

Squandering Our American Inheritance



By Liz LaSorte

We, the Heirs of the American Experiment, are Squandering Our American Inheritance. Not only do we take Freedom for granted, but we are also allowing our elected and non-elected public officials to dismantle the American Experiment. Why?

There is no utopia on earth and there never will be. Face it; earth is “boot camp” because the Universe designed it as such. In the 18th century, America’s founding fathers understood that human nature is self-serving and created the best type of society that would become known as “the American Experiment.”

How often do we hear the media, politicians and others crying about “saving our democracy?” The idea of democracy is different from creating a government that is a democracy. Why do so many people think that the American government is a democracy? Do they not understand Plato’s warning that democracies never last? More than likely, most are ignorant of Plato’s *Republic*. Our founding fathers understood Plato’s metaphor about sailing a ship with an inexperienced and/or incompetent captain and crew, so they created a Constitutional Republic, not a democracy, and not even a democratic republic. [The Congo calls itself a democratic republic.] America is a Constitutional Republic, a republic under the authority of the U.S. Constitution. But, if American voters do not even understand what type of government they inherited, how can they possibly save it? And, sadly enough, with the 17th Amendment¹ ratified in 1913, America did begin to devolve into an actual democracy. With the 16th Amendment,² also ratified in 1913, it was the beginning of the end of the unique American idea of federalism because now taxpayer incomes are building a big federal government to rule over us, against the premises of the 9th and 10th Amendments. It is important to understand that the idea of democracy in America does not mean that America is a democracy, as de Tocqueville made clear in his famous tome, *Democracy in America*.

¹ <https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/amendment-17/>

² <https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/amendment-16/>

Scholars in the 18th century understood that democracies never last and this idea was elaborated by James Madison in Federalist #10³ of the Federalist Papers.

Although America's original sin is clearly the irony that slavery was not abolished at its founding, our founders did create a society that cherishes freedom, law and order, and as Frederick Douglass predicted, the U.S. Constitution would be the "liberty document" to abolish the abhorrent practice of slavery. In his famous speech in 1860, he said, "Now, take the Constitution according to its plain reading, and I defy the presentation of a single pro-slavery clause in it. On the other hand, it will be found to contain principles and purposes, entirely hostile to the existence of slavery."

After the 13th and 14th Amendments, America continued to move forward towards the idea that people should be treated equally, and Americans could create their own version of the American dream, *if they so desired*, but it took another nearly one hundred years to right the wrongs of "Jim Crow" and discrimination with the Civil Rights Act of 1964. And, maybe we haven't fully evolved yet, but we should look at the progress we have made v. beating ourselves up for America's past mistakes.

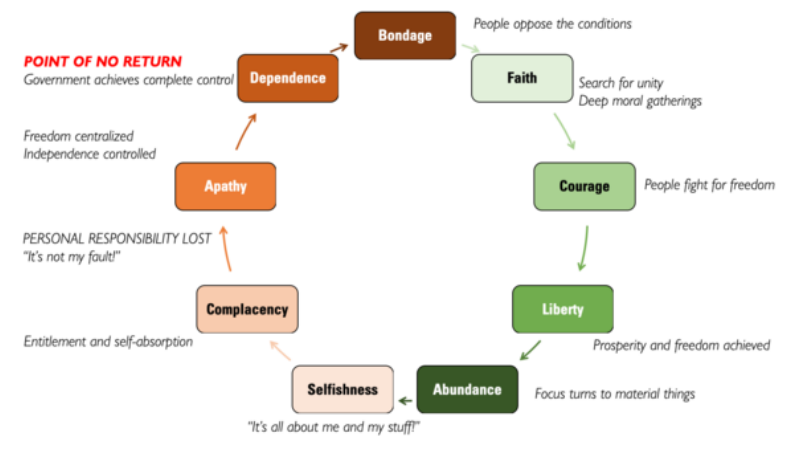
While corruption reigns supreme with many who hold political power in both parties⁴, aka the "uni party," we the people allow ourselves to be observers and/or performers in the circus of DC politics. Why?

