blatant distortion may well be the gerrymandering by the state authorities designed for maximum distortion of representation in favor of the political party in power; the Democrats in Maryland and the Republicans in North Carolina. The Supreme Court of the United States of America has refused to intervene to remedy the injustice of the process by which the structure is created. The State of North Carolina has attempted to make only a minor adjustment; apparently having no regard for the spirit of the law.

As to the equality of reciprocity, in the last couple of decades the wealth of the richest 10% of the American population has increased dramatically while the assets of the other 90% only modestly; but the debt of that wealthiest 10% hasn’t changed much relatively speaking, but the debt of the 90% has increased dramatically. The net result is that the vast majority of the population has been unfairly treated by the political-economy in the terms of reciprocity.

The short explanation is that the concentration of power has exploited the system politically and economically; and it has done so largely within the law — especially laws that have been designed by the benefactors for their personal benefit at the expense of the general public. These exploitations are cancerous to the health and survival of American Democracy. They are the stuff from which revolutions are made.

### *The Failure of Constitutional Checks and Balances*

The current situation, as of January 31, 2020, is that the President of the United States has been impeached by the House of Representatives. The first, of the two articles of impeachment, is titled ABUSE OF POWER. The second is titled OBSTRUCTION OF CONGRESS. The trial has started in the Senate and the vote for including witnesses for testimony in the Senate as part of the trial was taken late on Friday January 31. The Senate, serving as court and jury, denied including witnesses by a vote of 51 to 49, with only two Republicans voting to include additional witnesses, even though information had arrived, including that John Bolton, a former the high-level White House officials has first-hand knowledge of key events and would testify if subpoenaed.

These few paragraphs, under the title of “*The Failure of Constitutional Checks and Balances*,” are being drafted on February 2, with the expectation that the Senate, when voting for conviction or acquittal, will acquit because the constitutional requirement is for two thirds majority, 67 Senators to vote for a conviction will not be met. The outcome of the trial, in the dimension of removal from office, was never in doubt, considering the tribalism that is involved in the concentration of power, and the tyrannical behavior of the President of the United States.

The current situation is an evolving structure, but as is explained in the timely trilogy, *American Democracy Endangered*, it is *process* that alters *structure*; and structure in turn alters process. The failure of the Senate to honor the basic values that underlie the progress made by *The Great Experiment*, American Democracy, for two centuries, and the decay in recent decades that has moved American Democracy toward a substantial increase in the power of the presidency and a diminution of the role of Congress is taking us on a path to tyranny. The power to be exercised by the electorate will determine the survival of American Democracy. It is in grave danger, and if an insufficient number of eligible voters do not responsibly fulfill their civic obligations for the survival of a free society that values the rule of law, truth, and the fairness necessary for the pursuit of equality of rights deemed to be unalienable in the Declaration of Independence, then they will no longer live in a free society.

The outcomes of the 2020 elections, starting with that of the presidency, but especially including that of a handful of Republican Senators up for reelection in states in which they are vulnerable, will be a critical inflection point in what has started to provide the best correlation between the profile of the electorate and the representatives in the House of Representatives that has occurred in recent times. Democracy requires at least a two-party system, and a mutual dependence for the survival and flourishing of a system that is based upon a set of equality of rights.

## MUTUAL DEPENDENCE

### *The Founding Leadership and Politics*

The concentration of power was a great fear of the founding leadership of American Democracy. It led from the American Revolution to what is been called *America's Second Revolution*, the conversion of a confederation to a federation. The current situation of American Democracy is best understood with some historical background, particularly with the founding leadership's understanding of mutual dependence.

The increase in divisiveness between the two major political parties over the last few decades, exemplified by the political tribalism, is antithetical to the unity that arises from recognition of mutual dependence. American Democracy as a form of government is designed for *pluralism* that calls for *unity with values for institutional arrangements that respect the call for honest behavior observing societal norms as well as laws*. As an ideal, consider that the American Democracy was launched with the signing of the Declaration of Independence that concluded with the following:

“And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”

That is commitment!

The key element of that commitment, *mutuality of the pledge*,

has been an element somewhat neglected in the context of the understanding of the Enlightenment era as compared to other elements leading to the Great Experiment of American Democracy. Elements receiving substantial attention were reason, source of authority, freedom of thought and speech, and justice. The interrelationship of those elements led to a rebellion that morphed into a struggle for independence of thirteen sovereign states forming the Confederation of these *united [sic] States of America*.

**That key element of mutual dependence** is of great significance in the self-organization process that took place among the colonists. They recognized that they could not be freed from the injustices imposed upon them by the leader of a tyrannical hierarchy without uniting. That unity arose from a *self-organization* that recognized mutual dependence. It was sufficient under brilliant leadership to enable them to form a confederation that was fortunate in leading to independence from a concentration of power in the form of the authority of the King George III.

After successfully achieving independence as thirteen sovereign states in a confederate structure of unity, the leadership realized that the mutual dependence required a stronger bond. That stronger bond came about in what has been called *America's Second Revolution*, the peaceful conversion from a confederation to a federation developed with the creation of a constitution designed to avoid excessive concentration of power. The great fear was that an excessive concentration of power would lead back to tyranny. The quotation from one of a progressive's two favorite conservative columnists is as follows: "America's central government is exceptionally constructed to limit the discretion of those in power by balancing rival centers of power [page xxvii]." The book is *The Conservative Sensibility* by George F. Will ["George Will Leaves the GOP Over Donald Trump" — *The New York Times* — <https://tinyurl.com/y587h7l4>].

### *The Weakened Bond and the Pursuit of Autocracy*

That author, George F. Will, is a scholar who has a very fine understanding of the roots of conservatism and the necessity of reform. There are other conservatives that feel the same way, but have been intimidated by the tactics of the current President of the

United States who appears to be pursuing a road to an autocracy. These other conservatives would do well to read an additional book that sheds light on the line of reasoning being developed in the trilogy for which this essay is designed to serve as a preview. That book, *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life*, is authored by David Brooks, the other of that progressive's two favorite columnists that may be deemed to be located on the right side of the aisle rather than the left side.

