

APPENDIX B OF IT IS TIME TO DECIDE!  
DO YOU WANT TO LIVE IN A FREE SOCIETY?

OUR DEMOCRACY IS DESTROYING ITSELF  
POWER WITHOUT MORALITY IS CANCEROUS

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CURRENT EVENTS IN RECENT CONTEXT

*Our Tragic Loss of The Notorious R.B.G.*

*Notorious R.B.G.* "...is perhaps the best-known Supreme Court Justice in American history, an unlikely celebrity in a country where most people can't name a single member of the nation's highest court. Her death on Friday [9/18/20] promoted and massive outpouring of grief, a show of mourning on a scale rarely ever seen in response to injustices." That quote is from the opening paragraph by Tyler Aquilina in *Entertainment Weekly*, September 19, 2020.

On September 21, 2020, the following appeared on the web:

**Trump Spreads Disinformation About  
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Dying Wish**

Ja'han Jones, *HuffPost*, September, 21, 2020

Just days before Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death last Friday, she dictated a note to her granddaughter saying her "most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed" (<https://tinyurl.com/y297hu7x>). Several Republicans, eager to fill her now-vacant seat, dismissed Ginsburg's request the same night as her death, and on Monday President Donald Trump was trying to allege that the justice never made the request at all.

During a Fox News interview Monday morning, Trump baselessly claimed Ginsburg's request, first reported by NPR, was actually written by Democratic politicians. In reality, Ginsburg herself relayed the statement to her granddaughter, Clara Spera, NPR reported (<https://tinyurl.com/y6zqf3hj>).

There is another paragraph in that article well worth reading. It all relates to the abandonment of norms that is destroying our democracy.

From something written a couple of years earlier, here is the opening paragraph of the opening chapter of the book titled *Common Sense Revisited: America's Third Revolution*.

The internal threat to American Democracy is greater than any of the external threats. The decay in political structure and process triggered a rejection of The Establishment as represented by both of the two major political parties. The rejection of The Establishment was reflected in the 2016 election of a president representative of the decay that has occurred in the American culture, impinging upon the progress towards the ideals of political equality envisioned in the Declaration of Independence.

That chapter is available for review and comment on the website of the Declaration Era Educational Press (DEEP), MLEoftheMaurySeldinLLC.net. <https://mleofthemaurySeldinllc.net/>

### ***The Pursuit of Power by Political Party***

A little over four years ago, on February 13, 2016, another Supreme Court Justice died. It was Anthony Scalia, an arch Conservative. Consider an article by Robert Baldwin III, *POLITICS* March 3, 2016, 06:20 pm ET, "Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Eulogy For Antonin Scalia Shows Why Politics Shouldn't Divide Us." Their political views with opposite ends of the spectrum, but not only had respect for each other, they were friends.

Now consider what happened in the political arena when it came time for President Barack Obama to nominated a successor to justice Scalia. The following is also excerpted from *Common Sense Revisited: America's Third Revolution*. [<https://mleofthemaurySeldinllc.net/perspectives-for-a-sense-of-place/>]



APPENDIX 1E - THE INTEGRITY OF  
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY UNDERMINED  
BY MAURY SELDIN LLC

THE EROSION OF NORMS  
IN THE ELECTED POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

The integrity of American Democracy has been undermined by the pursuit of political power that is at the expense of democratic norms; norms that are not the subject of constitutional constraints. The Senate's attempt to plow through what is supposed to be a *deliberative* process of *advice and consent* is the recent example of the erosion of integrity marked by 21st century inflection points in what purports to be a democratic process....

...The next inflection point was in the wake of the 2008 election of Barack Obama when the Republicans in Congress organized to oppose Obama administration legislation on the basis of it being Obama administration legislation. That led to the Democrats changing filibuster regulations in the Senate; a change some of them now regret.

*Senate Deliberations for Advice and Consent*

Then, when in March 2016 President Obama nominated Merrick Garland to fill the seat that became vacant by the death of Antonin Scalia, the Republican-controlled United States Senate would not provide a hearing for advice and consent, choosing to wait until after the elections in the hope of a nominee from a Republican president. From *Wikipedia* we have the following:

After the death of Scalia, Republican Senate leaders announced that they planned to hold no vote on any potential nomination during the president's last year in office. Senate Democrats responded that there was sufficient time to vote on a nominee before the election. Garland's nomination expired on

January 3, 2017, with the end of the 114th Congress. The nomination remained before the Senate for 293 days, the longest nomination process in the history of Supreme Court nominations.

The Senate approval of President Trump's nomination of Neil Gorsuch as a successor to Scalia was passed with 54 votes. That was substantially less in the 98 votes Antonin Scalia received 30 years earlier. The significance is that Justice Scalia would sometimes vote the same as the justices nominated by presidents who were Democrats. Given the divisiveness prevailing in Washington under the current tribal atmosphere, and behavior of Judge Brett Kavanaugh in his testimony following the testimony of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, the integrity of Supreme Court as a whole is coming into question.

The drama following the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh moved from plowing through the so-called deliberative process of the Senate to allow up to one week for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct an investigation related to the testimony of Dr. Christine Blasey Ford. That change was prompted by Senator Jeff Flake indicating that he would not support a Senate confirmation until the FBI investigated the accusations. That sign of integrity was consistent with that of the late senator (also from Arizona), John McCain, who on occasion would break from party lines. Senator McCain, although a Conservative, was clearly an advocate of the integrity of democracy in contrast to what has been emerging as commonplace in the Republican Party starting in the last quarter of a century of the 20th century.

**Confirmation Fallout.** Assuming that the *advice and consent* of the Senate leads to a replacement of the late *Notorious R.B.G.*, by the current administration, the fallout will be seismic to the future of American Democracy. If Donald Trump is reelected, it would not

be a surprise that the cancerous behavior of the Republican Party during the last half-century, leading to *party above country* in a quest for power, would result in a one-party system, an autocracy being pursued by Donald Trump. The discussion that follows layouts historical facts that would support such a case.

Such a presentation draws on an understanding of American history, especially in the design of constitutional republic that for two centuries evolved to become a constitutional democracy that in the post-World War II era led the world to increasing globalization of democracies. Unfortunately, *The Great Experiment, American Democracy* (with the D capitalized to represent a proper name for a particular institution) failed to set a good example. American Democracy is now as much of a plutocracy as it is a democracy; and under this administration it has been moving towards an autocracy.

This website of the Declaration Era Educational Press (DEEP) features a timely trilogy of books, the first of which starts with an explanation of a force that transformed a rebellion in pursuit of justice to lead to a Declaration of Independence, in part because Thomas Paine wrote a pamphlet that raised the level of consciousness of the colonists and their leaders. The survival of *American Democracy* as a free society is on the table, and an understanding of reality, knowledge to deal with reason, and not just feelings, as strong as they may be, is needed to make choices that will improve outcomes.

Many longtime Republicans, including noteworthy leaders, have been leaving the party, at least enough to vote for Joe Biden as president, the nominee of the Democratic Party. The hope for a future of American Democracy is resting on the outcome of the November 3 elections in the emergence return to a two-party system is focused on unity, not on divisiveness that would save power at any costs, including sacrifice national security the political pursuits and the premature deaths hundred thousand Americans in large measure because the president of United States is not qualified for the job and his pursuit of his political interests takes priority over his responsibility to the people of the United States of America to protect them.

Donald Trump's linear reasoning of a zero-sum game may have worked well (or maybe not) as a real estate developer. The most powerful nation in the world, with a constitutional structure designed to avoid the concentration of power, requires a better understanding of complex adaptive systems and the respect for a proper rule of law, political institutions, and the norms for a free society. This article is one more overview presentation of an educational innovation lead to a better educated democratic population.

We may speculate as to the fallout from the Republican Party using the straw that broke the camel's back; the psychologists would put it, taking one marshmallow now rather than two marshmallows later. The current power grab is not just another political decision, it is a greedy bet because the morality has been eroded by rage and fear.

Now let us turn to learning and caring about our freedom, and what has been evolving. We are using an innovative approach of trying to develop the line of reasoning as briefly as seems feasible considering the complexity of the system. The presentational structured with links to facilitate the reader delving deeper.

## REPUBLICAN REVOLUTIONS OVER THE LAST HALF-CENTURY

### *An Early Marker*

An early marker is in a book review by Heather Boushey of Nancy MacLean's book, *Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Rights Stealth Plan for America* [*The New York Times* book review of August 20, 2017]. This is also discussed in Appendix 1E-The Integrity of American Democracy Undermined. What follows is an entire subsection on the section **The Erosion of Norms in the Elected Political Leadership**.

### *The Equality of Representation of the Electorate*

What has emerged beginning in the last quarter of the 20th century, may in part be attributable to how the Republican Party supporters responded to avert what was reportedly feared by James M. Buchanan. Buchanan's position is

expressed, according to a book review by Heather Boushey, by her writing “So Buchanan came to a radical conclusion: Majority rule was an economic problem. ‘Despotism,’ he declared in his 1975 book, *The Limits of Liberty*, ‘may be the only organizational alternative to the political structure that we observe.” The reviewer continues in the next paragraph with “Buchanan therefore argued for ‘curbing the appetites of the majority coalitions’ by establishing ironclad rules that would curb their power.”

That book review by Heather Boushey was of Nancy MacLean’s book, *Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Rights Stealth Plan for America* [The New York Times book review of August 20, 2017]. She wrote the following: “With this book McLean joins the growing chorus of scholars and journalists documenting systematic, organized effort to undermine democracy and change the rules.” She concludes the paragraph naming several books and then begins the next paragraph with the following sentence, “Power consolidation sometimes seems like a perpetual motion machine, continually widening the gap between those who have power and money and those that don’t.”

