

IT IS TIME TO DECIDE!

DO YOU WANT TO LIVE IN A FREE SOCIETY?

THIS ESSAY INTRODUCES THE TIMELY TRILOGY
AND FOCUSES ON YOUR SUCCESS IN LIVING IN A FREE SOCIETY
IT IS TIME TO DECIDE!



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

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Our Greatest Problems

Our American Democracy.

Beyond Conventional Wisdom. Conventional wisdom might place the COVID-19 situation in America as our greatest problem. It could be argued, however, that the situation is simply the emergent results of the multiplicity of problems resulting from a single condition, the dysfunctionality of *Homo sapiens* as a species.

Our *American Democracy* as *The Great Experiment* has been viewed as just that; an experiment, a pluralistic society emerging out of the Enlightenment era.

As to the dysfunctionality of our species, there are three key sentences by Edward O. Wilson in his book, *THE MEANING of HUMAN EXISTENCE*, (2014):

“The problem holding everything up’s thus far is that *Homo sapiens* is an innately dysfunctional species. We are hampered by the Paleolithic Curse: genetic adaptations that worked very well for millions of years of hunter-gatherer existence but are increasingly a hindrance to global urban and technoscientific society. We seem unable to stabilize either economic policies or the means of governance higher than the level of a village.” [See pages 176-7.]

As to our American Democracy, as *The Great Experiment*, with the D in Democracy capitalized because it is a proper name of an entity, we have a single sentence to quote from the Thomas Paine pamphlet, *Common Sense*. It is as follows: “The cause of America is, in a great measure, the cause of all mankind.”¹ Here is an

excerpt from the trilogy's first book, page xvi, "His [Paine's] first edition was published anonymously on January 10, 1776. The next edition, published on February 14, 1776, contained an introduction signed "The Author." The opening sentence of the introduction's last paragraph is as follows: "The cause of America is, in a great measure, the cause of all mankind." (The reader may link the [front matter](#) and/or the [first chapter](#).)

The key lies in the balance between competition and cooperation, and the scale of unity. It took more than a decade for the cooperative arrangement of a confederation of thirteen states to become a federation. The unification was achieved with a constitutional arrangement where the federal government received authority delegated by the thirteen sovereign states. The residents were provided with constitutional protections.

Our Political Problem. The design that evolved was an experiment. It made progress for two centuries, but not without substantial internal struggles. Then, in recent decades, the cooperative arrangements that had evolved deteriorated to an alarming extent. The tribal competition between the two main political parties grew to an extent in which the survival of American Democracy is endangered.

Donald Trump, whose term as president expired on January 20, 2021, had not acknowledged a peaceful transfer of power. He was impeached by the House of Representatives a week after the January 6, 2021 assault on the Capitol, but not convicted by the Senate. He still poses a serious threat to the future of American Democracy.

The obstructionism of the Republican Party, that prevailed during the previous administration led by then President Barack Obama, from the Democratic Party, resumed. There are a few notable exceptions. However, there is a pursuit of power by Trumpian Republicans at exceptional costs to the integrity of the Democratic systems.

All of this is happening while respect for democratic institutions is deteriorating. Norms of civil behavior are being abandoned, and abuse of power is rampant, especially with Republican-controlled state legislatures making it more difficult to vote.

The *Paleolithic Curse* has risen for some members of the Republican Party, including some of its leadership. As a result, some people, in recent times, have been valuing party above country. For some, it is simply a reaction to stimuli [[link to op-ed column](#) (of *The New York Times* on December 9, 2020) by Jamelle Bowie, “Why Is the G.O.P. Refusing to Recognize Its Own Success?"]. For others, it is a reasoned calculation in the pursuit of power.

This is becoming increasingly dangerous because of the stresses being put on Western civilization, and especially the leadership that American Democracy enjoyed in the post-World War II era, but has eroded under the Trumpian Republican Party. Consider that the last two decades started with a jolt on September 11, 2001 in the form of a devastating terrorist attack taking about three thousand lives. Then, a preventable Great Recession in 2008-2009 generated a global financial crisis. The COVID-19 pandemic took well over a half million lives in the first year, and generated a recession worse than the Great Recession.

On top of that, the climate catastrophe has been worsening and the unnecessary loss of lives of minorities, by the abuse of power of law enforcement, has risen to a level generating massive protests. The distrust of authority and the abuse of power in government, along with the erosion of norms for behavior, especially the **loss of respect for truth and justice**, have plagued the American scene. It looks as though our democratic system was out of control when it was being led to become an autocracy in which the values in a free society would be a matter of history. The remnants of that disastrous leadership still plague the population with excessive death rates from the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic may appear to be our greatest problem because of the loss of lives and livelihoods. However, consider the behavior of political leadership and the substantial portions of the population that have demonstrated little concern for others. It is this loss of concern for others that is not only impeding our creation of social capital, but also eroding the observance of the social contract essential for the survival of a free society.

The Biden administration has taken to dealing with the pandemic as its first priority, and expeditiously facilitated the

first major bit of legislation, the \$1.9 Trillion COVID Relief Bill. That was accomplished about halfway through the first 100 days of his administration, with the American Rescue Plan Act calling for the \$1.9 trillion relief from the pandemic.

An appendix to this booklet has been added that discusses the administration's progress in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic in the administration's first 100 days. It will be updated as discussed in the appendix, *Strategic Guidance Towards Improving Outcomes*. The key is that the Biden administration is designed to serve the country as a whole. That is in contrast to the previous administration that was led by a president who was intent on reelection even at the cost of eroding our democracy.

Strange as it may seem, this website is nonpartisan. It is calling for a reconstruction of the Grand Old Party to become a Grand New Party based upon conservative ideals, including platforms; and operating across the aisle starting with the ideals articulated the Declaration of Independence pursued with the founding of the Republican Party when it was challenged by the then Democratic Party in the Civil War.

The Newest Crisis

The Last Week in February. The newest crisis, the invasion of the Ukraine, a sovereign state, by Russia, is marked by the violation of global norms of respect for international borders. That disaster has brought unity between a substantial portion of the elected leadership of the Republican Party and the Democratic administrative leadership. It also has impacted a substantial proportion of the voting public that is attuned to the future of democracy being threatened by totalitarian regimes.

The scale of unity has risen to those favoring global democracies as compared to autocracies. Domestically, notably absent are some far right Trumpian Republicans who are in favor of autocratic regimes; and they would like to resume that direction towards an autocracy for what we are calling *American Democracy*, our *Great Experiment*.

This takes us back to the box phrase, "The cause of America is, in a great measure, the cause of all mankind" discussed in

the opening page of this prologue. That cause is the freedom from tyranny.

As noted in the preface, “the appendix is designed for adding chapters as major events unfold during a variety of segments of the new administration’s four-year term.” This newest crisis will be included in the process.

Since this is being drafted in late February, it comes shortly after Russia has recognized separatists in two regions of the eastern portion of the Ukraine, Donetsk and Luhansk, as having established “peoples republics.” The battle between the separatists and the sovereign government of the Ukraine has raged since 2014, with the separatists being in control of only part of the regions being recognized by Russia as independent states.

President Putin not only signed a decree recognizing separatist regions as Peoples Republics, he then directed the deployment of troops to perform “peace keeping functions” in the regions. It appears that this will serve as political cover for domestic purposes, while it serves the first stage of the invasion of a sovereign state for his political purposes.

This new crisis is an extension of his ongoing attempts to undermine Western democracies in his ambitions to achieve greater territorial control enroute to some semblance of what was once the Soviet Union. It is uncertain the extent of risk Putin is prepared to take, but he has already triggered the start of unprecedented sanctions that would undermine the Russian economy; starting with its leadership and, potentially, enough disaster to the Russian public to trigger a rebellion.

As this drafting is continuing on the Monday that is the last day of February 2022, it appears that Russia’s President Putin is suffering a strategic defeat because even after the first five days of the invasion, on the afternoon of the last day of the month in Kyiv, the city has not fallen. It is too soon to know what the outcome is going to be. All we are able to do now in this educational endeavor is to start the discussion of this latest crisis. As will be noted later, the appendix to this booklet will be updated after President Biden’s delivery of the State of the Union Address tomorrow evening, March 1, 2022.

Our Domestic Significance. The unfolding events are increasing our domestic significance beyond that which was expected when on Monday, February 21, 2022, the Russian President Vladimir Putin recognized separatists in two regions of the eastern portion of the Ukraine, Donetsk and Luhansk, as having established “peoples republics.” That triggered an update of this that included a slight revision of this prologue, the PDF proof of which was received on Friday, February 25, the day after the alleged “peacekeeping” Russian forces crossed the borders in the southeastern portion of the sovereign state of the Ukraine.

President Biden got some backlash after his original statement that related to an extent of action compromising the sovereignty of the Ukraine. Even after his clarification, President Putin was not deterred; and proceeded with a full-scale attack on a sovereign state. As this is being drafted on February 27, Putin has gotten some surprises.

Kyiv has not as yet fallen, and a puppet government has not been installed. Apparently, Putin as a student of history, has forgotten that his decade-long war with Afghanistan failed because the people of Afghanistan banded together to defend their territory. The people of the Ukraine will do at least as well, although it is uncertain what will happen after the end of February.

On the first day of March, in the evening, President Biden will deliver the State of the Union message. Some of the sanctions promised have been delivered; the process is slowed because the European economy is more sensitive to the damage than the American economy.

One should not rule out the possibility that Russia would march through the Ukraine and attempt to recapture control of republics that were formerly part of the Soviet Union, and are now part of NATO.

It is too early to tell with the previous sentence having been written during the last week on the day after Putin sent in what he called “peacekeeping forces.”

This week, it is reported in a *New York Times* article on Monday, February 28 (by Valerie Hopkins, Anton Troianoski and Steven Erlanger) that Putin has “...told his defense minister

and his top military commander to place Russia's nuclear forces on alert." That followed announcing the West's "aggressive" action, presumably sanctions that didn't start until he violated Ukraine sovereignty. It looks like his propaganda to the Russian population clearly is indicating they don't want war, and/or a threat to the West.

In the *Wall Street Journal* article of the same day, Yaroslav Trofimov wrote of the planned meeting of representatives of Russia and the Ukraine originally scheduled for Belarus would be held on the river Prypiat after President Zelensky received assurance "... that no Russian military activity would be carried out from Belarus in the meantime..." That was a result of President Zelensky having spoken with Belarus president Alexander Lukashenko.

At this stage, although we are presenting some clues that Zelensky, elected to the presidency by a substantial majority of people who voted in the Ukrainian election, and the people themselves, are doing an outstanding job in standing up for their rights. We are only identifying some of the issues, with **a taste for the resilience of democracy**. Updates to the appendix that is focusing on the pandemic as a case to illustrate *Strategic Guidance Towards Improving Outcomes* will now include discussions of the administration's actions with this latest crisis, as well as updates in the global situation relating to the restoration of American leadership hopeful revitalization of our own democracy.

The update is scheduled in the form of chapters as part of Part Three of the appendix, *Moving into the Administration's Second Year*. Those chapters are identified as (1) Chapter Six - A Bit Beyond the First Year; (2) Chapter Seven - After the Interim Report; and (3) Chapter Eight - After the Mid-Term Elections.

It is going to take some time after the March 1 State of the Union address for the global situation to sort itself out. Thus, the timing of the sixth chapter is uncertain.

Our domestic significance starts with fostering a unity across the aisle with some Republicans seeing the relevance to our national security. It is also increasing our global leadership significance which was eroded under the previous administration.

The scale of unity has risen to those favoring global democracies as compared to autocracies. Notably absent are some Trumpian Republicans who are in favor of autocratic regimes; and they would like to resume that direction towards an autocracy. Those Trumpian Republicans are undermining our *American Democracy* as *The Great Experiment*.

President Putin's Behavior. The pundits can have a field day in trying to understand Putin's thinking. Some have said that he's gone off the rails. Others just point to his miscalculations. The expectation was that Kyiv would fall in a matter of days.

This educational endeavor is a highly interdisciplinary approach that blends nascent disciplines in trying to forecast outcomes that result from chronic conditions and actions as emergence produces characteristics of changes in structure over time. The conventional wisdom is that Putin is looking to restore Russia to become one of the two major global forces with a resurrection of something akin to the former Soviet Union. Feelings count, and are driven by ambitions that include what he hope will become his legacy. The wealth that he and his oligarchical colleagues have managed to acquire at the expense of the vast majority of the Russian population counts for something. The premise here, however, is the vehicle is territory and a critical variable is events over time.

The appendix sheds some light on this because the website, although using the biological analogy for understanding societal evolution then the analytical approach to including fixity of location, as in territory, and timing as it influences what evolves is based upon the interaction of diverse nodes in networks.

Readers would be optimistic to expect a grasp of a multiplicity of processes involved in forecasting outcomes when the nodes differ in nature, especially in the number of connections of power. As one potential outcome, consider the most ironic of all.

Putin started his negotiations with outrageous demands including legally binding guarantees that the Ukraine would never become a member of NATO. That is reminiscent of the old joke about the Russian negotiator opening his demand for preconditions with "First I get to sleep with your wife, then we talk." The personhood author of this narrative offers its apologies to whomever may be offended.

His behavior took a pattern destined at a minimum to carve out a couple more pieces of territorial expansion from the eastern portion of the Ukraine. It would only be a start, because he wanted ironclad guarantees that his population would not see the benefits of democracy.

His playbook is to lead his people to believe they are better off than they are so as to stave off the erosion of his power. His attempt to undermine democracies is part of the plan.

He has a fondness for history, but it is selective. He remembers the expansion of the Soviet Union, but forgot his first experience in the decade-long battle with Afghanistan to move them more towards Communism than they were prepared to do. They are too tribal to go for strong central government, and he wasted a decade. Donald Trump thinks he is brilliant; maybe only because he wasted a decade while America wasted two decades trying to build a democracy where one would not work.

The premise from which this analysis is proceeding is that force is not enough; how people feel and reason, especially with the territory for which they claim as a homeland, is very powerful. The irony of the biggest abuse of territorial boundaries since the Second World War is not only not going to protect the oligarchs, it might be something closer to the French Revolution when masses take over. They have already started and always an internal police force might even outnumber his military force. He can't imprison them all. Additionally, his supply lines in this last week of February were broken down. The fuel requirements for tanks may leave them stranded in the cities where they penetrate, but destroyed by powerful weapons designed for the purpose, and provided for by the West. Conscripted soldiers abandoning the equipment may be delighted with no alternative but to surrender. The mothers didn't want them coming home in body bags.

There is more to explain. The system is not only for the behavior of the people of Russia who clearly don't want war, and conscripted soldiers who found themselves caught as prisoners in a democracy, the Ukraine, after they had been told they were on a training mission. The other scene is NATO who has now upped the defenses to at least two percent of the GDP, at least that is rumor.

It looks like so far that the three countries are willing to take the sacrifices in order to foster their own democracies that in some measure emerged from what we have described as *The Great American Experiment*, with the phrase emanating from the founding fathers.

Domestically, we have seen substantial support from the public. We will see how they feel once they have to make some sacrifices because the isolation of Russia that is going to result in sanctions is not going to be without domestic costs. Our European friends will set a good example for us, we hope and expect. Our domestic example will be quite mixed.

We now turn to a start with a historical perspective of our domestic behavior.

A Closer Look at Behavior

Consider the Trump Administration. So, let's take a closer look at behavior. As a start, in 2016 the outgoing administration had performed very well, as had its predecessor, in preparing to orient an incoming administration. The behavior of the incoming administration was remarkably different in 2016 from its predecessor's behavior.

The Michael Lewis article in *Vanity Fair* (December 2016), used the transfer responsibility, in the Department of Agriculture, from the outgoing appointed leadership to the incoming appointed leadership, as an example of preparation and response for the transition. In 2016, the incoming appointees showed little interest in understanding their responsibilities. It appears that they had their agenda for the special interests; and, the common good impact in the area of the responsibilities was not their mission.

Next, in 2018, the federal government's preparation for epidemics was reduced as part of the reduction of governmental activity. In 2020, the information received by the President of the United States on the emergence of a pandemic, not only failed to trigger governmental action for protection of the public, but resulted in President Donald Trump intentionally misleading the public as to the emerging crisis and failing to take appropriate contagion containment actions. It appears

that his actions focused on his reelection, not on the welfare of the public.

His actions discouraged two of the most important actions on the behalf of the public that could curb the explosive expansion of the contagion; wearing masks and social distancing, especially avoiding crowds. From the perspective of network science, the mathematics of contagion are fairly simple. When one person infected with the virus, and serving as its host, makes contact facilitating the spread of the disease to more than one person, the geometric progression expands based upon the successive contacts. If the contact number is 2, and each of the successive contacts is also 2, three sets the transmission over time, instead of charting as flat as with only one contact each round (1, 1, 1,) for total of three infected, the chart of successive contacts being 2 become 2, 4, 8, or a total of 14 infected. In the example, at the first level only two people were infected. At the next level, each of the two infected two more so that four people were infected. At the third level each of the four people would infect two people for total of eight at that level. The chart would rise to a total of fourteen over the three stages. If the contact number is 3, and there are three layers of contacts, each with the additional three contacts the number gets to 39 (3, 9, 27).

Since the Age of Reason, also known as the Enlightenment, we have been enthralled with reasoning that enables us to improve outcomes by modeling relationships, especially in the physical sciences. Knowledge is acquired by experiments in controlled situations. Conducting experiments in the social sciences is more complex. The uncertainty in the change in relationships as part of the problem.

We have not done well in blending the impact of the humanities into the equations. The variables include feelings and morality. Understanding of blending of feelings with reasoning as they influence behavior makes forecasting outcomes especially difficult. Knowledge of patterns can improve the assessment of outcomes. But this is only part of the picture, because the morality counts.

The Role of Science. The role of science is to be able to improve outcomes by understanding relationships, improving choices even

where there is uncertainty. The math is clear when relationships are known. Waiting for more information can be expensive.

Consider the Biden Administration. This revision of the overview booklet (*IT IS TIME TO DECIDE! YOU WANT TO LIVE IN A FREE SOCIETY?*) is accompanied by an appendix titled “Strategic Guidance Towards Improving Outcomes.” As noted in the third paragraph of the second chapter (The Start of Restructuring):

Our focus in this discussion is on the role of dealing with the pandemic as a demonstration of a strategy for improving outcomes focused on the health and welfare of the general public. As discussed, the role of the federal government, relative to the role of the state governments, is constrained. However, federal policy is still relevant for the outreach of unity pursuit of our common interests.

This educational endeavor is underway with a nonpartisan innovative approach that allows the motivated learners to delve as deeply as they wish to understand the system. The trilogy’s first book (*Common Sense Revisited: America’s Third Revolution*) integrates the nascent disciplines to improve understanding complex adaptive systems. Essentially the idea is that systems evolve process alters structure, and structure in turn influences the choices that are made in the processes.

Although we are continuing to use the pandemic as the case study, the latest major addition to a multiplicity of crises is an outgrowth of the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, invading in the sovereign state, Ukraine, in violation of what amounts to international law.

This revision of the booklet is taking place during February 2022. By happenstance, the news reports in the last week of the month indicated what was previously noted in a paragraph of the opening section titled “The Newest Crisis.” It has three subsections: (1) The Last Week In February; (2) The Domestic Significance; and (3) President Putin’s Behavior. As noted in a single paragraph of the first subsection,

President Putin not only signed a decree recognizing separatist regions as Peoples Republics, he then directed the deployment

of troops to perform “peace keeping functions” in the regions. It appears that this will serve as political cover for domestic purposes, while it serves the first stage of the invasion of a sovereign state for his political purposes.

High quality testing for the virus is more expensive and time-consuming than tests of lesser reliability. If there is a program management strategy for containment, the analytics call for identification of persons having a virus, or being a carrier even without symptoms. The answer is in testing; but the question is in its extent and nature. The idea is to be able to track and contain.

This takes us to public policy. Countries differ as to the extent of collection of information and control of behavior. They also differ as to the distribution of authority among levels of government. So, this takes us to the question of program management. There is more to restraining transmission than frequent washing hands and letting time pass before handling objects that may be contaminated; there is a process by which choices are made and constrained. That process is more complex than the use of facemasks and social distancing.

That complexity takes us to the question of how well we have organized our public policy for program management, given the information that we are able to obtain and utilize. It also takes us to how well have individuals behaved, given their feelings and morality.

Although the Declaration Era Educational Press (DEEP) website contains a discussion of behavioral science, a recent book by Ezra Klein, *Why We're Polarized*, is a very substantial addition to the literature, and is especially focused on the role of identity. Some of it will be discussed in the next section subsection, Feelings and Morality. It is mentioned here under the Role of Science because of two items.

The first of the two items is on page xv of the introduction. It is a four-line paragraph as follows:

“Understanding the relationship with our political institutions, that they are changed by us and we are changed by them, is the key to this story. We don't just use politics for our own ends. Politics uses us for its own ends.”

That item is especially significant for this website because although Klein is using it for the second item, this website uses it for a broad range of highly interdisciplinary issues as part of providing a higher education, virtually for free, that is essentially a liberal education that will enhance one's success in producing a better quality of life for oneself and others. That second paragraph (see page xv) is as follows:

I think we are, or can be [referring to the previous discussion]. But toxic systems compromise good individuals with ease. They do so, not by demanding we betray our own values, but by enlisting our values such that we betray each other. What is rational and even moral for us to do individually becomes destructive when done collectively.

That item refers to an especially significant component of the complex adaptive system of our American Democracy and its endangerment. He follows it up with a really short paragraph, "How American politics became a toxic system, why we participate in, and what it means for our future is the subject of this book."

The book is highly recommended, and its author is a prime prospect for the leadership team that is to be assembled for the interdisciplinary approach using American Democracy endangerment, and the design of its reform through education innovation.

Feelings and Morality. How people feel about making hard choices varies substantially. Some people are very analytical, relying heavily on science and reasoning in making choices. Others are driven by feelings, sometimes without examining consequences. This takes us back to "...the Paleolithic Curse: genetic adaptations that worked very well for millions of years of hunter-gatherer existence but are increasingly a hindrance to global urban and technoscientific society. We seem unable to stabilize either economic policies or the means of governance higher than the level of a village."

Research on primates indicates that learning varies by cultures. Thus, progress in quality of life varies by the extent of learning; much of which is acquired by observation. The addition of reasoning and

experience makes a significant difference. This takes us back to the balance between self-interest and communal interest, or competition and cooperation.

This booklet will delve deeper into these issues, and provide links to supporting knowledge. The idea is that we need to learn more in order to redesign our society. We will get to that, but a large portion our population is not aware that their liberty is in danger. We can start with that with a look at redesign.

The Design Approach

A Look at Redesign

The trilogy's first book, *Common Sense Revisited: America's Third Revolution*, was inspired by the Thomas Paine pamphlet, *Common Sense*, designed to raise the level of consciousness of the colonists. He did so by inspiring them to pursue independence as a necessity for achieving justice.