The previously noted progressive's personhood has influenced the personhood of the Maury Seldin LLC, the author of the trilogy to which this essay was designed to serve as a preview. Both Maury and the LLC are hereby recommending those two books to both Democrats and Republicans. Republican Senators who are intimidated by the current President of the United States, especially the Senate majority leader who seems to seek presidential approval before allowing discussion of bills sent over by the House of Representatives, are especially recommended to read both books. The integrity of our nation is at stake.

Disciplines in the social sciences and humanities, have some similarities to understanding religion and life in general. The relevance is set up in a single sentence noted by Stephen Prothero in quoting the German philologist and comparative religionist Max Muller who famously wrote, "He who knows one, knows none."<sup>1</sup>

When this essay was first drafted, Congress was on its 2019 summer recess, and the draft at that time noted that it will be interesting to see the Congressional commitment on both sides

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<sup>1</sup> That is noted in a discussion of the *silos syndrome* in the second book of the trilogy. The paragraph is as follows: Denominations in religions are faced with the same problems of working in silos as do disciplines in science. Knowledge/belief may be gained by drilling down to find out more, but understanding others significantly enhances understanding one's own. Stephen Prothero sums up the case in a paragraph from his book, *God Is Not One: The Eight Religions That Run the World — and Why Their Differences Matter*. After references to Confucians reminding us that "no human being is an island" and a quote from Abraham Heschel's writing, "No religion is an island either," Prothero concludes the paragraph (on page 16) with "As the German philologist and comparative religionist Max Muller famously put it, 'He who knows one, knows none.'"



of the aisle, and both in the House of Representatives and in the Senate, the extent of commitment to congressional oversight authority. Although the members of Congress have taken an oath to uphold the Constitution, they have not pledged as did the founding fathers [mutually] to each other “our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.”

Then, when the December 2019 draft of this essay was created for review and comment, the House of Representatives voted on two articles of impeachment, pretty much along party lines. Speaker Nancy Pelosi delayed sending articles to the Senate in hopes of getting an agreement as to the issues regarding witnesses. As events unfolded, the December 21 issue of *The New York Times* carried a front-page article by Carl Hulse titled “MCCONNELL SETS COLLISION COURSE AND IMPEACHMENT.” The subtitle is “SHOWDOWN OVER TRIAL.” The next subhead is “Senate Majority Leader Fights to Limit Scope of Proceedings.” The opening paragraph starts as follows:

WASHINGTON — Shattering convention, he held open a Supreme Court seat for 11 months. He twice changed Senate rules to create a record-setting assembly line of conservative federal judicial confirmations. He has been ruthless in his control of the Senate floor, denying Republicans and Democrats alike much opportunity to debate legislation.

A republican form of government is predicated on the sovereign state deriving its authority from the voting citizenry who expect their interests to be represented. It is a fiduciary relationship meaning that the voter places trust, confidence, and reliance on the elected representative to serve the voter’s interests. How well those interests are served are indicative of the stage of the evolution of American Democracy (in growth or decay) within which we find ourselves.

In the months between the time Congress returns from the summer 2019 recess ending in September and the 2020 presidential election in November there will be a series of markers as to the condition of the integrity of the individual members of Congress and to the Congress as a whole. Understanding where we as a nation are today and the processes by which we as individuals and

as a community will evolve is the goal that is being pursued by this educational endeavor.

Events are unfolding rapidly. Mutual dependence domestically is an important part of understanding our democratic system in its current form. But there is a mutual dependence globally, and its neglect or abuse has significant domestic implications. A further slice of the situation with regard to presidential actions and congressional responsibility is discussed in a *New York Times* op-ed column [August 12, 2019] titled “How to Stop Trump’s Trade War.” It is by Jennifer A. Hillman who has served as General Counsel in the office of the United States Trade Representative. She makes the point that President Trump is not following the rules for tariff imposition and that Congress is not reining in his authority.

The premise is that understanding and truth will make the difference. The educational strategy of the trilogy is looking to leverage through thought leaders and then through motivated learners and networks to come to grips with reality. The view that the *truth doesn’t matter* is a cancer to our democracy.

Evolution will change the situation. The great uncertainty is in the nature and timing of what comes after the Trumpian autocracy pursuit of power; a pursuit destined to be unsuccessful, assuming that American Democracy really has the resilience for survival. The faith in the resilience, however, is based upon the faith that cultures do change. The American culture evolved for two centuries with progress based upon respect for its pluralism and work across the aisle that had respect for the importance of the mutuality of interest in the survival of a free society. The survival of a free society is what this is all about, **but it will take a cultural change.**

### *Process and Structure*

Cultural change is an evolutionary process. The culture is a structure at a point in time; but it is the process in the biological system of the society that alters structure. That biological system of society is a complex adaptive system marked by inflection points in process that lead to changed characteristics in structure. The changed characteristics and structure are alterations of the environment; a condition that may impact process.

As the processes adapt to the changed environment, so the changing environment is altered in successive iterations. As the process continues, the culture changes. **The changes that have been occurring in recent decades have led us to a divisiveness that is a direct attack on mutual dependence.** The conventional wisdom is to view the co-evolution of the electorate and the culture as though it had an appropriate correlation dealing with an equality in the rights of representation in the government that are actually expressed in the operation of the republic.

**The electoral process distorts the representation of the interests of the voting public on numerous accounts.** Aside for the wisdom challenged decision of the Supreme Court permitting excessive contributions to political campaigns by business entities providing them with a personhood that falls short of voting, but yet provides a magnification of the power of the wealthy beyond what already distorts representation, the concentration of power moves forward with denials of voting access such as purging eligibility and other regulations biased toward prevailing political power in the jurisdiction. It further distorts the representation by gerrymandering. To top it off, it uses an electoral college system in which the popular vote of the voters is distorted by the counting the votes of the elected legislators rather than the popular vote. Thus, while California and Texas collectively represent about 20% of the nation's population, they represent only 4% of the Senate. Add to this, the distortion by the gerrymandering, and the popular vote is very interesting, but analytically not determinative of who was elected President of the United States in 2016; and it will not be the determining force for who is elected president in 2020.