Among the books that deal with the integrity of democracy is *How Democracies Die* by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt. It also considers the judiciary, but is heavily focused on the erosion of long-standing political norms. They note:

Since 2008, the GOP has at times behaved like an antisystem party in its obstructionism, partisan hostility, and extremist policy positions. Its twenty-five year march to the right was made possible by the hollowing out of its organizational core. Over the last quarter-century, the parties leadership structure has been eviscerated — first by the right of well-funded outside groups [such as ...] and many others whose fundraising prowess allowed them to more or less dictate policy agenda of many GOP elected officials, but also has by mounting influence of Fox News and other

right-wing media as well as the outside donors such as Koch brothers and influential media personalities exert greater influence over elected Republican officials than does the GOP's own leadership. The weakening of some segments of the press in their widely accepted norms of pursuit of truth, and the increased reliance on other mass media, especially social networks, as vehicles for access to empirical truth, has contributed to the rise of authoritarianism, a recurring challenge to free societies. This is been aided and abetted by Putin's efforts to weaken America's democracy as well as the democracies of the European Union.

We now shift to another posting on the DEEP site, *The Fourth Republican Revolution*. The idea of three Republican revolutions, as discussed in that essay, was triggered by an article authored by Fareed Zakaria. It is in the *Time Magazine* November 4, 2010 article. The brief article is available by linking — **The Republican Revolution: Real This Time?** It is short. For your convenience, here is the opening paragraph:

We are watching the third Republican revolution unfold — the third time the Republican Party has come to power promising to fundamentally alter the relationship of the U.S. government to society. If the past is any guide, the Republicans are going to have a tough time fulfilling their pledge. If they do not deliver yet again, the American people, at some point, will surely conclude that they are hypocrites.

*Reagan's Republican Revolution in the Early 1980s*

**The Powershift Dimension.** “The first Republican Revolution was the Reagan one, which promised to roll back Lyndon Johnson's Great Society.” So wrote Fareed Zakaria in the *Time Magazine* November 4, 2010 article, *The Republican Revolution: Real This Time?*

**The Fiscal Dimension.** The fiscal dimension is discussed in the rest of paragraph and the ensuing paragraph. The opening paragraph continues as follows:

“In its place, Reagan proposed a low tax, small-government America. The first part happened, with a historic reform of the tax codes, bringing marginal rate tax rates way down and eliminating hundreds of loopholes. But the spending cuts never took place. The result: from 1981 to 1985, the federal budget deficit more than doubled as a percentage of GDP, and declined slightly in Reagan’s second term only because he agreed to tax increases. Still, the basic pattern was set. If the old Democratic paradigm was tax and spend, the new Republican one was borrow and spend.”

### *The Gingrich Led Republican Revolution*

**The Fiscal Dimensions.** The Gingrich led Republican Revolution is what we are calling *the second of the Republican revolutions*. It is what was identified by Zakaria in the article cited. The quote is as follows: “Round 2 was the Gingrich revolution.” The rest of the paragraph (in his very brief presentation) and the ensuing paragraph, sheds light on the rising deficit. Noted was that the *Gingrich Second Republican Revolution* took place during the Clinton administration; a Republican revolution during a Democrat’s presidency.

**Power Pursuit Dimensions.** Power pursuit dimensions during the Second Republican Revolution will be discussed with reference to a few books. The recently published book, *Burning Down the House: Newt Gingrich, the Fall of a Speaker, and the Rise of the New Republican Party* (2020), authored by Julian E. Zelizer, has an advertisement as follows: “The story of how Newt Gingrich and his allies tainted American politics, launching an enduring era of brutal partisan warfare.”

Continuing with this brief background for system design, intended to result with better binary options, we have a book review by Geoffrey Kabaservice in *The New York Times*, July 7, 2020. The opening paragraph of the review refers to “March 1989, when the maverick Republican representatives Newt Gingrich rose to power...” The long paragraph continues with reference to paving the way “for the establishment of Presidency of Donald Trump.” From the web, we have the entire first paragraph in the box that follows.

When did American politics take the wrong turn that led to our present era of endless partisan warfare and hyperpolarization? According to the Princeton University history professor Julian E. Zelizer (<https://tinyurl.com/y4djxebb>), politics went pear-shaped in the period from January 1987 to March 1989, when the maverick Republican representative Newt Gingrich (<https://tinyurl.com/y52c9swg>) rose to power, which culminated in the forced resignation of Democratic House Speaker Jim Wright (<https://tinyurl.com/y265zp5b>). Zelizer makes a convincing case that Gingrich not only “legitimated ruthless and destructive practices that had once been relegated to the margins,” he also helped to degrade Congress’s institutional legitimacy and paved the way for the anti-establishment presidency of Donald Trump.

As further background, Gingrich became Speaker of the House of Representatives in 1995 as a result of the midterm elections in 1994. Tom Foley, a Democrat who served as speaker of the House of Representatives during 1993 and 1994, lost the reelection in his district to a Republican in the 1994 midterm elections. That was a year in which the Republicans won 34 seats that had been held by Democrats during 1993 and 1994.

Available on the web is a linkable item, *How Newt Gingrich Shaped Republican Party*, July 7, 2020, by Jeremy Hobson. Here are two items: (1) “The hyperbolic descriptions President Trump has used to describe his political opponents — “the radical left, the Marxists, the anarchists” (<https://tinyurl.com/y6f8c6dc>) — come straight out of the playbook of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.” and (2) Historian Julian Zelizer makes that case in his new book, *Burning Down The House: Newt Gingrich, The Fall Of A Speaker, And The Rise Of The New Republican Party* (<https://tinyurl.com/y5dpsflt>), which chronicles Gingrich’s rise as a young and unknown congressman



who utilized cable television to shape the Republican Party in ways still seen today.”

Before returning to the fiscal dimensions in the evolution of revolutions in the Republican Party, in the box that follows there is a paragraph from Jill Lepore’s book, *These Truths: A History of The United States* (2018). It is from page 711-712, in the fifteenth chapter, titled “Battle Lines.”

The nation lost its way in the politics of mutually assured epistemological destruction. There was no truth, only innuendo, rumor, and bias. There was no reasonable explanation, there was only conspiracy. The White House hired private detectives to find dirt about Starr and other investigators. Voters found the investigation as reprehensible as Clinton, or more so. By a margin of two to one, women had thought the press coverage had gone too far. Still, they blamed Republicans for making a spectacle of the presidency. Republicans, who’d hope to gain seats in the 1998 midterms, lost them. After the election, House Speaker Gingrich, who was already on his second wife, learned that his own affair with a congressional aide twenty-three years his junior was about to be exposed, and resigned, blaming “cannibals who had ‘blackmailed’ him into quitting [endnote providing sources is provided].

### *George Walker Bush Republican Revolution*

**The Fiscal Dimensions.** The fiscal dimensions of the George Walker Bush occupancy of the presidency for the years 2001 through 2008 may be summarized with a continuation of the percentages of the National Debt relative to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The numbers were 55%, 57%, 59%, 60%, 60%, 61%, 62%, 68%. The change in the national debt depends upon the size of the deficit for the surplus. The deficit occurs when expenditures exceed revenues.

As noted earlier (in the article from which it was drawn), “The successor president, Barack Obama (a Democrat) had to use both monetary and fiscal policy for the recovery. The percentages in the ratio for his eight years starting in 2009 are as follows: 83%, 90%, 95%, 99%, 99%, 101%, 99%, and 104%. During the recession revenues drop. The data for federal deficits, from the Economic Report of the President, puts these and additional members into the table that is available in the article from which it was drawn.

**Power and Policy Dimensions.** This takes us back to the opening sentence of the Zakaria article that triggered this essay, “We are watching the third Republican revolution unfold — the third time the Republican Party has come to power promising to fundamentally alter the relationship of the U.S. Government to society.” So, what is the ideology of the Republican Party with regard to the *relationship of the U.S. Government to society*?

As a start, is the ideology of the Republican Party conservatism? That depends upon two things. The first is what is conservatism? The second is, what is the Republican Party ideology? If the reader scrolls back to page 9 (the article from which this is drawn, The Fourth Republican Revolution), and rereads the discussion of the David Brook’s book, *The Second Mountain* (contained in the subsection Design for Regaining Societal Balance), there is reference to “...*what Burke warned about.*” The next sentence refers to the Burke book, *Reflections*.

Edmund Burke (1729-1797) has been considered to be the founder of conservatism. The Burke book, *Reflections*, refers to “Reflections on the Revolution in France (1790) in which he condemned the French Revolution, even before it entered its radical stage, as a dangerous experiment that can only lead to chaos and war [see page 51 of Rohmann’s *A World of Ideas*].” The Rohmann book is subtitled, *A Dictionary of Important Theories, Concepts, Beliefs, and Thinkers*. On page 78 there is a discussion of conservatism. The opening sentence is as follows: “Political and social outlook that seeks to preserve systems and institutions that have been tested by time; the opposite of RADICALISM and often LIBERALISM.” Words in uppercase indicate that those words are discussed elsewhere in the *Dictionary of Ideas*.

We shall shortly go to the Trumpian takeover of the Republican Party as the fourth Revolution of the Republican Party. However, before moving to that section, consider that the four decades covered from the discussion that started with a focus on the 1970s and proceeded through the first decade of the 21st century presents a case that the Republican Party has been more of a *pursuit of power than of ideology*. The case may be made on the basis of the fear of tyranny of the masses.

What Burke feared, may be reflected in his Reflections, "... In which he condemned the French Revolution, even before its RADICAL stage, as a dangerous experiment that can only lead to chaos and war. The revolution, he wrote, threaten the traditional order by attempting to reshape society according to idealistic notions such as "the RIGHTS of man." [See Rohmann, page 51.]

The contrast between Scotland and France reflects the fears that Burke had that reflects the dangers of dramatic change. The American Revolution was in the middle ground. The box that follows provides a series of excerpts from the first chapter of the third book in the trilogy. As indicated, that entire chapter is linked.

## THE TWO CONTRASTING CASES

### *The Scottish Enlightenment in the Wake of the Glorious Revolution*

The Scottish Enlightenment was led by moderate enlighteners, the major exception being John Millar, a professor of civil law in Glasgow from 1761 to 1801. His views were the closest to representing the ideals in the American Revolution.

The Glorious Revolution of 1688 paved the way for Scotland in 1707 to become part of Britain — a Britain that had acquired a structure that was a limited monarchy. Under the new structure there were added protections of individual rights including some legislative representation. It paved the way for the moderate philosophical solution. The rights accorded to the citizens were lesser than those

claimed by the American colonists in their Declaration of Independence...

...Morality, the principles of ethical behavior, came into play into the views of the Scottish Enlightenment. We now turn to the case of the French Enlightenment.

### ***The French Revolution and the End of Enlightenment***

The French Enlightenment was a great contrast to the Scottish Enlightenment. It had picked up on the concept of the right to think independently and express one's views...  
...But as it turned out, the combination of Article 6 on general will and Article 10 on holding the individual responsible for divergence from the general will resulted in the death of Condorcet and the end of the Enlightenment...

...This information is a segue to some quotes from Edward O. Wilson's remarkable book, *Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge*. In summary, Condorcet was among those who provided the intellectual strength of the French Revolution. At first its "vision of secular knowledge, service of human rights and human progress" made a great contribution to Western civilization, but then for France it came to an end. The end came with the death of Condorcet as a result of the efforts to deny the right of an individual to think independently and express those thoughts. It was rooted in the concept of the "general will." Wilson puts the end of the Enlightenment as March 29, 1794, the date of the death of the Marquis de Condorcet. The imposition of "the general will" had left no room for reasonable differences.

According to Israel in *Democratic Enlightenment*, "... The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen was finally proclaimed on 27 August, its ringing phrases owing something to the American example but most to radical philosophique literature [p.908]." There was a difference, however, in the circumstances fostering the American Declaration and the French Declaration. America's Declaration was a protest against the abuses of the

colonies' rights by Britain's then king, not "necessarily past ones." The French Declaration "spoke of wholly natural rights that needed to be enshrined in laws yet to be made...For the first time in history, freedom of thought and expression for everyone was enshrined as a basic principle and right of enlightenment and morally justified human society, the very bedrock of democratic modernity was in place [p. 908]."

The critical concept is that in the pursuit of an ideal, the societal system does better for the people when there is a balance between the rights of the community as a whole and the rights of the individual. Where that balance point is may vary widely by society. It was missed in the case of France, ending the Enlightenment. For some Scots, it fell short in the case of Scotland. Then in the 2014 referendum advocating Scotland's independence from Britain, the referendum lost by a vote of 55% to stay with Britain against 45% for independence. Further study of the morality of the *invisible hand* in the context of nascent disciplines, especially network science and complexity science, will help in finding a path to liberty and justice for all.

Fear of the tyranny of the masses is a recurring theme. After the French Revolution, when the general will overran the rights of the individual, it was the tyranny of the majority that led to the death of the Marquis de Condorcet. Then when, in the early 1800s, Alex de Tocqueville visited America to pick up ideas that indicated that the American Revolution survived, but there was instability in his native France; he wrote *Democracy in America*. In it, he expressed concern about a tyranny of the majority. See his chapters 16 and 17 (and Maury's notes for a presentation at Books and Ideas on January 18, 2011).

Given the background that has been presented starting with what happened around 1970 (discussion starting on page 3), particularly in the lengthy quotation from the section, *The Equality of Representation of the Electorate*, "...

What has emerged beginning in the last quarter of the 20th century, may in part be attributable to how the Republican Party supporters responded to avert what was reportedly feared by James M. Buchanan. Buchanan's position is expressed, according to a book review by Heather Boushey, by her writing, "So Buchanan came to a radical conclusion: Majority rule was an economic problem. 'Despotism,' he declared in his 1975 book, *The Limits of Liberty*," may be the only organizational alternative to the political structure that we observe." The reviewer continues in the next paragraph with "Buchanan therefore argued for 'curbing the appetites of the majority coalitions' by establishing ironclad rules that would curb their power. [See pages 271-2.]

For the reader's convenience, the entire appendix is linked as follows: Appendix E - *The Integrity of American Democracy Undermined*. Also, the book's citation index includes the following: "BON10 Boushey, Heather. "Nancy MacLean's book, *Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America*." *The New York Times* (New York), August 20, 2017. See pages 85, 121, 163, 266, 272, 293, 298.

The entire text is in the review and comment stage for the authors and selected others. The first chapter has been revised; but revision appears only in the section available to the public without a password.

## THE TRUMPIAN TAKEOVER OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

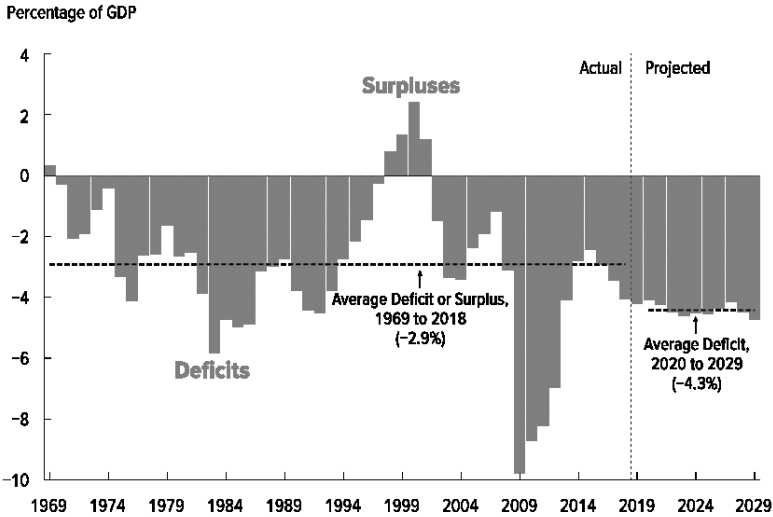
The Trumpian takeover of the Republican Party may be viewed as the fourth Republican Revolution. We may not have needed another clue, but there was one on Friday, July 31, 2020, in the form of *The New York Times* op-ed item titled “We Created the G.O.P Demise.” It is authored by Stuart Stevens whose book, *It Was All A Lie: How the Republican Party Became Donald Trump*, was scheduled for publication on Wednesday, August 5, 2020. However, at this writing, there are ample reviews already available; one of which is exceptionally lengthy. But we need not rely on the Stevens presentation. We have just discussed the power pursuit dimensions of the Gingrich led Republican Revolution (see pages 15 and 16).

In some respects, the Trumpian takeover of the Republican Party through the nomination process in which Trump attacked his fellow Republicans, is simply an adoption of the playbook of Newt Gingrich as discussed in *The Gingrich Led Republican Revolution*. In other respects, in concept, it “is a continuation of *winning at any cost*.” In the latter case, instead of it being the political party winning at any cost, it appears that in the case about Donald Trump, as an individual, *winning is at any cost*. That certainly appears to be the objective of his behavior as president of the United States. And, as of the time that this is being drafted, one may make the case that his failure to properly pursue the interests of the nation in the case of the pandemic, because he prioritizes his reelection, is in some measure at the cost of the premature death of well over 100,000 Americans.

### *The Fiscal Dimensions*

**The Ratio of National Debt to GDP.** Starting with budget projections, consider that under the pre-pandemic conditions in early 2019, the Congressional Budget Office report of May 2, 2019, the CBO’s projections were as represented in the chart that follows:

## Updated Budget Projections: 2019 to 2029.



CBO projects a deficit of \$896 billion for 2019 — \$1 billion less than the deficit it projected in January. Federal debt held by the public is projected to grow from 78 percent of gross domestic product in 2019 to 92 percent in 2029.

The first chapter of the first book of the trilogy contains a chart, on page 10, titled “Federal Debt Held by the Public.” It is preceded by the two paragraphs as follows:

The burden of the federal debt relative to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rose greatly during World War II and declined substantially by the end of the third quarter of the twentieth century. Then during the Reagan era there were two major tax cuts; the economic recovery act of 1981 and the tax Reform Act of 1986.

The burden of the federal debt increased during the 1980s while Reagan was present and continued almost to the end of the century. It was low during the period of prosperity, up until the financial crisis morphed into the Great Recession.

That chapter discusses the presidential policy on fiscal matters that resulted in the only major legislation passed in 2017, the so-



called *tax reform*. The major benefactors of that reform were the wealthy. It used an expediting structure that permitted the tax cut based upon calculations as revisions, using unrealistic estimates of future revenues.

It may be argued that the policy was designed to reward political supporters and to foster reelection efforts, rather than a public interest motivation. In any case, the 2019 Congressional Budget Office report indicated expectation of a rising deficit about an additional 1% over the coming decade (see the previous page 21 of the article from which this is excerpted).

**Presidential Policy on the Pandemic.** The presidential policy with regard to preparation for an epidemic, and his response to clues for the pandemic in the form of COVID-19, were negligent based upon a series of actions and inactions. These are discussed elsewhere. Our focus here is on a recent estimate of the ratio of national debt to gross domestic product, and expectations for the future.