The dysfunctionality of our American Democracy is denying justice on so many counts that the survival of what we have left of our democracy is in grave danger. Now let us consider the level of consciousness of our population.

Level of Consciousness. At the time of the American Revolution, Western civilization was approaching the end of the age of Enlightenment, also known as the Age of Reason. It was in the transition from the hierarchal control of royalty and religious leaders to the self-organization of the population. A major issue was the competence of the population for self-government. Also of concern was the potential of the tyranny of the masses depriving the wealthy of their property.

The American Revolution was a matter of pursuit of justice. The key was unalienable rights to life liberty and pursuit of happiness. It was an experiment in shifting control from a despotic king to the colonists, with a self-organizing approach. The self-organized approach provided a claim of sovereignty for each of the thirteen states, the former colonies. However, what started as a federation evolved to become a federation in the form of as a constitutional republic, or constitutional democracy, depending upon how you want to define the *United [sic] States of America*.

The Constitution provided for a bicameral legislature. The House of Representatives was to be elected by voters who were white, of age, and owned property. The Senate was structured with two representatives for each of the thirteen sovereign states, to be selected by the state legislatures. American history can be viewed as episodes for power control through manipulation of the system, but with shifting interests as to the internal priorities. However, like other animal species, the organization for territorial control is what sovereignty is about.

Dynasties and empires have risen and fallen. Territorial protection has been a problem through the ages. What we are facing today is that although we have the strongest military force in the history of mankind, the danger of our freedom as individuals and society is arising from the internal divisiveness, rather than external control by physical forces. Although, we should not underestimate the impact of the undermining effects of foreign interference.

Thus, a great deal depends upon how effectively we as a nation manage our internal relationships. We have designed a structure for a separation of powers, and processes for fostering a rule of law. But our institutional relationships that evolved with progress over two centuries of time have become undermined by tribalism in which national interests are being subsumed to political interests for control of the system.

John Adams, the second president of the United States, was fearful of credulous voters. He and others wanted the Senate to be composed of men who had the wisdom for protection from what could be a tyranny of the majority. The election of the president is not designed for direct voting by the eligible public, but rather by an electoral college with the number of electors from each state to be the sum of the number of their representatives in the House of Representatives and the number of senators.

The number of representatives in the House of Representatives was based upon population count within the sovereign states. As a matter of negotiation, the Constitution provided that enslaved persons would count as three-fifths of a non-enslaved persons residing in each of the states. The state legislatures determined the

geographical boundaries of the election districts to be determined by a decennial census.

The suffrage structure has been modified by constitutional amendments. The senatorial representation has been shifted to the popular vote from being determined by direct vote by state legislatures. Former President Donald Trump attempted to have some state legislatures override the popular vote in selecting the nation's president in the 2020 elections.

Former President Trump abused his authority as president in his attempt for success. His reelection campaign started the day after his inauguration. He took actions that place personal and political interests above the interests of the nation as a whole. He will go down in history as a major contender for the worst president in the history of the United States. In some measure, this will be because of the credulity of many of his followers. The failure to understand the nature of a free society, and the responsibilities for citizenship is cancerous to the system. The lack of morality in leadership undermines the viability of our American Democracy.

His actions have caused some Republican leadership and many Republicans to vote for the opposition party because they feared that his reelection would take us further on the road towards an autocracy. The battle for control of the political system has not been pristine, but until the presidency of Donald Trump, there was no question of a peaceful transfer of presidential power.

The level of consciousness of the Trumpian supporters encompasses a lack of awareness that is a serious threat to the future of our democracy. They are being led towards a populism that would take us to an autocracy if the past and what Donald Trump has been pursuing continues long enough. It is unclear whether or not he will be a presidential candidate in the 2024 elections.

Values in Our Democracy

Values in our democracy are diverse; and that is a strength. Values in our democracy have a commonality; and that is a strength. Sometimes they are in conflict. Sometimes the approach to resolution is a strength; and sometimes it endangers the survival of our democracy.

In order to understand the difference in approaches to the resolution, it is useful to understand the nature of value, the role of being realistic, and the potential of vision and design.

By happenstance, on the day this subsection portion was being drafted (December 11, 2020), *The New York Times* front page had two stories using the phrase “out of control,” relative to the pandemic. The first is titled “Record U.S. Deaths Creates a Wave of Destruction: Daily Toll Tops 3000 Experts Warn More Worst Is to Come” (authored by Sarah Mervosh, Giulia McDonnell Nieto del Rio and Neil MacFarquhar). The second is titled “Pfizer’s Vaccine Clears A Big Step Toward Approval: F.D.A. Authorization Is Expected Soon, as Caseloads Continue to Soar” (authored by Katie Thomas, Noah Welland and Sharon LaFraniere).

From the first article cited, the excerpted key phrase and sentence that followed are “...Becoming part of a grim cascade of Americans who have died from the coronavirus as it rages out of control. More than 3,000 deaths reported on Wednesday the first time since the pandemic began.” From the second article cited, the authors quote a senior officer of Pfizer as follows: “With the high efficacy and good safety profile shown for our vaccine, and the pandemic essentially out of control, vaccine introduction is in urgent need.”

The nature of the value is that value represents a relationship of what one would give up in order to acquire or retain something already possessed. Knowledge plays a significant role in making the choices of what one values. The first part of the paragraph excerpted from Chris Rohmann book, *A World of Ideas: A Dictionary of Important Theories, Concepts, Beliefs, and Thinkers*, is as follows:

To Socrates, knowledge and virtue were identical. When one has knowledge one acts wisely and thus virtuously; evil acts are committed only from ignorance. The highest state of arete, or excellence, a moral knowledge that sees clearly the best of actions and the situation. The way to arete is self-knowledge: as Socrates says in the *Apology*, “The unexamined life is not worth living.”