A book published after the page proofs from this essay became available, but before the essay was sent to the printer for saddle-stitched-bound copies of the booklet, the contents of which will be, or already serve as the centerpiece of the DEEP website, made the point of non-representativeness of the electorate; and, did so with substantial detail. A *New York Times* book review summary, ("How to Mend Our Broken Politics," December 22, 2019) by Ari Berman, summarizes the point made in the previous paragraph in the following excerpt from the review:

Voter suppression undermines free and fair elections, gerrymandering allows politicians pick their preferred electorate, the Senate and the electoral college favors small states and swing states over the rest of the country and post-Citizens United campaign-finance system gives a tiny handful of billionaires far more clout than the average small donor. “In every dimension, core principle of a representative democracy has been compromised.” He writes.

The book, *They Don't Represent Us: Reclaiming Democracy*, is by Lawrence Lessig. It is a powerful book for three reasons. First, it makes a well-reasoned case for why the voting public is not well represented. Second, it uses the case of Katie, as an excellent example of how members of the voting public can self-organize and get structural changes. And third, by doing the first and second things, it paves the way for blending the contributions of a multiplicity of authors to collectively provide the body of knowledge that explains how the lens of complexity that may be used in educational innovation to alter the culture.

How the DEEP website can facilitate the process is to be explored. The thesis of the educational innovation of this enterprise is that the blending of experts of diverse talents can pave the way towards a Declaration of Reform. There are ample ideas of changes that would alter the structure of democracy in America to facilitate restoring us toward our path toward achieving the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence. But we need to consider how to deal with actually doing what is noted the opening two sentences of this section, *Process and Structure*, “Cultural change is an evolutionary process. The culture is a structure at a point in time; but it is the process in the biological system of the society that alters structure.

There is sufficient knowledge of distortion to prompt electoral campaigns to focus on swing states; states that can switch the balance in the legislature. Thus, there is a need for a restructuring of American Democracy in order to move closer to the equality in political representation so that the swing states do not have their status of exceptional importance by virtue

of the unrepresentative structure embodied in the electoral college. There are other considerations including institutions, norms, and truths; but rule of law, knowledge, and morality are significant forces on the evolution of process and structure. The restructuring, however, is heavily dependent on the cultural change that influences human behavior.

## CULTURAL CHANGE

### *Perspectives of Behavior*

Behavior, as used here, refers to both individual human behavior and collective societal behavior. Discipline refers to individual human discipline and societal discipline. Culture refers to the dominant culture's influence on individual behavior and discipline as well as the collective pluralistic culture of society.

These concepts are critical to the feasibility of a *Declaration of Reform*. A *Declaration of Reform*, when prepared, is intended to specify in general terms the goals and the values of the pluralistic culture of the political economy, the society that is the subject of the analyses. The basic premise of the approach is that the fundamentals of the analytics (the tools for thought) used for understanding and influencing individual human behavior are the same as the analytics used for understanding and influencing the collective pluralistic culture. Both systems are complex adaptive systems that are heavily dependent upon choices made within layers of networks producing emergent properties at successively higher layers to the point where one could speak of the mind of society just as we speak of the mind of the individual.

In both cases the analytics are built upon consideration of process and structure. The structure of the system influences the processes and the choices made within the processes in turn influence the evolution of the structure. The great challenge is in the selection of disciplines for the systems.

Another great challenge is the evolution of structure that alters conditions impacting choices made. For individual behavior it is generally believed that the genetic structure is the start of the individual's behavior, but beyond the genes, the memes blend for

the growth and development of the individual. Behavior is different in many respects during the stages of infancy through childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. The same could be said for the society as a whole. Societal behavior varies widely. Consider that many societies are still operating in a childhood stage of development, while others are in a stage best described as adolescent. It would be hard to make the case that any of the global societies, including our own, would reasonably be classified as adult in the sense of having reached a stage of maturity. A successful argument that a society had reached the stage of maturity would open the door to the question of has that maturity passed, and it is now in the period of decay. That is a plausible argument for some societies, but it would be worth considering that they are suffering from a fatal illness.

The societal analogy drawn from human beings based on stages of development is obviously much too simplistic for grasping the complexity of an evolutionary process dealing with culture. The analogy, however, is useful in comparison of the stage of development with the complexity of the environment. It is the evolution of the relationship between a fast-paced evolution process and ability to effectively handle the rapidly changing environment.

Primitive societies survived by valuing mutual dependence building a social capital with some specialization in family structure and cooperation. The earlier societies could afford a slower learning curve than we can afford with a rapidly changing environment. The Native American Lenape tribe did better at preserving their environment than we are doing with the same land, but we have to deal with the rising problem of the destruction of land suitable for food creation at a substantially greater rate than it is able to regenerate. On the top of that we are adversely affecting the climate that is worsening the situation. Aside from mishandling the nature of the earth as a planet, we are significantly mishandling the relationships between the citizens at large and the society as a whole, not to mention the other dysfunctional system of the interrelationships among the multiplicity of nation states.

Understanding the complexity sufficiently well to effectively deal with domestic societal organization is an important ingredient for

success, especially in adapting to a changing environment. The ancient Israelites were the first to grasp the concept that the world evolved and civilization was not a repetitious cycle, but rather an evolutionary system in which adaptation was essential to survival. When security called for a banding together of tribes for the election of a king as a matter of security, they adapted. That is also what the colonists did. And the bonding together of the colonists evolved to become a federation with a transition to a societal organization somewhere between what Scotland did and what France did in adapting to the changing environment of the Enlightenment era.

For Western civilization, the major change providing a transition towards a broadening pattern of democracies occurred between the ancient Greek philosophers and a shift in the Enlightenment era with the idea that individuals have the right to think for themselves, express views, and self-organize as an alternative to being subjects in a hierarchal structure. America's choice in the transition was something between what the Scots did with modest changes and what the French did in an extreme societal change.

Since the time of the Enlightenment, some great problems have arisen because of the misunderstanding of the philosophy of Adam Smith and the use of the concept of the *invisible hand*. The complexity of the environment with which he was dealing when he wrote the *Wealth of Nations* was nowhere near the complexity with which we have to contend. The conservative view of the interpretation of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution used the transition from a confederation to a federation as forming a government restricting what it was authorized to do rather than mandating what should do.