A recent estimate of the ratio of national debt to gross domestic product, as provided on the web by Kimberly Amadeo, updated October 6, 2020, is as follows: “The debt-to-GDP ratio compares a country’s sovereign debt (<https://tinyurl.com/yxoxcm4a>) to its total economic output for the year. Its output is measured by gross domestic product (<https://tinyurl.com/y9u8ks79>).<sup>1</sup> In the second quarter of 2020, the U.S. debt-to-GDP ratio was a record 136%. That’s the \$26.5 trillion U.S. debt (<https://tinyurl.com/z5tz3ux>) as of June 30, 2020, divided by the \$19.4 trillion nominal GDP (<https://tinyurl.com/y4s5xx7t>).<sup>2</sup>

So far this year, billions have been budgeted for dealing with the pandemic and its consequences. The comparison of our national policy with policies of other nations, in dealing with containment and mitigation of the pandemic, reflect unfavorably on what we have done.

It may be argued that presidential policy has been focused on Trump’s reelection rather than the health of the nation.

**The Fiscal Significance Presidential Policy.** The fiscal significance of presidential policy should not be underestimated; it is a significant source of power. This is in part because, as a

practical matter, historically, the administration has been invading the legislative power of the congressional branch of government, and the current president has been carrying it even further.

Aside from the delaying of the dispersal of funds authorized by Congress for aid to the Ukraine, while asking for a favor, an action that led to his impeachment by the House of Representatives, there have been attempts to reallocate national defense funds for building a wall at the southern border.

The trend towards concentration of power in the administrative branch has facilitated mismanagement of preparation for an epidemic, the slowness to respond to early signs, and the mismanagement of federal responsibility in dealing with it is causing America's greatest tragedy in over 100 years.

The trillions of dollars allocated by Congress, thus far in dealing with the fallout from the pandemic, have pushed the national debt to become greater than the gross domestic product. It is too soon to tell how large it will be when the pandemic is under control. Furthermore, it is uncertain as to what it will do to the credit rating of the United States government, and its cost of future debt. It is clear, however, that recovery from this recession that is currently getting worse, is going to be significantly impaired by the impediments to using fiscal policy for the recovery. Furthermore, with interest rates close to zero, our nation will have less opportunity to use monetary policy than was present with the last recession, the Great Recession of 2008-09.

### *Power and Policy Dimensions*

The key phrase for this discussion is “the relationship of the U.S. government to society.” The relationship concept is predicated on what society values, and the necessity of the processes and institutions that it *will use to have an environment in which the individuals are free to pursue their interests*. The shortest statement as to what our society values may well have been stated in the Declaration of Independence; “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.” That is discussed in the opening chapter (Restoring Your Rights in American Democracy) of the trilogy's

second book (*Perspectives for a Sense of Place: Voter Empowerment*).

There are, however, differences of opinion as to the nature of “*the necessity of the processes and institutions that it will use to have an environment in which the individuals are free to pursue their interests.*” The design of American Democracy, a representative government, as a federation of sovereign states intended to protect against the concentration of power, was predicated on avoiding a concentration of power that would result in a tyrannical regime. The separation of powers was designed for that protection.

**The Intended Design Not Being Realized.** The intended design of the federation, with the delegation of authority by the sovereign states, was for the national government to serve in a capacity of a central authority that could more effectively manage common interest of the sovereign states, but one whose powers were distributed among three branches of government in order to lessen the risk of tyranny. The electorate’s confidence in the national government’s has been low, and is seriously deteriorating during this administration. Additionally, the risks of tyranny have been increasing as a result of the events that have just been discussed.

As of the date of this drafting of the article from which this is drawn, the second paragraph of an editorial appearing in *The New York Times* on August 3, 2020 simply states the case. The editorial is by Charles M. Blow and is titled “Trump Forecasts His Own Fraud.” The second paragraph is as follows: “Trump is a win at all costs kind of operator. For him, rules are like rubber, not fixed but bendable. All structures — laws, conventions, norms — exist for others, those not slick and sly enough to evade them, those not craven enough to break them.”

**The Coming End of the Fourth Republican Revolution.** The Trumpian Republican Party started fracturing during the rise of the pandemic early in the third quarter of 2020 as Trump’s gap in the polls was rising enough to push him into desperation. The widening was causing concern by many Republicans, especially Republican legislators who will be standing for reelection on November 3, 2020.

President Trump’s floating the idea of postponing the election was repulsive to some Republicans, especially because he does not have

the power to do so, and never in history of our national elections has a presidential election been postponed. The markers of destruction of democracies include leadership having been elected to power, who then change the rules so as to permit extension of power beyond the established term limits.

The reduction of the ability of the Postal Service to be able to expeditiously handle mail-in ballots may well become another straw that will lead to the breaking of Trump's power. In a June 15, 2020 article on the web (by Ahiza García-Hodges), it is reported that the new USPS Postmaster General and CEO Louis DeJoy "took office Monday." In the next paragraph is reported that "...CEO Louis DeJoy has been a top donor to Trump and the Republican National Committee..." Other sources, report that within a few weeks of the new leadership taking office, rules were changed that resulted in a slowdown of delivery by the Postal Service. Putting all of this in context takes us back to *The New York Times* editorial by Blow on August 3, 2026. From that op-ed item (titled "Trump Forecasts His Own Fraud") starting on the fourth paragraph, we have the following:

"Trump has been on a rampage over voting by mail. Last week he tweeted:

'With Universal Mail-In Voting (not absentee Voting, which is good), 2020 will be the most INACCURATE & FRAUDULENT Election in history. It will be a great embarrassment to the USA. Delay the election until people can't properly, securely and safely vote???"

Some Republicans are organizing to vote against Trump. Some are even openly saying they will vote for Joe Biden, a Democrat, to become the next President of the United States. The *this or that* choice in 2016 that rejected *the establishment*, resulted in part because of the promise to *drain the swamp*. The outcome so far has not only been the absence of draining the swamp, it has provided an even worse infestation contaminating our constitutional democracy.

## UNDERSTANDING REALITY AND OUTCOMES

### *That Which What Was Just Discussed*

That which what was just discussed was a half century of what became the Trumpian Republican Party from what used to be Grand Old Party. The GOP had its roots of conservatism from Edmund Burke who valued tradition and took a minimax approach to governmental evolution with a low level of risk in an era in which many substantial changes were taking place. It was the era of the Enlightenment, also known as the Age of Reason.

As discussed earlier, the reality is that 50 years ago, a Republican thought leader with the family name of Buchanan (James M. Buchanan) feared that majority rule was an economic problem. Arguably, that was the threshold for the Grand Old Party's pursuit of power in two particular dimensions. One was by the court system. The other was by bias in the representational structure of voting. It wasn't just gerrymandering; it was in the burden of the voting (see pages 9-19 of *They Don't Represent Us: Reclaiming Our Democracy* (1919) by Lawrence Lessig) and a variety of other processes, including a rejection of ballots in the Bush versus Gore election of 2000, after which an audit of the procedure for disqualifying ballots revealed that the outcome would have been different and the processes been fair.

As with gerrymandering, it's not all one-sided. The difference, however, is the evolution to tribalism in which the policy was winning at any cost, and for some it is valuing party above country. Along the way the fiscal responsibility eroded, the norms eroded, and the morality, or absence thereof, became cancerous to the health of a free society that requires at least two political parties in order to assure discipline against tyranny.

"It's just politics" is a phrase that relates the behavior not necessarily focused on the veracity of information and/or the honor or integrity of the action, but rather on gaining an advantage by gaming the situation or outright violating the rules. Unfortunately, in some degree behavior has become the norm; although it can be taken so far as to be cancerous of the system.

What was just discussed was the evolution of political behavior of one of the two major political parties that has taken the behavior

far enough to be destructive of the institutional arrangements that allow them their freedom. The *rule of law*, a basic principle of our free society, has been distorted by politics to treat it as the *role of law*. The *law and order* mantra of President Trump is not a pursuit of justice, it is a political maneuver that will be classified as “it’s just politics.”

### *Pursuit of Justice Responding to Oppression*

The reality is American Democracy emerged from the pursuit of justice. It was a rebellion against tyranny that transformed colonies to states that bonded together for common interest. The bonding of diversity for common interests is critical to power for the protection of all. The failure of national leadership in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic will go down in American history as a disgrace and display of political interests taking precedence over the common good.

Contrast the pursuit of justice, considering the morality of the population and its leadership, in the last quarter of the 18th century and the first quarter of the 21st century. The colonists of the 13 British colonies had a high morality, but substantial diversity, especially with a different economic base between the North and the South. They had a common enemy, the tyrannical leader of the British Empire who was unresponsive to their pursuit of justice. They banded together for strength in a rebellion that was transformed into a revolution when their level of consciousness was raised to the point that they realize their pursuit of justice can only be achieved through independence.

Aside from the key phrase of the Declaration of Independence in which the colonists, after stating the reasoning, claimed unalienable rights of man, “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,” they concluded with a pledge, “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.”

Now, fast-forward to the first quarter of the 21st century and the nation was faced with the oppression of a pandemic, COVID-19.

As noted, a few pages earlier, “The presidential policy with regard to preparation for an epidemic, and his response to clues for the pandemic in the form of COVID-19, were negligent based upon a series of actions and inactions.” Now we have some direct evidence in a book by Bob Woodward, *Rage*, supplemented with tapes of his interviews with Donald Trump.

According to a *Wall Street Journal* article (September 10, 2020) by Rebecca Ballhaus, “*Trump Says He Played Down Severity of Covid-19 in Public*,” an excerpt from the article (the second paragraph) states:

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

Later in the article, here are two more paragraphs:

On Wednesday, Mr. Biden said Mr. Trump’s comments to Mr. Woodward showed he had “lied to the American people.”