Diversity is a value. It is essential in nature for plant life, and in economics for enhanced productivity through specialization. In our society, diversity is a great asset for enhancing the quality of life in a free society through pluralism, the existence of different sets of values, all of merit. That is part of the essence of our free society designed for protection against tyranny.

Although great strength for our society comes from diversity, it is the commonality of values that serve to protect the diversity from external and internal threats to our freedoms. The simple truth is that our social contract creates societal value in the form of social capital. It is a resource that enables us to function with trust based upon truth. It goes beyond protecting our territory from external forces, it provides us with a rule of law designed to facilitate our pursuit of justice.

Our concern here is with the approach to resolution. The out-of-control pandemic is a case of failure; not only of our former leadership, but also of ourselves in dealing with the reality of understanding what it takes to keep our system in balance. The analogy we use, particularly in the third book of the trilogy, is that an understanding of *hemostasis* in human biology facilitates understanding the same self-correcting systems in our society. They start with individual behavior, and operate through representation.

At issue now, is the integrity of the elected representatives, especially the United States Senate. We had a clue in the trial of President Donald Trump in the first impeachment case when the Senate would not permit witness testimony. Of particular concern was of a witness who had firsthand knowledge not previously available. We had additional clues after January 6, 2021.

We then had another case in which there was a potential for elected Republican representatives to violate the spirit of their oath of office, and thereby disavow democracy. In accordance with the Electoral Count Act of 1887, along with some modifications, on January 6, 2021, the United States Congress met to confirm the results of the 2020 presidential election. The Vice President of the United States, Mike Pence, presided, and stayed true to his constitutional responsibility. The then president, Donald Trump, had pressured the vice president to refer the results to the state

legislatures so that they could override the election results from the voters' choices. The vice president refused based upon it not being constitutional. When the mob invaded the Capitol building to disrupt the proceedings, some of the insurrectionists were out to hang Vice President Mike Pence.

A week later, the House of Representatives impeached President Donald John Trump for the second time, but again the Senate did not convict. The then Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell, after not voting to impeach, followed the Senate voting with a statement attributing the invasion of the Capitol building, and the interruption of the processes, with blame on Donald Trump. Since the then Majority Leader, Senator McConnell, has been viciously criticized by Donald Trump. The former president still appears to be Republican Party leader. And, the party's future is uncertain.

Make no mistake! The survival of American Democracy is being tested by an autocrat, and elected representatives, who have capitalized on what has been emerging in the Republican Party for decades. It may well be that the Republican Party would like to be rid of Donald Trump, but retain his supporters. In any case, the challenges facing the administration of President Joe Biden are greater than they would otherwise be because of the attempts of Donald Trump to produce a coup d'état without military force, but rather by perversion of the law and gaming of the system.

The challenge before you is to decide, do you want to live in a free society? If you do, then you would be wise to take the advice of Socrates as a start to making your choices as to your behavior impacting the future of American Democracy, and your quality of life.

Some Elements of Design

You and your behavior are among the most fundamental elements in the development of the design that will affect your quality of life as a result of the impact of the multitude of crises facing our nation. It may not be obvious to you that the most critical elements hinge on the balance self-interest and community interest in the homeostatic process in which your mind and body self-adjusts to

the changing environment, including the mind and body of our nation, as it adjusts.

More Than a Couple of Problems. There are more than a couple of problems in developing a homeostatic process both with the inner-self as an individual and the outer-self as part of the community at all levels ranging from the local community, to the nation as a whole, and globally.

The adjustment of the mind and body of our nation is incredibly complex. It adjusts to its environment of a changing global situation, but also to the social, physical, and business technologies that influenced the organs in its body, just as your body adjusts to its organs that include the brain, heart, and stomach.

The design of the political structure utilizes the separation of powers in order to avoid tyranny. It is the most obvious element for our societal design. The United States Constitution is the foundation of that structure. It has had some alterations through amendments as the societal structure has evolved over more than two and one-quarter centuries.

There is a co-evolution of the voting population of the nation and the political structure. Science has led us to a better understanding of how the system works. Essentially, the processes generate emergent characteristics in structure, and the impact of the changing structure on the environment affects the choices made by the agents in the system. The agents include the voters and their representatives, as well as a myriad of institutions.

On Monday, December 14, 2020, the Electoral College announced the results the 2020 presidential election. That was a major step in dealing with a threat to the survival of American Democracy, but the threat has not gone away. It was a battle for resiliency, but the challenge still exists; and it will frustrate the new administration's efforts at restoring a unity of common purpose. That unity is a free society that continues to be under challenge, more from internal forces than from external forces, even though the external threats are substantial.

The out-of-control COVID-19 pandemic is on the way to being constrained by the availability, and use of, vaccines developed in

a historical short period of time. The shipments also started on Monday, December 14, 2020. The prioritization of distribution starts with the frontline health workers who are at exceptional risks serving to help those infected with the COVID-19 virus, and the elderly residing in healthcare communities where exposure is substantial, and the consequence of infection deadly.

As a practical matter the rise in infections and death rates continued to rise during the first 100 days of the new administration. The federal government has an important, but limited role, in dealing with the pandemic. Major responsibility rests with the states, but the virus has no respect for territorial boundaries. In the appendix, *Strategic Guidance Towards Improving Outcomes*, the opening paragraph of the section titled *Restructuring for a New Age*, is as follows:

Governmental control in the wearing of masks as protection from the spreading of the virus in the United States is divided. The federal government is limited, as reflected in President Biden's first executive order (January 20, 2021). That Executive Order requires masks on federal property for his first 100 days in office. The individual states have the authority for mask requirements on private property.

As yet, it is uncertain whether or not those persons who are immunized by vaccines could spread the contagion. The assumption of developing immunity through widespread vaccination has yet to be proven. In any case, it is likely to take until the summertime for everyone who wants to be immunized to be able to complete the two-shot series.