A great evolutionary change came about as a reaction to the Great Depression. It produced a great structural change, some of which may have been envisioned earlier. The point is simply that the complexity of the system of a free society continues to change; and the understanding of the process of change facilitates the ability to deal with the environmental changes. The process is quite challenging. The assessment of the current condition, submitted here, is that we are not only not doing well, we are operating in a dysfunctional system that in recent decades has backtracked from two centuries of progress.

Additionally, there is no small matter that there are basically two major different schools of thought that in some degree are at the core of opposing political parties that have now evolved to a tribalistic behavior inconsistent the preservation of a free society. The *Restructuring of American Democracy* is a challenge that is being introduced in this essay, but as discussed in some detail in the trilogy of books that are intended to contribute to the education of leadership and populace, is a challenge that if properly met would facilitate progress towards a *Declaration of Reform* as a step in the path towards return to pursuing the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence.

In order to better understand the evolving system, it is useful to go beyond common sense and integrate nascent disciplines into the learning process of leadership and thought leaders with a leveraging of the system that can use *translational science* (the bench to bed idea in medicine) in order to better influence outcomes.

The roots of the Republican Party have historically relied on the concept of culture providing the discipline with a minimization of government interference. The roots of the Democratic Party, by way of contrast, have moved from a liberalism that was a great strength emerging from the necessity of counteracting the damage of the Great Depression to a progressivism. It was revisited a few decades later with a Great Society going beyond the New Deal, and generated a backlash. That backlash developing a few decades after the Great Society, materialized with the Republican Party making great progress in a shift of power that was altering the legal structure used for the rule of law, but was designed to favor the interests of the wealthy. Furthermore, it shifted from its policy of fiscal restraint.

Some of the consequences of the shift of power, and the erosion of values, were among the numerous factors contributing to the Great Recession. Additionally, the approach that dealt with the recovery was a significant factor in the 2016 presidential election that reflected a rejection of the establishment as represented by both political parties. The divisiveness had been brewing for at least a couple of decades and it has now reached the tribalistic condition that is not in conformity with the basic premise of pluralism for American Democracy.



The premise of a pluralistic system is a sound premise for American Democracy, but its successful operation depends upon a better understanding of how the system operates as a complex adaptive system. Complex adaptive systems operate under structures that influence processes and the processes in turn influence structures. An essential ingredient is a bonding together for a free society that contains more than one political party. The *Great Experiment* is built upon avoiding tyranny in any form.

The fundamental strategies of the two major political parties are built upon values that reflect differences in approaches. Differences in approaches go back to the time of independence, but the essential transition endangering American Democracy is the development of tribalism that reflects a *loss in value of the mutuality of commitment to a reasonably fair system, and reasonable compromises*.

The tribalism produces damage to resilience. That damage occurs as a result of an excessive focus on self-interest in what David Brooks refers to as success in climbing the “first mountain” in his book, *The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life*. His first mountain “...is the individualist worldview, which puts the desires of the ego at the center.” His “second mountain” is described as follows: “The second mountain is what you might call the relationalist worldview, which puts relation, commitment, and the desires of the heart and soul at the center [see page 296].” Essentially, it is a matter of balance between self-interest and community interest recognizing that community interest is not only a matter of morality, but without a commitment to the environment that permits individual success, individual success in the terms of individual well-being is severely damaged. That individual well-being is heavily dependent upon the reciprocity of the system in economic terms and the equality in representation in the political sphere.

Personal success at the expense of the cancers of injustice contributes to the composite national culture that endangers the survival of a free society. That national culture emerges from individual behavior and the interactions that lead to selection of representatives that purport to represent their constituents, but do so with the time horizon based upon their political success not

the long run interests of their constituents. A professional practice calls for serving the clients' interests. The clients' interests are not only short run improvements, but they entail the environment that will impact the long run. Climate change is a good place to start the discussion, but to some it has become an *inconvenient truth*. This goes well beyond climate change. It goes to the structure of the economy and the role of business enterprise, as well as the philosophy of management. It goes to the forced deplaning of a paid and seated passenger and to the crashes of a couple of airplanes that were not safe enough for service.

There is a great difficulty in the shortfall in knowledge and denial of science along with the erosion of ethics from the political bases and it is exacerbated by the general shortfall in the selection of time horizons used by the political representatives in the in their political activity. The representation of the constituency is a starting point, but the free society as a whole is dependent upon sufficient social capital to provide liberty and justice for all, not just for some.

Understanding the system starts with understanding that societal behavior is an emergent property of individual behavior. Both are impacted by the nature of discipline, some of which is self-imposed. Of particular interest here is the use of market mechanisms as a means of discipline. The societal discipline is not an aggregation of individual disciplines. Rather societal discipline is an emergent property of the interactions in the various networks that are micro to the macro structure of American Democracy with its constituent components of economic, political, and social structures.

### *Perspectives of Disciplines*

Although our focus is on the disciplines of the market, and we are using the word *discipline* to primarily refer to “individual human discipline and societal discipline,” in academia we are accustomed to using the word discipline to refer to an organized body of knowledge in which relationships have been established. The perspective here is that the market provides individuals with discipline in the sense that investments made in assets at market prices subject the investor to the discipline of what evolves when market prices change over time. Thus, individual investors are subject to disciplines of the market.

Not all markets are competitive; however, the ability to impact process and structure influences the extent of the discipline of the market that will be employed. So, when large corporations, dominating a market acquire potential competitors before the activities of the competitor are able to significantly exert a force of the discipline of the market on the acquiring corporation, **the expectation of the discipline of the market is unrealistic. It is responsibility of the government to provide structure and process that enables the discipline of the market to do its job.** The erosion of fair market structures is cancerous to American society, and its structure as a democracy.

Business organizations within a society may be disciplined by the rules of the society, but if they as business organizations individually, or collectively in some form, structure the rules so that not only does the market not impose discipline, but also society fails to properly exercise its role of providing discipline, they are fostering the dysfunctionality of the system.

This takes us to the discipline provided by law. If the rule of law is not fairly constructed and implemented, discipline of regulation fails to do its job as implied by the definition of its job. The conformance to norms of behavior falls in a similar class. **In short, our societal discipline is not doing what we expected to do,** and the evolution of American Democracy has taken a turn in the last few decades where the denial of the equality of rights claimed in the Declaration of Independence, especially as to political representation and reciprocity, have been significantly denied.