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

Where is the sacred honor of Donald Trump? Consider all this happened in his administration, including his impeachment by the House of Representatives on two articles which were delivered to the Senate serving as court and jury, and with a denial of direct testimony by Trump’s former National Security Advisor, John R. Bolton. The book, *The Room Where It Happened*, contains direct evidence that was not available for the House of Representatives when they indicted Donald Trump with the articles of impeachment. Only one of the Republican Senators, who comprise the majority of the Senate, was willing to vote for obtaining direct testimony relevant to the guilt or innocence of the president of the charges.

Furthermore, all the Senators had taken the oath administered by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts. The oath pulled by Justice Roberts was as follows: “Do you solemnly swear that in all things appertaining to the trial of the impeachment of Donald John Trump, president of the United States, now pending, you will do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws, so help you God?” The Senators signed a record book that records the oaths.

Now, as for the sacred honor of the Senators who supported Mitch McConnell’s position of not having a hearing for advice and consent of the appointment of President Obama nominee, Merrick Garland, to fill the seat that became vacant by the death of Antonin Scalia, now support a hearing for President Trump’s nominee with less than two months before the election. The excuse of different political parties controlling the Senate from the political party of the president is a rationalization of a power grab.

The Heroes Act (Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act), passed by the House of Representatives in March on a vote of 208 to 199, took months before there was a response by the Senate, and that was not a serious negotiation even though the House of Representatives started negotiating against itself.

The common enemy is a pandemic that is so severe that it has triggered a recession that is triggering exceptional economic hardships as well as premature deaths of 200,000 Americans. Where is the unity for the common enemy, COVID-19?

**Understanding the Evolution.** The evolution of *The Great Experiment* made progress for two centuries. It started with a revolution in the pursuit of justice that formed a Confederation. It became clear within a decade that a redesign is necessary. It led to what was called a Second American Revolution, the transition from a confederation to a federation.

That transition was designed to protect against tyranny in the Federation. The fear was of a concentration of power. The design was a separation of powers among three branches of government; legislative, administrative, and judicial. The administrative branch is designed as a bicameral structure because of the fear of the potential



of the tyranny of the masses. The Senate was initially composed of representatives of the states elected by the state legislatures. When it ran into problems, the solution was to shift to the direct election of the Senators.

The election of a president was not designed to be a direct election. The number of electors in the electoral college is designed to be composed of the sum of the number of members in the House of Representatives and the number of the Senators. What emerged from this is that not only the totality of the popular vote does not determine directly the selection the president, there are relatively few number of states whose collective electoral votes can swing the presidential election from one party to the other. The flaws in the system's design distort the representation of voters. And when the flaws of the administration of justice under the structure, come into play, it further swings the results of the election. An example of that case is a 2020 election of George W. Bush instead of Al Gore.

The cancerous behavior of what has become the Trumpian Republican Party is the internal threat to the survival of American Democracy. The evolution has not come in a vacuum. What we turn to now is a discussion of one segment of the evolution that will give us a better understanding of reality and improve our ability as a nation to get back on the path that did well for two centuries, but moved into a period of decay.

**Social Capital.** The social capital concept is used by Francis Fukuyama in his 1999 book *The Great Disruption: Human Nature and the Reconstitution of Human Order*. In it, social capital is defined as “a set of informal values or norms shared among members of a group that permits cooperation among them [p. 16].” This is discussed in the second chapter (The Paradigm Used) of the trilogy's first book (*Common Sense Revisited: America's Third Revolution*).

In that chapter of the trilogy's first book, there is a discussion of how both the Left and the Right wanted to “free the individual from restrictive rules,” using additional quoted material from the Fukuyama book. Here is the key quote:

“As people soon discovered, there were serious problems with a culture of unbridled individualism, where the breaking

of rules becomes, in a sense, the only remaining rule. The first had to do with the fact that moral values and social rules are not simply arbitrary constraints on individual choice; rather, they are precondition for any type of cooperative enterprise.” [The second serious problem is noted in the box that follows.]

Fukuyama goes on to explain that “...true communities are bound together by values, norms, and experiences shared among their members.” The LLCs second chapter, *The Paradigm Used*, goes on to explain that evolution of social capital may be viewed as the *other invisible hand*.

Adam Smith’s *invisible hand* was a metaphor for what is now known as *emergence*. In the case at hand, emergence is the process that creates properties of outcomes in a network macro to the network from which the interactions generate properties in the macro network not present in the micro network. His most famous use of the term, *invisible hand*, was in his argument against mercantilism. His claim was for free markets to produce beneficial characteristics for society as a whole. More of this is discussed in the trilogy’s third book, *American Democracy: The Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment*.

The *other invisible hand*, the term originating in that third book of the trilogy. It is in the first chapter, *The Declaration and The Other Invisible Hand*. It is in the major section titled “Morality and Interaction.” You can link over to that chapter. Here in a boxed format are excerpts from that chapter.

### ***The Other Invisible Hand***

This other perspective is built upon a variety of disciplines including some nascent disciplines, but has a foundation of morality. In Antonio Damasio’s book, *Looking for Spinoza: Joy, Sorrow, and the Feeling Brain*, we get a foundation for individual action. He discusses Spinoza’s Ethics... We can use it as input to the networks producing social capital in contemporary democracies.

**The Realm of the Other Invisible Hand.** The other invisible hand operates in the realm of evolution of societal structure as an organic entity with its self-organization producing a changing level of social capital as an emergent process. It goes well beyond goods and services, going to relationships of commonality of values and interests. Hopefully, the emergent characteristics move to a higher level of morality as civilization evolves, but in the case of the drug cartels in Mexico and other gangs further south, a lesser level has evolved. The level is affected by the morality that balances self-interest and community interest. It comes in two forms: production of virtue as an emergent property of society and the exercise of virtue by the populace in its interactions.

**The Self as the Generating Network.** The self as the generating network is the foundation for individual action. The other invisible hand underlies Smith's invisible hand and goes beyond market transactions to include the building of social capital...

### *Moving from the Individual Level to the Societal Level*

**Building Social Capital.** Building social capital is a matter of building the balance between self-interest and community interest, be it based on faith or reason, or even both. Furthermore, emotions and other behavioral tendencies including peer pressure and being part of the twelfth man, as in being a spectator in a football stadium, impact the prevailing values and actions.

At the extreme of self-interest there is, aside from the possibility of chaos, very low productivity. Productivity increases through specialization and cooperative efforts as in team enterprises. At the other extreme, only community interest, the erosion of incentive is so great that productivity is extremely low. The optimal balance will vary by the combinations of the people in the system and their values.

*The Role of Virtue.* The prevailing level at which balance for societies and segments, thereof, may be achieved is the result of evolution in which networks of people and

organizations evolve with varying nodal strengths and ranges of contacts. Social media have revolutionized the process, providing dramatic shifts in leverage and momentum.

That part was written about five years ago, and the book was used in an exploratory wiki with the educational innovation. In the version updated this year, you will find a discussion of the impeachment process before the House of Representatives and decided on two articles of impeachment. The additional material is about five pages long. What follows, in boxed format, is an excerpt.

By chance, on November 15, 2019, the date the first bound copy of the paperback [of BOOK 1] was delivered preparatory to printing the first distribution to cited authors for their review and comment, the first week of open hearings in the House of Representatives was concluded. It included the testimony of the former ambassador to Ukraine, Maria Yovanovitch. While she was testifying, President Trump was tweeting derogatory claims in what appears to be an attempt to intimidate a witness. Here is a quote from the web by Nick Wadhams' (<https://tinyurl.com/teqfotd>), November 15, 2019, 4:47 PM EST posting, "Less than an hour after Ambassador Marie Yovanovitch began testimony before the House impeachment inquiry on Friday, Trump weighed in with a tweet that assailed her three decades of service in the U.S. diplomatic corps and singled out her time in one of the world's most difficult posts."

Afterward *The Wall Street Journal's* biggest front-page headline was "Impeachment Hearings: Marie Yovanovitch Says She Felt Threatened by Trump." The opening paragraph of the article by Rebecca Ballhaus is as follows:...

...In short, the morality of the President of the United States certainly has the appearance of falling short of what a free society can reasonably expect. When the indictment ensconced in the impeachment process reaches the United

States Senate for the 100 senators to act as jurors, we can debate whether their actions have been sufficiently influenced by morality and/or reason; in short, will they abdicate their oversight responsibility by succumbing to the intimidation process apparently frequently used by President Donald Trump.

The next test will be that of the voting public. They have elected senators to represent their interests and if they expect to live in a free society, they will have to decide on their morality, their esteem for truth, and the cognizance of shadows on the wall. Our intention here is to provide sufficient education for at least recognizing the significance of Plato's allegory of the cave, with or without formal education. Failure to live up to the responsibilities of having a source of authority of the electorate will result in the diminution of the ability to exercise the public's rights, and the individuals will no longer live in a free society. It is sad enough for those who do not rise to the occasion of doing the right thing — they will lose their rights because of an insufficiency of morality and/or critical thinking. But it will be even more tragic, if others are also dragged down in the failure of the Great Experiment, the failure of American Democracy by moving through a plutocracy to a single party system and a tyrannical regime.

The next three appendices in the first book of the trilogy deal with (1) empowerment through more effective learning; (2) restoring America's democratic resilience; and (3) an analysis of the undermining of American Democracy.

**Our Salvation as a Free Society.** Salvation as a free society is going to be an emergent outcome of our behavior. It continues to be written in 2020 for the United States Senate, and each of the senators by her or his choice is a major marker for her or his legacy. Their legacies will be sealed, not only by their actions, but by the actions of others when they are up for reelection.

The legacy of the Senators, and the legacy of American Democracy will evolve in steps. The next step, as of September 25,

2020 will be the behavior of some of the Republican leadership. President Donald Trump has reiterated his, alleging unfounded claims on the reliability of the process. This is in violation of his oath when he took office, in which he promised to uphold the Constitution of United States.

The future of our democracy is at stake. It has arisen with the abandonment of norms and an evolution of decay of social capital. Donald Trump did not start the trend, but he has personified it and consistently crosses redlines with only very limited restraint. Indeed, his use of *rage* and *fear* has taken us to the point where we as a society have to decide about really giving up our freedom responding to feelings without delving deep enough to reason through the outcomes of our choices.

To put it crudely, in Trumpian style, when and how will American Democracy *Dump Trump*? Out of respect for pluralism and the dignity of all human beings, restraint is provided from posing the next question in terms of altering the behavior of the chumps that Trump has misled. Reversion to our norms of respect for truth, science, and freedom of choice, the question is how will we rebuild our unity for our *common purpose* as a democracy with *liberty and justice for all*? Alternatively stated, how will we reinvent our democracy?

By happenstance in timing, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences published in June 2020 the report of a two-year study by the Academy's Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship. The bipartisan study resulted in six strategies and 31 recommendations. It is available on the web as well as being available for free hard copy, upon request. By chance, it accomplished a great deal of what was advocated five years ago in the treatise calling for a Declaration of Reform. That treatise contained in the third book of the trilogy, in its fifth chapter. That book has as its first two appendices items written a few years before that, *Divisiveness in America* and *Liberty and Justice for All Some*.

For your salvation and/or the salvation of our American Democracy, delving deep enough for critical thinking to understand reality, and going beyond just feelings that are exploited by a demagogue, is a worthwhile endeavor. In order to facilitate that process, aside from providing this DEEP website, a free service of

the Declaration Era Educational Press (DEEP), here are a few links to facilitate the process.

1. A Book Review of *Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century*;
2. Appendix D - Excerpts from Chapter 5 (Building a New Paradigm) the Trilogy's Third Book; and
3. Restoring Your Rights in American Democracy, [https://mleofthemauryselfindille.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PSPVE\\_Book2\\_Copyright\\_Chapter1\\_060820.pdf](https://mleofthemauryselfindille.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PSPVE_Book2_Copyright_Chapter1_060820.pdf)

The next step is voting. It is a question of restoring your rights to live in a free society. You can take the link to the third item, the first chapter of the trilogy's second book (*Perspectives for a Sense of Place: Voter Empowerment*). For your convenience, an excerpt from the opening is in the box that follows:

### ***The Erosion of Your Rights as an American***

If you are unaware of the erosion of your rights as an American, then you have not thought enough about what has been impacting the quality of your life. If you are aware of the shifts in the distribution of wealth and income that have occurred in recent decades, and the shifts in power that have impacted the rules governing American Democracy, then it is time to focus on restoring your rights in American Democracy.

As an American, what do you consider to be your most important rights? Whatever they may be, have you considered what you need to do to protect them? We are discussing a matter of justice. It was the pursuit of justice by the colonists that led to the Declaration of Independence. And, it was the pursuit of justice that led to progress towards the ideals articulated in The Declaration....

...If you feel powerless, then you have already given up on one of the rights to equality embedded in The Declaration; the right of equal access to the tools of government. If that

is the case, you would do well to learn more about American Democracy and the empowerment process. Abrogation of the right to equal access to the tools of government may be in impeding your pursuit of being fairly treated by the establishment. That right to being fairly treated is a matter of reciprocity as a right for all Americans. It is a matter of justice...

If you are conservative, you will want to take back your party and restore your values as having appropriate influence on the rule of law. The Republican administration is about to take the one marshmallow option in reversing the rules they cited in not giving Merrick Garland a hearing in accordance with the responsibilities for advice and consent of presidential appointments to the Supreme Court. The choice for the short run, of one marshmallow, rather than the long run choice of two marshmallows, preservation of democracy may well be made before the end of the year. The hypocrisy is rationalized by spin. Here is what was drafted as a concluding section for what is now linked as The Fourth Republican Revolution. It is in the box that follows.

## RESTRUCTURING AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

### *The Role of the Next Administration*

The role of the next administration is to unify our country in our common purpose of a free society. That common purpose includes control of the coronavirus in such mutations that are likely to occur over time. It is also to lead the recovery from and an unnecessarily deep recession.

If Donald Trump were reelected, he would immediately start pursuing a change in the two-term limit of the presidency, if there's any credence to shouts of 12 more years, among the shouts for four more years, from his credulous supporters. He does not have the administrative competence or the caring for the nation necessary for



successful performance of the responsibilities. He may well continue to lead a splinter group of Republicans, but that is likely to lead to isolation from the mainstream of power.

The Democratic Party showed great wisdom in nominating a moderate with a track record of working across the aisle. The broad range of interests from progressives to conservatives can be accommodated in a more representative form of government. It is highly recommended that motivated learners utilizing this website and a hard copy of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences report, *Our Common Purpose: Reinventing American Democracy for the 21st Century*. It is also available in digital form. It contains six strategies and 31 recommendations. One does not need to subscribe to all strategies and recommendations; but civic engagement, the respective of party affiliation, if any, is essential for American Democracy to properly function. The tribalism does not work.

### ***The Fifth Republican Revolution***

A fifth Republican Revolution is in the interests of the survival of American Democracy. If instead of the power of addiction of tribalism, it is motivated by traditional values that are at the heart of conservatism. It also requires a better understanding of the difference between free markets that are fair markets, and unbridled markets to exploit the public in many ways.

It will take two political parties to exercise the discipline for fair representation of the public interests, and the peaceful transition of power as a result of free and fair elections. Demagogues should not be welcomed. The Fifth Republican Revolution calls for a morality of caring about others, and enough learning to utilize critical thinking in delving deep enough to deal with better outcomes through understanding of the system.

If a Fifth Republican Revolution fails to meet the standards of the common interests of American Democracy, is likely that the Democratic party would split between liberals and

progressives as two separate parties, each of which would outnumber the remnants of the Grand Old Party. Such an evolution could reasonably occur. The great danger is that tyranny from the left is as dangerous as tyranny from the right.

It is time to design the restructuring of our American Democracy to more effectively pursue liberty and justice for all, not just some. One approach would be to pursue the development of a New Age of Enlightenment.

### *Creating a New Age of Enlightenment*

A New Age of Enlightenment is on the horizon. The *Age of Reason*, also known as the *Enlightenment*, was heavily overlapped with the Industrial Revolution. The advance of science that facilitated the Industrial Revolution also facilitated the age of Enlightenment that shifted the power structure from a hierarchal structure to a self-organizing system in which the authority emanated from the populace.

As discussed earlier, the French Revolution went to an extreme of populism, the tyranny of the masses. Scotland settled for a representation in the House of Commons. American Democracy took a middle ground of what a reality that became a constitutional republic, and that evolved towards a constitutional democracy, still heavily relying on representation. That worked well for two centuries, at least making progress for liberty and justice for all; but then decay set in and representation failed so badly that in 2016, the public would take almost anything instead of the establishment, and it did.

American Democracy, in the post-World War II era, fostered a global spread of democratic institutions. But we failed to provide a good model, except they envied the wealth creation. The spread of democracy deteriorated and populism set in resulting in hierarchal structures in which tyrants and demagogues misled their people and falsified their elections. We've been going on that path with our rejection of the establishment instead of restructuring the system to better hold the representatives accountable.

The report of the Academy's Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship in a significant step forward. The civic engagement will provide a better representation of the public. But the vision of John Adams for a bicameral legislative structure to protect against the tyranny of the calling for what amounts to an elite representation of Senators who could, with better wisdom, constrain the tyranny of the masses. It hasn't worked out that way, not because of the tyranny of the masses, but the legislative branch has been yielding to increasing power of the administration.

It started with the Great Depression because of the crises that emerged. And, as discussed in the trilogy, the erosion of the social capital, and a failure to adequately deal with the side effects of globalization and the Information Revolution, left the end of the Industrial Revolution the population unprepared for the new environment.

What is needed now, in leadership that will shift away from what has become a hybrid of plutocracy and democracy on the road to an autocracy, is a shift back towards the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence. That requires substantial educational advancements, an increase in the equality of opportunity that is grossly neglected. It needs to move to a better balance of interest between self-interest and community interest, especially in the business enterprises.

The third wave technology can significantly contribute to the productivity of learning. There is great interest in games, but unfortunately, they focus heavily upon violence. Instead of force, games could be developed that would better acquaint learners with relationships and caring. A byproduct of the double crisis of the pandemic and the recession is that it is going to generate such great hardships at the level of consciousness of the public that it will be raised to caring about others.

That byproduct will give us an opportunity to band together for a common purpose of restoring a pluralistic society in which are common good, and not personal power, which will drive the system. That is not socialism, but rather enlightened self-interest of free markets that are fair. That is a capitalism in which there is a discipline of the market, and we do not allow businesses to get

so great in size that they are too big to fail. Market discipline is powerful, but we lost it with market dominance.

The redesign is going to take a great deal of talent, and time. But without the environment in which people are free to pursue their interests, not at the expense of exploiting others as was done with the opioid crisis. So, it will take some time and new generations are leading the way.

A one-party system will lead to tyranny. President Trump's refusal to honor the election results if he loses in the election, in violation of his oath of office, is cancerous to the survival of a free society. Leading Republicans have already indicated they will honor a peaceful transfer of power as a result of the elections, if that is the result. Playing politics has its limits. Over one hundred thousand Americans have prematurely lost their lives because the president of United States focused on reelection not his responsibilities. He was emboldened by the results of what was supposed to be a fair trial, even if not convicted. With the Senate's denial of testimony by witnesses with firsthand knowledge of the articles of impeachment, the threat of retaliation by an aspiring tyrant will come home to rest as the centers come up for reelection over time.