A major part of the problem in the spread of the virus has been the individual behavior; the failure to observe the basics of frequent hand washings, mask wearing, and social distancing. It is clear, however, that a national strategy for containment has emerged under the direction of new leadership, with an administration by well-qualified leadership in a broad range of governmental activities. The shifts of leadership are to people who are committed to the public interest rather than to special interest groups that are willing

to undermine democracy in order for personal benefits. Many of the outgoing leaders of the Trump administration were not focused on the public interest. The shift in national leadership has made a significant difference by improving the quality of life experienced by the general public.

A Sense of Place in Relationships. A sense of place, and an understanding of relationships, may be viewed as the foundation for self-selection of one's role in society. That selection varies by culture and within cultures over time.

The key in the evolutionary process that is likely to emerge is going to be heavily dependent upon development of trust. Your personal experiences, and the personal experiences of many other people, will provide an opportunity to deal with diversity in solving problems at the local level. Just as diversity in the economic arena utilizes specialization to increase productivity, so in the societal arena, the diversity facilitates selection and magnification in relationships that foster the common good.

The development and dissemination of technology to facilitate dealing with emergent problems, especially as was the case of the current pandemic, makes a significant difference. There is no silver bullet; rather, there is a need for cooperative efforts to deal with the issues. Choices that were made by the public in not wearing masks, and not maintaining social distances, severely added to the problem. Misinformation by the American president in 2020 led to more than hundreds of thousands of premature deaths because some people's trust in the president was misplaced. President Trump admitted he had information on COVID-19 that he misrepresented.

Trust has to be earned. Trust is heavily dependent upon truth. Science is a route to enhancing an understanding of reality. It is time to start rebuilding trust in government, and local government is a place to start. This is leading to a discussion in the third booklet focused on structural changes involved in the recovery from the pandemic and recession, and fostering an essential co-evolution in our democracy.

There are differences in opinion as to the appropriate role of government. However, many issues may be framed so as to be

placed where the common good has sufficient value so as to enable compromises on differences in opinion. The first round of governmental aid to those impacted by the virus was an astounding accomplishment in funding. It was disappointing in administration because the benefits were not appropriately allocated resulting in small businesses getting short shrift. The distribution of funds was managed by banks, and they gave preferential treatment to their clients as compared to the small businesses for whom the bulk of the aid was intended.

The legislators need to be held accountable. That is your role! Many of you have been misled because you have responded to the exploitation of your feelings without your reasoned consideration of outcomes from your choices and actions. This is an educational endeavor, and is applicable to holding legislators accountable irrespective of political party.

The Role of Business Enterprises. The role of business enterprises is critical to the quality of life of the American public. That role is to perform the production and distribution of goods and services. Performance of that role requires that a governmental authority grants permission to a business enterprise to exist. Governmental authorities also have regulatory authority that can range widely depending upon their institutional arrangements.

The business enterprise has many relationships beyond government that permits it to exist. The stakeholders include the owners, managers, employees, suppliers, customers, and the communities in which they do business. Capitalism as an institutional arrangement has the capability of producing great wealth. The system, however, has operated as though making profits is the role of the enterprise, when the reality is that profits are a major incentive and the discipline of competition impacts those profits.

The major discipline, aside from the internal self-discipline, is supposed to be in the market. It is also within the role of government to provide protections to the public. Unfortunately, the regulated industries have manipulated governmental control for their own purposes. The results of the operations have in the aggregate produced great wealth, but its distribution has been concentrated

in an increasingly smaller proportion of the population through a manipulation of the regulatory systems. Reciprocity within the system has failed to meet any reasonable tests of equity.

The cost of externalities upon which business enterprise relies are only partially reimbursed in a variety of forms. The environmental damage becomes a public expense as with the climate change. The competition that is supposed to provide market discipline is not doing what is supposed to do. In some cases, relatively small innovative enterprises have been driven out of business by unfair business practices. In other cases, small innovative enterprises have been acquired so as to reduce competition. The vast majority of the workforce, supposedly in the middle class, have not shared equitably in the productivity gains of the enterprise. The vast majority of the workforce has not improved their standard of living, while the top management and the ownership has been free to manipulate the system for the benefits of increasing their personal concentration of wealth.

The Republican Party was founded in the era of President Abraham Lincoln. It flourished for about a decade with a pursuit of equality of rights and rewards of hard work. The Republican Party leadership shifted to those protecting their wealth at the expense of the erosion of the equality of rights. The Republican Party went through another pursuit of equality of rights under the leadership of President Theodore Roosevelt. That too faded after a while. The Republican Party then pursued those equality of opportunities under the presidential leadership of President Dwight David Eisenhower. In time, we may reasonably expect that the Republican Party will again have a leader pursuing the equality of rights articulated in the Declaration of Independence. We don't have that now.

What we have is a Republican Party that is approaching, if not already embedded in another Republican Revolution. The discussion of the previous paragraph focused on the first hundred years of the Republican Party. An essay focused on the last fifty years is titled "[The Fourth Republican Revolution.](#)"

An abridged version is embedded in a related essay titled "[Our Democracy Is Destroying Itself.](#)"

American Democracy requires a minimum of a two-party system in order for the public to be able to share a control over its representatives. Unfortunately, recent decades have been led by an effort of the Republican Party to move toward a single-party system. Our democracy has evolved to be as much a plutocracy as a democracy, and was on the way to an autocracy until the Electoral College confirmed the election results.

During the few weeks between the Electoral College process and the congressional confirmation there was a sorting out of Republican leadership. That process is an ongoing process. Some looked for a last-ditch effort for congressional action to deny the election results of six states as challenged in the lawsuit led by the Texas Attorney General and rejected by the Supreme Court. Three of those Supreme Court judges were appointees of President Trump. Donald Trump has developed skills in the manipulating the legal system for his personal advantage, and has done so as an exploitation of the system. It makes one wonder what his supporters really care about. Fortunately, there are lines that even ideologues and power seekers will not cross.