This takes us to the case made by the progressives to return to the leadership role of altering structures so that the progress towards equality of rights declared in the Declaration of Independence gets back on track.

The numerous equalities of rights are heavily impacted by the environment in which the individuals with their unalienable rights have grown up. It is not only a matter of formal education, it is a matter of the human kinds in which the culture has influenced behavior and discipline. The result is manifested in the differences in development of inherited capability and the opportunity for flourishing, given the environment.

The point to be developed is that although the basic premises of the major political parties have differences in approaches, **there is a commonality of interest in operating in a secure free society.** The conservative approach is not working in the current culture in which there is a significant imbalance between what has been described by David Brooks as the *first mountain* and the *second mountain*. The progressive approach has achieved an inflection point in the 2018 elections of members of the House of Representatives that are closer in reflection to the composition of the electorate that has ever existed in modern times.

In earlier times, the differences in the approach between the right and the left side of the aisle pursued processes involving debate of issues. Under the structure at the time of this writing, the leader of the majority of the Senate membership ordinarily will not introduce bills that he believes the president will veto. He avoids having debates that might embarrass his Republican membership. That approach is destined to fail because it is dysfunctional to the extent that the electorate in time will alter that structure, even though it will take a cultural evolution in one form or another to make the change.

Either there will be a restoration of the commonality of interests enough to restore some sense of compromise in working out differences in views as to how government should operate, or the polemics of tribalism will turn the leadership to the left side of the aisle led by progressives. Some of the progressives would take to the far left, and if that momentum took it as far to the left as the other side is trying to take it to the right, it will become a road to the tyranny of the left rather than to the tyranny of the right — the place to where it has been heading since the tribalism led by the Republicans has essentially been moving towards a one party system.

**If Congress fails to properly pursue its oversight responsibility, the loss of integrity of the system will have been demonstrated.** The continuation of the erosion of integrity of the system not only in the political arena, but also in the economic arena and societal arena in which recent domestic terrorism takes more lives than recent foreign terrorism. The dysfunctional political economy that took us to the

Great Recession is now on the road to taking us to an even greater disruption in health of our society.

If we realistically expect to do better, we need to get a blending of the pluralistic views that are representative of the body of the whole, rather than the interests of the powerful few. The pursuit of the self-interest that is out of balance with the creation of social capital essential to structures and processes that serve the commonality of interest is as devastating as the *Tragedy of the Commons*. The longer the divisiveness persists, the harsher the adjustment process is likely to be in order to restore America back to the path towards the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence. **It is going to take a restructuring process to get our society back on track, and that is going to take an evolution our cultures.** In some way, shape, or form, the evolutionary process will lead to *America's Third Revolution*, hopefully on the order of America's Second Revolution, the transition from a confederation to a federation.

### *Evolutionary Process for Culture*

Understanding the evolutionary process goes beyond diversification, selection, and magnification. Of particular importance is the concept that it is not the strongest that survive, but rather the most adaptable. At the time of the origin of American Democracy and its Constitution, one can make the case that the doctrine of natural rights was at least partially protected by the limitations of what the federal government can do. Arguably, the biggest challenge to that came in the 1930s when America was faced with a Great Depression.

The New Deal that emerged provided substantial reforms, not only in financial regulation, but also in the nature of direct federal expenditures in a variety of areas deemed essential to restore the financial health of the economy. That process evolved because there was a bonding together of enough of the voting public to alter the structure by which the federal government operated. That has long been lamented by the conservative segment of the population.

That bonding together recurred or continued during World War II where the threat of survival was the challenge. Both of those

cases are instances in which the mutuality of dependence upon the national government for protection superseded the normal operations of markets.

Both were cultural changes that came about with a cultural evolution. Starting after World War II, some of the societal leadership that had been focusing on doing *good* were shifting to doing *well*. The doing well as envisioned by Adam Smith in the Enlightenment era and the prevailing structure of the economy was also deemed to be doing *good*. The misunderstanding of how the system really operates has been a great cause of the misfortunes that have injured the American public.

That misunderstanding of how markets operated resulting from the functioning of business enterprises that led to decades in the post-World War II era where economic development increasingly focused on individual benefits at the expense of protecting the operation of the national political economy with a commitment to a mutuality of interest in the health of the system. An analogy is the use of drugs that benefit one part of the system at an excessive cost to the health of the totality of the system. The key is in restoring the balance of the system when dealing with the localized problems; medically, the analogical term that occurs is known as homeostasis.

The cancers of imbalance of interest between self-interest and community interest provided disruptions that could have been avoided had there been a better understanding of what it takes for health of democracy to operate. That involves self-discipline and societal discipline which can be in legal restraints or simply the pressure for observance of norms. Our American Democracy is obviously suffering from cancerous behavior under the leadership of a president not qualified for the responsibility with the support of many people who are simply misguided.

This does not mean that their objections are misguided, nor that the traditional conservative principles of the GOP for fiscal responsibility and other values are inappropriate. **The differences in views are strengths of the diversity in a pluralistic society, but the absence of truth and respect for others and their rights is cancerous.**

The century-old two-party system has operated reasonably well in providing compromise to deal with issues of national interest. But

about a third of the century after the end of World War II, both parties made what is turning out to be disastrous decisions that have generated the current situation.

For the Democrats it was the abandonment of the working class in industrial employment in favor of catering to the emerging component that was benefiting from employment in the rising information revolution industries. The neglected blue-collar workers did not get an environment that was facilitating their adapting to the changing employment opportunities. There was nothing to resemble the great G.I. Bill that facilitated the transition from the wartime economy to a peacetime economy. A long-term strategist would have done well to figure out that the concepts useful for explaining the success of the wartime to peacetime transition could well be used for a transition from an industrialized economy (with rising foreign competition) to the rising information-revolution economy. Not only did the structural change include a growth of high-tech humongous scale organizations that significantly switched the distribution income to an excessive concentration at the high-end, but the technology got rid of many jobs where human judgment was utilized in serving the public. The side effect was that the public became served for the convenience of business at the expense of the public's comfort.

The cultural evolution of the Great Society did not appear to deal with the globalization of industry and the evolution of the information revolution. The Republican Party seized the opportunity to enlist the political support of workers who subsequently were losing their jobs to foreign production. **But the Republican Party made an even bigger error than the Democrats by deciding to move towards a concentration of power that could lead to a one-party system; it was trying to protect itself from the potential of the tyranny of the majority. What it did do was to lead towards a divisiveness that resulted in a tribalism of politics.**

The Grand Old Party made substantial progress in the objectives it pursued, but over time it lost out on its ideals of fiscal responsibility and free-trade among other positions. In recent times it has become the Trumpian Republican Party and has exhibited a willingness to abdicate its responsibility for

congressional oversight authority to restrain the administration's abuse of its power. A restoration of the norms prevailing before the Republican Party of the late 20th century embarked upon a route to a single party system will be a start, but that start is not likely until the Trumpian Republican Party is out of power and its successor in some form becomes something akin to a Grand New Party reminiscent of the Grand Old Party. Once the Trumpian Republican Party is a matter of history, it will take a substantial reformation before the Republican Party is again in contention for national leadership.

**The two-party system is designed to provide a discipline on public policy. The peaceful transition of power from a representative election of the leadership is the hallmark of the system; although the actual performance in 2016 elections falls short of getting a good grade because of both domestic and foreign forces influencing the election process. Further on the two-party system, shortsighted behavior of gerrymandering, failure to hold timely hearings of presidential nominations, and failure to introduce bills advocated by the other political party, is cancerous to the health of the democratic system.**

Considering one scenario for the future, the process of another restructuring of the Republican Party may start with the results of the 2020 elections shifting the balance of power to the Democrats. Considering another scenario, Trump will be reelected, but it appears highly unlikely that the Trumpian Republican Party would survive beyond a few years because a great disaster, in one form or another, is likely to evolve. It is not just the global situation in which America's foreign policy has been dictated by what President Trump sees as what gives him the best possibility of his election to a second term as president; it is that the alienation from our long-term friends is weakening our position to deal with common global interests. As great as that danger is, the greater danger is what is happening domestically.

While the next recession could be generated from global causes, it could have its roots in domestic policy. The situation is especially hazardous because both fiscal and monetary policy have been so weakened that the inability to restore economic growth without



great pains to society, now and for the next generation, is being impaired. The so-called tax reform in 2017 may go down in history as a great disaster. Aside from the shortfall inability of fiscal or monetary policy to be adequately able to deal with the recession that is on its way, the highly leveraged investment positions fostered by low interest rates for a decade will increase the ferocity inflicting the voting public.

Strange as it seems, Americans may well be better off with a mild recession before the 2020 elections fostering a change from the so-called GOP presidency (now a Trumpian Republican presidency) to a Democrat presidency. If that happens, it is a good bet that President Trump will start by blaming the Federal Reserve policies as being too slow and too weak to prevent a recession. It is uncertain what other excuses he would find. But if he is reelected, it is also a good bet that the next recession will at least rival the recent Great Recession, not only in its domestic hardship, but also its global impact.

A key variable in the cultural evolution will be what happens to the divisiveness that has become tribalism. A simplistic view is that the key variable will be where in the range of progressiveness or moderate political positions the selected Democrat presidential candidate falls when the decision is made in the summer of 2020. That will be a variable, but it is time to put on the lens of complexity and look at the interactions that produce the emergent results. So, it is not only what happens with the Senate elections that will determine when in the 2020s the majority of the Senate will come from Democratic candidates, but also what happens on both sides of the aisle with regards to compromise. So, a progressive with a great plan for each of a wide variety of issues may well be a fine choice for compromises not only within the party, but across the aisle, but it depends what happens on the other side of the aisle as well. There is great uncertainty on all counts.

Since this is being drafted during the summer of 2019 while Congress is on its summer recess, there will be unfolding events by the time it gets into print as part of the booklet for which it is being designed, and as part of the website for which it is also being

designed. It will be easy to revise the web version as events unfold; and that is the plan. However, there is one preparatory comment before shifting to the next section discussing the feasibility of a *Declaration of Reform* in the context of this overview of a restructuring of the American Democracy.

This concluding subsection, *Perspectives of Disciplines*, of the section titled “Cultural Change” has two transitional comments to the discussion of the feasibility of a declaration of reform. The first is that there is no way of knowing in advance of the feasibility because there are so many interactions and uncertainties, plus the matter of contingencies. That is what we are dealing with when we look at complex adaptive systems. That first transitional comment is elaborated on with the point that the best we can do when we are dealing with complex adaptive systems is to deal with the concept of patterns of choices that are more likely to produce desirable outcomes than patterns of choices that contain risks disproportionate to potential benefits. That is what strategies are all about.

The second transitional comment is that the fundamental premise of the American Revolution was the pursuit of justice because justice was being denied by the tyranny that arose with the concentration of power. The current endangerment of American Democracy is from the concentration of power on the side of the aisle that is taking us to the far right. That shift if not intolerable now, will become so intolerable that the power will shift to the left. Without a reform of the Republican Party, or creation of a third-party, there will be no party with which the left side of the aisle can compromise.

Consider what was noted at the beginning of this essay (see page 5), “**America’s central government is exceptionally constructed to limit the discretion of those in power by balancing rival centers of power.**” If that construction of the system continues to fail to work as is happening with the current Republican-controlled Senate, there is a danger from the precedents that are set.

If the tribalism continues, there will be a shift to the left side of the aisle, and those precedents could facilitate the move to the far left; if it goes as far left as the Republicans are currently trying to move it to the far right the design will have failed.

The discussion in the next section is suggesting that the evolutionary process for the restructuring of American Democracy would do well to look for a bipartisan *Declaration of Reform*. As a practical matter, it will have to start with the shift of leadership to the left side of the aisle. However, it will have to cross the aisle in order to become feasible.

The restructuring of American Democracy is an evolutionary process. Consider the structure of the body of the system to be composed of emergent properties that result from the processes by which the agents in the system interact. The agents in the system start with the human beings that occupy the territory within which the Democratic system exists. In any point in time, there is an existing structure within which the processes evolve. We now turn to an exploration of the concept of a *Declaration of Reform* that would in a sense be America's third Revolution in the same sense that America's second Revolution was a transition from a confederation to a federation.

## DECLARATION OF REFORM FEASIBILITY

The *Declaration of Reform* feasibility may be addressed in three stages. The first stage is simply the assembly of leadership for the design of structure and process. The second stage is crossing the aisle for a bipartisan support and leadership. That second stage may be blended with the first as soon as the leadership decides what elements are critical to a collegiality that will enable fair processes for representation of the electorate's interests and the transitions of leadership in an essentially bipartisan political structure.

The third stage is one of cultural evolution that will take time. It is an exceptionally complex because it is emergent from processes that impact the economic, political, and societal structures. Those are structures that change over time and influence how individual human beings with an inner world and outer world are developing. Democracy, with the source of authority being from individuals, is best understood considering individual development. That individual development, however, is influenced by the changing environment.

That constant development of the environment, and the growth and development of the individual, provides changes in one's outer world and inner world, with the self in the middle. It is the self-development that is at the foundation of a pluralistic democratic society in which there is an adaptation to conditions in which divergent subcultures live in peace and cooperation. The adaptive process requires connections in the form of relationships to others and the system. Alienation is a source of societal problems.

The same process that applies to the individual applies to the society as a whole; that is what is making societal evolution exceptionally complex. Historically, the evolution has taken generations, but the acceleration of pace of change, and an increase in learning ability leveraged through technology can facilitate progress towards return to the pursuit of the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence.

As the self develops through learning in many forms, the capacity changes, and the environment from the outer world changes further influencing the development process. That same process for individual development as a human being works for society in stages as the various levels of complex networks evolve. Of critical importance is the evolution of the economic structure influenced by the evolution of business enterprise and its leadership. That system for life-support and well-being is heavily dependent upon the political structure, a current structure that is operating with cancers generating injustice, a variety of injustices that are a threat to the survival of democracy.

The societal component is critical because of its cultural evolution especially with a diversity that calls for a pluralistic organization that historically has led to America's leadership in economic and societal development for the Western world. The internal shortfalls in the operation of the system are being magnified by copycat actions of domestic terrorism inspired by informal networks arising, in part influenced by attacks of free societies by at least one external totalitarian regime.

**A one-party structure is a road to tyranny not only for the right side of the aisle but also from the left side.** A one-party structure denies a discipline rooted in the electorate having genuine choices as to the nature of political leadership. Thus, unless there is a sufficient

cultural change to enable political power to enforce the fairness essential for representative voting districts, essentially countering the propensity of the party in power to gerrymander districts, the tribalism in political parties will overshadow the commonality of interests in a free society with a representative government. *Without sufficient self-discipline, the nation is on the road to tyranny.*

The disciplines in political process and structure are as necessary as the disciplines in economic process and structure to assure a survival of American Democracy. Shortfalls in human behavior in both arenas are analogous to the behavior of parasites on the human body. At modest levels, they are tolerable. However, when the shortfalls run amok in their interactions, they become cancerous to the health of the system. That applies to economic arenas as well as the political arenas.

Disciplines may start with self-discipline, but family in whatever form, and community in whatever form, makes a difference. In the last half-century, the focus on self-interest at the expense of relationships and care for the other, has eroded informal disciplines. A great deal of that is simply in the lack of observing norms, but it amounts to erosion of accountability.

In short, the cancerous behavior that has run amuck in our American Democracy is endangering the future of the democracy. **A good place to start with the reform of discipline is with market behavior in the economic organ of the societal body.** The simple truth is that markets are not well enough understood and disciplined to be healthy for the economy as should be obvious from the financial crisis leading to the Great Recession.

**Additionally, the role of business enterprise is also not well enough understood and disciplined to be healthy for the economy and society as should be obvious from the unhealthy distribution of income and wealth.** The concentration of political authority resonating from the concentration of wealth, and the domination of the economy by the concentration of business interests, are rising to levels that challenge the sovereignty of states.

Obviously, the basic thrust of this essay is from a progressive perspective, but with consideration of the conservative perspective as articulated by columnists that are well received by many

progressives. The two conservatives quoted are George F. Will and David Brooks. The texts of the trilogy contain quotations from a humongous number of book authors and columnists, dominantly with progressive or moderate views, but the basic principles of conservatism have not been overlooked by inclusion of a broad spectrum of views.

This essay, and the trilogy to which it is providing an introduction, has been designed as part of an innovative educational endeavor. That enterprise, is designed in the form of the Emily E Press component of a Research and Publication Division of the Maury Seldin LLC. That division is designed to be gifted to a not-for-profit organization yet to be created or possibly to an intermediate LLC as a transitional vehicle.

Initially this essay is provided in two forms. One is in the form of a booklet titled “*American Democracy Endangered: Restructuring American Democracy.*” In addition, there is a variation using the same title. That second form of this essay is the centerpiece of the website introducing the *Emily E Press*, the publisher of the trilogy. It provides free access to the essay and to the excerpted front matter for each of the three books.

As the books become available in electronic form, numerous free apps will be provided for access to components of the trilogy. Apps of extensive length may also be provided for heavily discounted purchases as the books become available. E-books and hardcopy books will become available for purchase.

There is no way of knowing if the *Declaration of Reform* approach will be realized. However, it is true that there is a great deal of literature out there dealing with the future of our free society. Essentially this is a contribution to that effort to get our society back to the pursuit of justice. Participation of recipients interested in the mission is welcomed. **The *Emily E Press* has rights that it is free to share with educational institutions at no cost to those institutions.**

Additionally, shortened versions of the books are under consideration for publication in paperback form. Emily E Press would be delighted to hear from a variety of authors and others who can make use of the content of the shortened versions.

The current email contact is: [mauryseldinlle@gmail.com](mailto:mauryseldinlle@gmail.com).

## EPILOGUE FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY ENDANGERED RESTRUCTURING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

As Americans, we live in a political economy with territorial boundaries within which our freedom is protected by the world's most powerful military force. Yet, after more than 18 years since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack, we are still at war, admittedly with a small number of troops in Afghanistan, in an attempt to protect ourselves from those in a region from which the 9/11 attack was conceived, financed, and facilitated. In that time, other forms of threat have emerged, especially cyber warfare.