American Democracy requires a two-party system in order to survive. If it generates a Grand New Party that will work across the aisle for the common good of national interests over personal power, then we can restore our path to the ideals articulated the Declaration of Independence. If the Republicans fail to rebuild, over time there will be a second party on the left side of the spectrum with a moderate Democratic administration, the far right having fallen into isolation.

Taking power to deny the rights of others, by imposition of one's own choices without the fairness in representation, sets up a shift of power that the power monger will regret

**Consider Survival Through Justice.** Our nation's history is steeped in the pursuit of justice. Advancement in sciences have given us a better understanding of the evolution of organic systems. So, just as human lives progress from embryos, infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood and on to a decline ending in demise, hopefully having spawned the next generation, so does societal evolution progress. It is time to redesign our society.

Political economies are not immune entities. Political-economies strive for immunity from demise, but consider the long history of loss of sovereignty and the accelerated pace of change. How has the life-span of sovereign nations become shortened? What are some signs of the cancers that destroyed societies from within as well as from external forces, in the sense of regional or global societies?

**An Envisioned Societal Structure.** From page 7 of chapter 5 of the excerpt of the trilogy's third book we have the following:

### *An Envisioned Societal Structure*

An envisioned societal structure might be labeled as American Democracy as a Civil Society. The key is the civility of the society in a balance between self-interest and societal interest. The closer the self-interest is to being enlightened, the better the balance based on the criteria including productivity, reciprocity, and justice.

The key question is the process of going from “the self comes to mind” (as through reason or faith) to building social capital and enhancing social technology so as to improve the outer world which in turn will favorably affect one's inner world.

Such a structure would be built on the moral commitment to equality of access to government as a vehicle for liberty and justice for all. But, it goes beyond government as a vehicle — it goes to a moral commitment to structuring a civil society that includes non-governmental organizations ranging from coalitions of interfaith groups pursuing social justice to coalitions of foundations committed to development and dissemination of knowledge to (1) improve the functioning of the political-economy and (2) to support of innovative programs designed to help those in dire straits, and (3) to innovate in programs that would do more to avert people falling into dire straits.

On this last goal in improving the structure of the society, consider an example of unnecessary consequences of the dysfunctional nature of our society. The Great Recession was not necessary...

It takes an evolutionary process for societal structures to change, even though they may be marked by discontinuities. Although the discussion has focused on the last half century, the beginning of the Information Revolution, that followed the last hundred years of the Industrial Revolution, there is a lot of relevant history to learn from the couple of centuries that preceded.

**An Evolutionary Process.** As it happens, the timing of the drafting of this article, about five weeks before the presidential election on November 3, 2020, triggered a revision of the sixth chapter of the trilogy's third book, *American Democracy: The Declaration, Too, And Endangerment*. That chapter, the epilogue, had been written about two years ago and contains a great deal of relevant information.

It is now in the process of being updated because whatever happens in the November election, not only for the president and also for legislative branch, especially the Senate, it will be part of the story of the future of our democracy, in case it survives. If it does not survive, and it is seriously at risk, it may provide some background for an epitaph.

In any case, one perspective of the evolutionary process starts with some early philosophy. For Western civilization, we usually think of the trio from Athens; Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. We give short shrift to Epicurus because his ethical philosophy overshadowed his scientific perspective that focused on the idea of atoms.

Some early philosophy dealing with virtue, going back to Socrates, provides a start for looking at ethics, knowing the correct course of action for a particular situation. It leads to self-discipline in which ideas emerge, then take hold, and are advanced by science. The epilogue (titled *Toward a New Age of Enlightenment*) of the trilogy's third book (*American Democracy: The Declaration, Pursuit, and Endangerment*) provides substantially more detail. As a start, the box that follows contains a series of excerpts from that epilogue. They are from that chapter's Appendix A, and run for a few pages in an attempt to flesh the ideas out.

EXCERPTS FROM APPENDIX A  
[OUR DEMOCRACY IS DESTROYING ITSELF]

The emergence of the Enlightenment was the result of many interactions of nodes in networks. The nodes were people and groups of people. An authoritative trilogy by Jonathan I. Israel is composed of the following books:

- *The Radical Enlightenment: Philosophy and the Making of Modernity, 1650-1750*;
- *Enlightenment Contested: Philosophy, Modernity, and the Emancipation of Man, 1670–1752*; and
- *Democratic Enlightenment: Philosophy, Revolution, and Human Rights, 1750–1790*;

Israel, a professor of historical studies, attributes a great deal to the coterie of radicals of which Spinoza was a nucleus. The period covered was only about a century and a half...

... Edward O. Wilson, in his *Consilience: The Unity of Knowledge*, also starts in ancient times, but moves into the late 20th century. His career focused on evolutionary biology...

These few authors have written about some historical progress from a variety of perspectives. There are additional perspectives and a lot more literature, but the focus is on the historical evolution.

...There are two segue books that take us to linking some of the ideas about beliefs in The Age of Enlightenment to what we might see as ideas about beliefs that could take us to a New Age of Enlightenment. The first is not in a nascent discipline, but the second is...

Spinoza was driven by the use of reason built upon a *Presumption of Reason* used in his book *Ethics*...

...Spinoza, the man behind the system, has remained remote. This is just as he would have wanted it to be, since Spinoza himself is of no account within that system, just as each of us, in our singular individuality, is of no account. The

ultimate insignificance of the personal self emerges, as we will see, in the immanence of ethics.

Somehow, the quote from the final scene in the movie “Casablanca” comes to mind. In it, Humphrey Bogart in the role of Rick, says “Ilsa, I’m no good at being noble, but it doesn’t take much to see that the problems of three little people don’t amount to a hill of beans in this crazy world. Someday you’ll understand that...” It is at the airport ...

...The reader may be able to take what seems like a great leap to liken the desire for a Spinoza feeling for the greater good as a call for a New Age of Enlightenment, as was exemplified by what Spinoza was calling for that was a great contribution to the emergence of the Enlightenment. In order to help the reader, consider the second segue book, one by a Professor of Neuroscience, Neurobiology, and Psychology, Antonio Damasio.

...The second of the two segues that take us to linking some of the ideas about beliefs; it is in another book with the word Spinoza in the title. The book is Antonio Damasio’s *Looking for Spinoza: Joy, Sorrow, and the Feeling Brain*. ... The quotation is used in the first chapter of this book (the third of the trilogy titled *American Democracy Endangered*).... It is as follows:

In Antonio Damasio’s book, *Looking for Spinoza: Joy, Sorrow, and the Feeling Brain* we get a foundation for individual action. He discusses Spinoza’s *Ethics*. Damasio, a neuroscientist, wrote the following in his 21st century book, *Looking for Spinoza: Joy, Sorrow, and the Feeling Brain*:

The importance of biological facts in the Spinoza System cannot be overemphasized. Seen through the light of modern biology, the system is conditioned by the presence of life; the presence of a natural tendency to preserve that life; the fact that the preservation of that life depends on the equilibrium of life functions and consequently on life regulation; the fact that



the status of life regulation is expressed in the form of effects —joy , sorrow — and is modulated by appetites, emotions, and the precariousness of the life condition can be known and appreciated by the human individual due to the construction of the self, consciousness, and knowledge-based reason...**And for all the reasons outlined above the concern overflows from the self to the other...[the knowledge turns]...it into concern** [p.174]” [Emphasis added.]

Additionally, Damasio wrote in a later work, *Self Comes to Mind: Constructing the Conscious Brain* the following:

“The time will come when the issue of human responsibility, in general moral terms as well as matters of justice and its application, will take into account the evolving science of consciousness. Perhaps the time is now.” [From page 30, but emphasis added.]

Literature from the 21st century is revealing that seeds of the Enlightenment era also contain some seeds for a New Age of Enlightenment. Discussed in this third book of the trilogy, also in the opening chapter, “The critical concept is that in the pursuit of an ideal, the societal system does better for the people when there is a balance between the rights of the community as a whole and the rights of the individual.” It is discussed in the context of the French Revolution just before the section on morality and interaction...

...What is clear is that the structure of American Democracy is so decayed that its survival is in danger...

...The sciences involved range widely.... A framework for viewing the disciplines, both mainstream and nascent, is the series of networks in which interactions take place.... For human beings, biology works covering cells, tissues, organs, and the body as a whole. Within that framework, neuroscience dealing with emergent properties of the brain is the nascent discipline in which focusing on the brain as

the control center for the body “**overflows from the self to the other.**”

It is not only the complexity within individual humans that is of concern, but the interactions with others. That takes us to a level of network science macro to the individual human being, just as the network of organs is macro to the network of tissues. The network science continues at the ongoing levels up the scale of organizations to and beyond the societal structure of America.

That societal structure of America, aside from being viewed by traditional disciplines of sociology, political science, and economics, is viewed by nascent branches such as *complexity economics*. A favorite book selection of mine in this last category...

**Lessons from Donald Trump.** The first appendix to the first overview booklet in the trilogy is a paragraph on the first page as follows:

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

It is part of the opening of the update of the current political situation taking us only as far as the first debate. The short answer as to the lesson to be learned from Donald Trump is that behavior counts. His behavior at the debate, was not a civil discussion of the issues, but it was behavior of Mr. Trump that will go down in history as a great disgrace of American Democracy.