The power of Donald Trump as a demagogue has pushed many power seekers and even ideologues to their limits. Some without principle, other than personal power, continue to support him. Those comments focus on leadership, one level of the evolution that is going to continue changing the party; a party whose history of almost a century and a half has undergone dramatic changes in leadership and constituencies.

The vast majority of his followers may well fall into the credulous category who have been exploited. There are other followers who do not believe in democracy, and are at the core of the insurrectionists who attacked the Capitol building on January 6 with the intention of disruption of the democratic process at any cost.

Increasingly, some of the Republican leadership is leaving the Trumpian Republican Party, and some of the voters who were supporters of the Grand Old Party, have also left the party. Many split from the Trump-led party in time to vote for the Democratic opposition. Some more additions were earlier during the weeks after the Electoral College votes were

certified. The then President Donald Trump was impeached by the House of Representatives.

The far right has not given up. A number of state legislatures have been passing legislation designed to favor election results for Republicans by making it more difficult for some Democratic voters to vote. Many corporate leaders have openly denounced the legislation proposed legislation that would restrict voting. They've done so based upon democratic principles, without regard to party. They say that the future of democracy is heavily dependent upon fair and free elections. They want to protect our heritage of capitalism.

Protecting Our Heritage of Capitalism. We need a healthy Republican Party blessed with conservative values rooted in the history of conservatism with enough knowledge to understand the reality of market disciplines, and what it takes for a healthy survival of a free society.

As a nation we have lost our global leadership. Donald Trump did not invent the populism that has been spreading. He just capitalized on the trend of the Republican Party in recent decades to become so enamored with their property rights that they have traded off the heritage of The Great Experiment built upon the pursuit of the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence. It is time to value health of the nation as a whole, and its function in equality of rights, more than selfish benefits of manipulating the system with cancerous intrusions on the representative nature in our design, especially in actions that will lead to tyranny.

Capitalism as a system proved to be so productive even Communist China has adopted it. It is done so under a single-party system that exercises such control that it can impose on their business organizations the diversity of benefits as they see appropriate. It is a tyrannical regime.

The abuse of human rights, especially with the Uighurs, the Muslim minority concentrated in the northwest region, is doable under a one-party system. The threat of communism, and socialism, has been used as a strawman for domestic policy that fears a redistribution of wealth. What is missing is an understanding of values in which a free society can be a capitalistic society, but it ceases to be a free society when the system is rigged to avoid

equitable reciprocity essential for an environment providing the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

American business is a key societal institution of our democratic system. Its leadership would do well to protect their freedom to do business by placing the health of the nation in a proper perspective, rather than being solely a vehicle for personal profit. The survival of the Republican Party has been endangered by some of its leadership placing party above country. Fortunately, enough of the party leadership and membership grew from the ranks because the survival of American Democracy was at stake.

Although the previous administration took some action in constraining the actions of the big four in information technology, it is uncertain how much Donald Trump's personal interests was driving it, and how much was for the public's interest. The European Union is taking action in regulation, but that is clearly focused on the public interest.

We will see what happens with the next Republican Revolution in restoring the ideals that led to its founding, if it survives. The evolution of the Republican Party has been plagued with tension between the pursuit of the equality of opportunity rooted in the Declaration of Independence (with shortfall impact felt by Abraham Lincoln's own family experiences) and by the focus on protection of property rights.

The protection of property rights was rooted in people being owned by other people, as property. The nature of the property evolved over time. Ownership of land was followed by ownership of industrial enterprises. After the Industrial Revolution, the Information Revolution, again with great concentrations of wealth, became a control of property issue. The strawman has been communism and socialism; but the fear has been for a redistribution of wealth.

The shortfall in understanding the conditions under which a capitalistic structure can serve the ideals articulated the Declaration of Independence has become cancerous to the survival of democracy. It is either that idea or a lack of understanding, or as a conscious choice of selfish interests through exploitation of others.

The Edmund Burke conception of conservatism in the Enlightenment has great merit as a minimax strategy with a great reliance on tradition. As a Brit he had great concern about the risk of tyranny of the masses, and it turned out to be right in the case of the French Revolution. Fortunately, the American Revolution led to The Great Experiment, a middle-ground protected from tyranny, presumably from both of a hierarchal structure and the control of the masses with a bicameral legislature.

An Evolution Design for Our Economy. Our economy, as an evolutionary system, is critical to restoring our nation's pursuit of the ideals articulated in the Declaration of Independence. The tension between the pursuit of the equality of opportunity rooted in the Declaration of Independence and the protection of property as provided by the Constitution has been impacted by the conservative vision.

George F. Will, a Pulitzer prize-winning columnist, who left the Republican Party after four decades, apparently in protest of the leadership results from Donald Trump, in his 2019 book, *The Conservative Sensibility*, wrote a chapter titled "CULTURE AND OPPORTUNITY: THE SCISSORS THAT SHREDDDED OLD CONVICTIONS. He opened the chapter (on page 299) with an epigraph as follows:

The central conservative truth is that it is culture, not politics, that determines success of a society. The central liberal truth is that politics can change a culture and save it from itself.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

When Ben Sasse, the Republican senator from Nebraska, made his opening comments in 2015 as a newly-elected senator, he rose from the desk that he requested, that used by Senator Moynihan (a Democrat from New York) from 1977-2001 and former professor of history at Harvard. Senator Sasse was reelected in 2020, and also had the benefit of substantial academic credentials including a Yale University Ph.D. in History.

The evolution of American culture is not only a political phenomenon, it is heavily an economic process that produces the wealth affecting the quality of life of the inhabitants in any political economy, but especially one heavily reliant on market-mechanisms.