That is not the only locale from which our security is threatened. What is even worse is that we have been alienating ourselves from our friends in other free societies that have similar concerns of interference in their sovereignty, especially by Putin's breeding conflict in the domestic environment of free societies and interfering in their electoral processes. Having said all that, the position taken here is that *America's democracy is in danger more from its internal forces than from foreign forces.*

The overview just presented in the essay titled *American Democracy Endangered: Restructuring American Democracy* introduces the trilogy of books collectively titled *American Democracy Endangered*. The trilogy, *American Democracy Endangered*, consists of the following books: (1) *Common Sense Revisited: America's Third Revolution*; (2) *Perspectives for a Sense of Place: Voter Empowerment*; & (3) *American Democracy: The Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment*.

The prologue provides the overview of the strategic approach designed to foster a *Declaration of Reform* that would contribute to the development and dissemination of the body of knowledge presented in a form that would help facilitate the process of returning American Democracy back on its path towards the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence.

This epilogue notes the importance of two particular sets of ideas that are critical to effectively dealing with the issues. One set of the ideas is built upon the concept of *caring*. The other is built upon the

concept of *justice*. Those concepts can be dealt with by reason and/or faith. Both deal with a sense of Place, a self-examination of the living of a life.

This trilogy may be considered as being a vehicle for fostering a liberal education, or in the words of Socrates as written by Plato, “an unexamined life is not worth living.” Whether or not a person has the luxury of a liberal education at one of America’s finest institutions of higher learning, or simply recognizes that education is one’s only responsibility and pursues it on her own, this trilogy is intended to help the person in the process irrespective of whether or not one seeks the certification of a college degree.

Although caring can be approached from a variety of perspectives; for our purposes here, consider the perspective of economics, particularly the perspective of the nascent discipline of complexity economics. In that perspective, the economy is about the use of resources (land, labor, and capital) to produce goods and services. It is also about the distribution of the societal production. In both cases, one would do well to consider that capital is not just the financial capital that commands resources; it is also social capital that facilitates the interactions of agents combining resources to increase their productivity and through the *other invisible hand* the evolution of the productivity of the economy. Caring comes into play because the more one does not care about how others are faring, the more that social capital will be eroding, and **the entire structure is being endangered**.

The key institution in a free society’s economic system is the business enterprise. Caring comes into play when one considers the attention paid to the interests of other stakeholders in the operation of the business enterprise. Business enterprises that focus solely on the profitability of the enterprise without due concern for its employees, its suppliers, the communities in which it operates, and the broader environment (natural and political), and of course its



customers, clients, or patients make a significant difference in the ability of a free society to survive.

So, we may look at the caring as the level of balance between self-interest and community interest. As such it impacts the extent of social capital; the resource that is the fourth resource in the economy if capital is defined narrowly as financial capital. The other three are land, labor, and financial capital.

The broader array of societal institutions provides vehicles for the functioning of social capital. Their destruction is an erosion of the economic potential of the society. Truth and justice are societal institutional arrangements that impact the productiveness of the organizations and organizational relationships that produce institutions.

The traditional divisions of disciplines in the key social sciences (economics, political science, and sociology) are useful in understanding the relationships among elements in a reductionist approach. However, when viewing complex adaptive systems such as democracy, a paradigm of interdisciplinary approaches, especially including nascent disciplines of complexity science, network science, and cognitive science, increase the effectiveness of forecasting outcomes from various choices.

The choices are heavily influenced by culture, especially the memes that influence the quality of life. A critical linking of economics and culture comes about with the structure of commonality of interest in the institutions for societal organization. This leads us to justice. The trilogy is taking us to the main treatise which is democracy as organic system and injustice as cancerous to the society.

This booklet, and its website counterpart, are intended to foster an education innovation that would facilitate better choices among the members of the electorate and their elected representatives. Facilitating those better choices starts with an educational process but may well lead to a declaration of reform and what has been discussed in the trilogy's first book as America's Third Revolution.

As a start for an assessment of the future freedom consider the penultimate paragraph in the book by Fareed Zakaria, *The Future of Freedom* (2003) [page 256]:

“Modern democracies will face new challenges — fighting terrorism, adjusting to globalization, adapting to an aging society — and they will have to make their systems work much better than it currently does. That means making democratic decision-making effective, reintegrating constitutional liberalism into the practice of democracy, rebuilding broken political institutions, and civic associations. Perhaps the most difficult of all, it requires that those with immense power in our society embrace the responsibilities, need, and set standards that are not only legal, but moral. Without this intercepting, democracy will become an empty shell, not simply adequate but potentially dangerous, bringing with it the erosion of liberty, the manipulation of freedom, and the case of a common life.”

That was written in 2003, and although the book was highly acclaimed and widely read, only five years later the American economy went into a financial crisis that reverberated throughout the world and has taken a decade for recovery. This whole publication enterprise is designed to facilitate the reader delving deeper, and in this particular case the reader would be well advised to at least read that last chapter of the Zakaria book especially the concluding paragraph:

“This would be a tragedy because democracy, with all its flaws, represents the ‘last best hope’ for people around the world. But it needs to be secured and strengthened for our times. Eighty years ago, Woodrow Wilson took America into the twentieth century with a challenge to make the world safe for democracy. As we enter the twenty-first century, our task is to make democracy safe for the world. [page 256.]”

The front matter of the trilogies first book, *Common Sense Revisited: America’s Third Revolution*, reiterates the idea relating to global impact of free societies with a quote from Thomas Paine’s introduction of his February 14, 1776 version. It contained as the opening sentence of its last paragraph the following: “**The cause of America is, in a great measure, the cause of all mankind.**”

## AVAILABILITY FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

The Digital version of this booklet, as posted on the website, will over time have added links to sections of the books in the trilogy, and other narratives.

Linking will be in addition to the use of apps designed to lead to discussions of concepts and ideas that will help the motivated learners in the education innovation, of which this booklet is a part. Additionally, it will help in the research programs for which is education innovation will provide data.

Institutions of higher learning, and other educational enterprises, are invited to participate. The authorship rights vested in the Maury Seldin LLC will be available as a gift to institutions of higher learning, and especially other educational enterprises who are prepared to offer certificates to learners who have demonstrated mastery of subject areas for which the innovative technology is used.

Although this demonstration project focuses on dealing with the endangerment facing American Democracy, the technology may be used for a variety disciplines within the social sciences and other arenas, especially where the situations require the use of interdisciplinary analytics.

The website address is as follows:

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