This is in addition to the earlier paragraph quoting from *The New York Times*, as follows:

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

His performance at the debate has alienated many Republicans. Many had been alienated earlier this year with the Senate trial? Where is the line drawn for behavior? Consider the Lincoln Project, [<https://tinyurl.com/y5mhnnxe>]. Also note the excerpt from the advertisement reporting the views by Former Republican National Security Officials for Biden ... (<https://tinyurl.com/y4rg6rg8> ) as noted in An Update On Our Current Political Situation.

In less than a week following the debate, there were reports of President Trump's few days in the hospital. In a pre-recorded address from the Walter Reed Medical Center presidential suite, he said "It's been a very interesting journey. I learned a lot about Covid... I learned it by really going to school. This is the real school..." and added some comments saying that it was not about books. He went on, "And I get it, and I understand it, and it's a very interesting thing, and I'm going to be letting you know about it," he added, in a video uploaded to social media on Sunday.

On Wednesday, October 7, 2020, the beginning of the second week after the debate, *The Wall Street Journal* front page story (positions on top of the right-hand column) is titled "Trump Halts Aid Talks Until After Election." What follows are some excerpts from the article authored by Kristina Peterson, Andrew Duehren, and Nick Timiraos.

WASHINGTON-President Trump pulled the plug on bipartisan coronavirus relief talks, putting off efforts to get more aid to struggling households and businesses at least until after election day...

"I have instructed my representatives to stop negotiating until after the election when, immediately after I win, we will

pass a major Stimulus Bill,” Mr. Trump wrote Tuesday on Twitter.

Positioned right below that article is one titled “Trump Plays Down Coronavirus, Plans to Debate Joe Biden Next Week.” It is authored by Rebecca Ballhaus. The opening paragraph starts as follows:

WASHINGTON-President Trump, in his first day back at the White House, played down the virus that left him hospitalized and vowed to return to the campaign trail as soon as next week...

In the content that followed it was noted that he “...[said] he intended to participate in next week’s debate....” Later in the column, it was reported that “he has played down the severity of the virus in recent days, even as his doctors said Monday that he wasn’t currently clear and would need close monitoring.”

The article contains a lot more, including the paragraph that follows:

In a tweet on Tuesday, Mr. Trump called Covid-19 “far less lethal” than the flu and wrote that, despite the death toll, “we have learned to live with it, just like we are learning to live with Covid.” Late Monday, Mr. Trump pointed to his own experience with the illness as he urged people not to fear Covid-19 in a video posted after returning to the White House.

The article continues reporting on actions taken by Twitter and Facebook and providing some data from a preliminary report by the CDC comparing the flu and the COVID statistics.

Considering his disrespect for truth and science, and that the virus has spread in the White House, and that tracing has not been pursued, one may reasonably wonder how much of this is designed to make him more relatable to his supporters; overcoming what he was dismissing for most of the year so far. Since the patients control what doctors can release in information about their conditions, how

much can we believe about his statements claiming knowledge of the virus by his experience?

What will Donald Trump not do to be reelected? As noted, he suspended negotiations for relief package until after he is elected, apparently for two reasons. One he wants the Senate to focus on his Supreme Court justice recommendation rather than funding for COVID relief. That is going to cause great pain to many Americans, including some starvation. Additionally, it sounds as though he's holding pay in order to foster his reelection. What we Americans can learn from Donald Trump is that it is one thing to gamble with your own resources; but it is a quite different thing to gamble with the lives of others.

As a final note here is an excerpt one of the other essays

...Bob Woodward has come out with his book, *Rage*, in which, according to a *Wall Street Journal* article (September 10, 2020) by Rebecca Ballhaus, *Trump Says He Played Down Severity of Covid-19 in Public*, an excerpt from the article (the second paragraph) states:

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

Later in the article, here are two more paragraphs:

On Wednesday, Mr. Biden said Mr. Trump’s comments to Mr. Woodward showed he had “lied to the American people.”

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

Each reader makes her or his own judgment as to motivations and judgments. However, Americans suffered far more infections and death rates than the other advanced nations.

The second crisis is the recession that arose earlier than expected because of the necessity of a stay-in-place approach, and other measures to deal with the spread of the virus. The dysfunctionality of dealing with recession avoidance and recovery started before Mr. Trump took office. In recent history, the failure to understand the organic nature of the political economy goes back about a quarter of a century. It started because we didn't really learn much from the experience of the Long-Term Capital Management fiasco...

## THE GRAND NEW REPUBLICAN PARTY

### *It Is This or That Time Again*

November 3, 2020 is *This or That Time* again. All of the preceding part (26 pages) of this essay were drafted three months before the November election. At that time, in early August, the author of this essay (the LLC with its personhood bestowed by the Supreme Court) believed there was too much uncertainty to go beyond the expectation that the Trumpian Republican Party was coming to an end, and it would be a fifth Republican Revolution, possibly returning to the traditional values rooted in the ideology of Edmund Burke, the founder of conservatism. Those traditional values relied heavily upon tradition and was risk-averse to major changes. The trilogy refers to an expectation of the fifth Republican Revolution leading to a *Grand New Party*, a Republican Party that not only valued tradition and fiscal responsibility, but pursued a model that hopefully went global. In post-World War II democracies went global, but many failed. The American Democracy is in danger of failing on November 3 if Donald Trump is reelected.

The current administration has botched the preparation for epidemics, the use of intelligence on the arrival of the coronavirus, and the containment of the spread of COVID-19. [\[link\]](#) The result is

not only the worst performance from the human health and survival perspective of all the world's most advanced economies, but the onslaught of a recession that will rival the Great Depression. [\[link\]](#) Also, the presidential motivation from the start has been reelection as the top priority resulting in endangerment to your personal freedom. [\[link\]](#) Thus, if Donald Trump is reelected, the path towards more of a plutocracy than a democracy will continue towards an autocracy. The box that follows contains an excerpt from a revision of the lead article on the DEEP website platform for motivated learners,

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

A Commentary on Joe Biden's Acceptance of the Nomination is posted on the website as a freestanding item on the Motivated Learners Platform. It is also the last item in the latest updated version of the third booklet, *Great Danger Emerges Great: Experiment Challenged*.

### ***Your Vision of Democracy***

Your vision of democracy will influence your vision of the future, and the choices you make. That is especially true, not only of what you do between now and the election, and how you vote, but what happens after Tuesday, November 3.

That article was in the process of being revised on September 4 when the alarm went off raising the level of consciousness with the

David Brooks article titled “What Will You Do If Trump Doesn’t Leave?” His concluding sentence is as follows: “It’s time to start thinking about what you would do.”

### *The This or That Time Goes the Other Way*

The presidency is likely to change in 2020, going the other way because of a rejection of the Trumpian Republican Party. David Brooks has a comprehensive article in *The New York Times* on Sunday, August 9, 2020, titled “Where Do Republicans Go From Here?” The possibilities range widely. However, they appear to be going far in the short run. We will return to that shortly.

The most alarming route Republicans might go is discussed in an article by Jamelle Bouie in *The New York Times* on Friday, August 28, 2020 and is titled “Kenosha Tells Us More About Where the Right Is Headed Than the R.N.C. Did.” It is the perspectives of the event that sounds the alarm.

The event was the shooting of 17-year-old counter protester, Kyle Rittenhouse, in an exchange of gunfire. According to the article, containing a great deal more detail, “...Rittenhouse is arrested the next day in Illinois. Authorities charged him with first-degree murder.” There’s a lot more detail in the article about what is obviously a tragedy; and that includes the reaction of the conservative media. The issue goes to justice in many dimensions and the role of government in the protection of the individual’s rights and the abuse of power. The alarming route that the Republicans might go is a continued abuse of law enforcement and the permissiveness of law enforcement looking the other way when groups are organized to take law into their own hands.

Some Republican leadership, and some other lifelong Republicans, are abandoning to be Republican Party on the road to an autocracy without regard to the fundamental values they see as effective in a conservative movement. It is going to take some time for the conservatives to sort themselves out and unite moderates, and even liberals, and realize it is time to reinvent our American Democracy in process and structure for our common purpose in the pursuit of the ideals articulated the Declaration of Independence.



### *Power Addiction or Our Common Purpose*

The fifth Republican Revolution is likely to take the better part of a decade, or even longer. As discussed, it was in the decade of the 1970s that the Republican Party began its quest for power which led to the endangerment of an ongoing discipline of at least a two-party system so as to have voter control to avoid tyranny. The voter control has been abused, not only by gerrymandering and voter suppression, but by a wide range of abuse of authority, especially in the administrative branch.

The First Republican Revolution was in the Reagan era centered around the 1980s. The Second Republican Revolution, led by Newt Gingrich, was in the 1990s. It was in the first decade of the 21st century that we had the Third Republican Revolution. The fourth Republican Revolution was arguably started in the second decade of the 21st century when the Republicans in Congress were hardening their obstructionism to the norms of democracy with a high point in refusal to act on President Obama's nomination to the Supreme Court.

The Newt Gingrich tactics that worked for the Republican Party works against the Grand Old Party when Donald Trump used them to gain the nomination for the presidency the 2016 elections. The Republican legislators showed some early resistance to being dominated by the newly elected president, but did not take long for them to fall into line on Donald Trump's autocratic ambitions.

Considering the six-year term for United States Senators, and staggered elections every two years, and the gross mishandling of the pandemic of the current administration, and the onslaught of a recession that will be deeper than the Great Recession, occurring in 2008-2009, the Republican best chance to return to power is late in the decade of the 2020's, and only if they form a party that will work across the aisle.

That means a return to the pursuit of our common purpose, is in some degree along the lines of the bipartisan report of the commission on *The Practice of Democratic Citizenship* published by the American Academy of Arts and Science. The start is already there. Now it is time to pursue it here.