No Lives Matter anymore. Why? It seems like a simple concept to live in peace and harmony: that we are all connected to the Universe according to the first Law of the Universe, the Law of Divine Oneness. When we hurt someone else, we hurt ourselves. Alexis de Tocqueville said that America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great. Prophetic guy who thought deeply about America in the early 19th century. He also said, "Americans are so enamored of equality, they would rather be equal in slavery than unequal in freedom." Yikes!

³ <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Madison/01-10-02-0178>

⁴ "I do not know if the people of the United States would vote for superior men if they ran for office, but there can be no doubt that such men do not run." — Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*.

The Scottish historian, Alexander Tytler, around 1770, studied earlier democracies and saw a pattern:



Dependency, the last cycle before Tyranny. Dependency should be abhorrent to all Americans because being tethered to another party for one's existence means we are not free.

More than a half a century has passed since the War on Poverty⁵ began. Are we better off as a country because of the War on Poverty? From the working, middle-class viewpoint, absolutely not. Thomas Sowell crunched the statistical information and said, "The assumption that spending more of taxpayer's money will make things better has survived all kinds of evidence that it has made things worse."

Yet, the idea to "give a hand and not a handout" makes sense. Those of us with a good education, good parents, and good guidance get good jobs and keep earning more as we learn more, thus being able to enjoy being the heirs of the American Experiment and enjoy the fruits of our labor. What went wrong? Presidents Kennedy and Johnson both said that the war on poverty will end dependency. But, instead of giving a hand up, we gave a handout. Thus, we created dependency on the government. From 1965-2019, total spending on all welfare was more than 23 trillion dollars and the 2023 "guesstimate for welfare spending" is projected to be \$1,508 billion dollars (Source: https://usgovernmentspending.com/us_welfare_spending_40.html)

America has a comeuppance coming, I suppose. How many years have "we the people" allowed our nation's death spiral of interventionist foreign policy to continue? Operation Ajax in Iran, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and now Ukraine and Israel. Why do we worry about other countries' borders, and not our

⁵ The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money." Alexis de Tocqueville.

own? Why is it wrong to expect immigrants who want to come to America to do so legally? “No one is illegal.” Say what?

America has made mistakes, yes. We are all flawed and will always make mistakes. But we can learn from our mistakes and become stronger and better, and not make the same mistakes again. Yes?

How many people have witnessed crime on the upswing in America since Covid? Covid⁶. The only people who do not like law and order are criminals. Are you a law-abiding taxpayer, who has gone to work every day, every year, year after year, to maintain self-reliance? So how and when did “Law and Order” become a dog whistle for “white supremacy” and racism? There are “bad cops” and bad people in every profession, but that does not make the profession bad itself.

Believing in the idea of the American dream is what fuels so many people from around the world to leave their home for America today, right this very minute. Did all those people crossing the border not get the memo that America is systemically racist? What happens when they find out that America is no longer a meritocracy? That meritocracy is another dog whistle for “white supremacy.” Madness!

Why do we focus on the “bread and circuses” of our times? “They” are dividing us with an un-American idea: oppressor v. oppressed. We the People have allowed the federal government to morph into a bureaucratic beast that will continue to encroach on American liberty. Why would we allow that?

We, the American People, can fix this disastrous path we are on. For a start, we can all re-read the United States Constitution⁷ and then start following it. It gave us a pretty good run for 237 years, so why not give it a look-see? And, then, maybe we could (gradually) end dependency on the government for sustenance, maybe we can explore ways to slim this fatty fed down, end our interventionist foreign policy, educate our children back to at least the standards of a public school that Thomas Sowell attended, oh the list goes on, after we ask and answer some tough questions such as why and when we allowed “truthophobia” to enter our belief system in the first place.

⁶ See Solomon Asch conformity experiment.

<https://www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803095427848>

⁷ <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript>