

Them and Us

A Philosophy of Freedom



Adam Soto

GOLDEN RULE INDEPENDENT PUBLICATIONS

Them and Us:
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P.O. Box 744
Lemont, PA 16851

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“The world you think you know is not the world that is. There *is* a man behind the curtain. That’s why the world needs a spark—a flame—something to burn away the curtain, to open the eyes of the common person. As long as our eyes remain closed, we deserve to be in our current positions as servants and slaves.”

—Adam Soto

Part I: Freedom

When analyzing and observing most people in the world, I find that the majority of humanity spends very little time contemplating their own freedom. This is a very serious problem. In fact, one could logically conclude that most of the problems in our world result from a collective inability to understand and defend our freedoms against those who wish to take them.

To understand this better, I'm going to break the world down into three kinds of people. First are those who live *intentionally*, who have clear cut ideas of who they are, who they want to be, and what goals they wish to achieve, and put all of their energy into making their intentions materialize into reality. In all honesty, these people are rare, though they needn't be; anyone can become a person of intention if they put their energy there.

Intention can be used for noble or not-so-noble purposes, and it works either way; it's simply the application of energy toward specific goals (we'll talk more about this later).

The second kind of people are those who don't live very intentionally, who don't have very clear cut ideas of who they are, who they want to be, and what goals they wish to achieve. These people sort of bounce around from here to there, easily swayed by other people, circumstances, trends, and their own whims and fancies. Lacking any clear or deeper purpose, they often seem quite unfulfilled and are frequently disappointed with life in general.

The third kind of people are simply a mixture of the first two, having and achieving some goals, but still swayed at times by other people or their own whims and fancies, and feel somewhat fulfilled by the life they live.

I believe that it is essential to the progress and fulfillment of every human being that we become as free as we can be, living lives of pure intention. We should be free and intentional in the way we think, live,

act, and relate to the people and world around us—living, experiencing, and exemplifying freedom in all that we are and all that we do. I believe that it is only when we are living this way that true joy and fulfillment can be experienced—not just momentarily—but on a constant basis.

Freedom—itself—is a type of philosophy. As a philosophy it seeks to permeate all of our thoughts and actions and inform us as to which thoughts and actions truly encapsulate the ideas of freedom.

As free people, we're not meant to let other people do our thinking for us. We have minds and the ability to reason so that we can *think for ourselves*.

As free people, we're not meant to let other people decide how to live our lives for us, granting them the power to make rules and laws for ourselves and our neighbors to follow. We're meant to *decide for ourselves* how to live and interact with our fellow man.

As you read further on, please remember that it is through your own philosophical explorations and life applications that truths can be experienced and realized. If I happen to offer something that makes sense to you, test it in your own life; don't just take my word for it. Only then can you know *for yourself* whether something is true or not.

Tools for the Journey

On the journey for truth there are certain tools which you must carry with you at all times. The most important of them all is the tool of *questioning*.

The question is the gateway to nearly all understanding and awareness. The question can be a key that unlocks doors to new ideas or a knife that cuts away faulty thinking. It can bring joy and pain, respectively; joy if you are free enough to accept new truths, pain if you resist

or are not ready for what these new truths will mean for your life and how you now must live if you want to live in truth.

The path of questioning and philosophical awakening is not for the faint of heart. It takes courage, determination, and perseverance. But once truth is accepted, experienced, and embraced, nothing can bring more joy, peace, or freedom.

So the question is, Are *you* free?

Be 100% honest with yourself. *Self-honesty* is another essential tool that must always be present in your quest for truth—you must *always* be honest with yourself.

As it is universally accepted that it is morally wrong to lie and deceive other people, it makes sense that it would also be morally wrong to lie and deceive yourself. Don't cheat yourself in this way. You have a moral responsibility to always be honest with yourself.

Let's break the question down into smaller bite-sized questions so that it's easier to digest. Are you free to live as you please? Can you say what you want to say? Are there any forces in your life that impede your freedom? *Are you free mentally?* Do you *think* for yourself? What beliefs do you hold?

Take your beliefs about government, for example: Have you completely questioned *all* of them? *Any* of them? Or were you taught certain things about government by others and then accepted them as truth? Are they true? How does one know whether they are true or not?

The answer is simple—you must investigate! You must take the time to do research, look under every rock, behind every curtain, and around every corner until you gather enough information to make a sound conclusion. You must investigate, and investigate deeply, to uncover truth *for yourself*. If you've never investigated philosophical matters for yourself but only accepted what others have told you (others being your parents, teachers, and/or leaders), how could you possibly know that it is true?

Actually, let's press the pause button for a moment, okay? Before we go any further, we must acknowledge a very important ingredient that is essential to helping us investigate and understand the people and world around us. If you'll indulge me for a moment, I'm going to make some statements that I have investigated (and believe to be true), but that you should also investigate for yourself. Here we go.

There exist in this world extremely selfish and evil people.

When I say evil, I mean morally bankrupt, without conscience, power hungry egomaniacs whose ultimate goal in life is to accumulate as much money, power, and possessions as they possibly can, and they don't care who they hurt or kill in the process. Although money is beneficial to them in and of itself, and they always seek more of it, it is really only a means to an end. The more money they get, the more they can use it to buy *power* and *influence* ... power and influence over nations, over corporations, and over people—to control people's minds and behavior. This kind of power is the ultimate rush for them, like a 24 hour drug, and like any drug, they need ever more power and influence to achieve their high—to get their fix.

Think about it logically for a minute; which kind of person do you think rises to the top in this world: the good person who really cares about people and doing the right thing, who has limits to what they will do and lines they won't cross out of a feeling of moral obligation to themselves, God, or their fellow man? Or is it the person who is without a moral code, who is ruthless, has no lines that they won't cross, who will do anything—and I mean *anything*—to achieve their goals and dominate those around them? I think the answer is quite obvious.

The world we live in is run by power junkies who will do *anything* to gain and keep their wealth and power. People of moral integrity will never do what these people are willing to do, and therefore, will never be on top.

Until you accept this as a fundamental truth, you will forever misunderstand the world you live in. And until the majority of people in the world understand this, we will continue to be dominated by these people. If people continue to live in ignorance to the ploys and schemes perpetrated against them on a daily basis, nothing will change, but if people were to wake up and stand together, the people in power simply could not dominate millions of people who refuse to be dominated.

Like I said, don't just take my word for it. At the same time, another important practice in the quest for truth is to form a habit of not brushing things off without investigating them. Everything deserves investigation.

The ruthless kind of people that I'm talking about are the ones who really run the world; international world bank owners, corporate owners, billionaires and soon-to-be-trillionaires who have the power and influence to control nations, governments, and politicians. They *do not* want you to be free, but rather want to control every aspect of your life. (When I say "they," I'm not including every single ultra rich person in the world; there may be some who are less evil than others or who inherited their wealth. I'm just generalizing for simplicity's sake.)

Below the ultra rich are the government leaders and "representatives" who have figured out that they would rather be "takers" than "makers," who are also addicted to the power of being able to take people's money and run their lives, who have the *power* to make *laws* that you and I must now *obey*.

Below them are people in non-profit/for profit organizations, religious organizations—any kind of organization that you can think of that doesn't have the power that government has to *force* you to give them money and follow their rules, but can *convince* you to do so voluntarily. I'm not necessarily saying that all of these organizations are bad or immoral, but all of them do run the risk of creating agendas simply to promote their own continued growth and existence, and therefore, it is in their interest to possibly manipulate their followers/donors emotional-

ly and psychologically to ensure that they continue to support the organization financially.

In the case of churches, for example, it would be like a church saying that there is only *one* way to God (and it just happens to be through them), and if you don't support them and believe exactly what they believe, God will be mad at you and you will spend eternity in hell. (Sound familiar?)

Below them are people of influence; entertainers, athletes, specialists, gurus, and so forth, who may make alliances with certain corporations or ultra rich people, and therefore, do and say things with the agenda of promoting themselves or a cause or benefactor that they support, and whose intention is to sway people one way or another, and who may or may not have moral or noble goals.

Influencing us at various points in our lives are educational schools and programs, ranging from preschool all the way to the end of college. Considering how much influence government has in these areas, the potential for brainwashing and manipulation should clearly be a concern, especially when we consider what education must be like in countries where state propaganda is a way of life. What about the country you live in? What are the agendas of those who control your education system?

And finally below them we have the family unit. Now I'm certainly not saying that all family influence is bad; I'm sure most of it is quite well intentioned, but nonetheless, nothing that a family member says should be taken as truth just because you're related to them. Everything should be questioned and investigated.

So now that I've covered that, hopefully you have a better idea of what I mean when I say that part of the journey for truth and freedom is to free ourselves from any outside control or influences that may exist and to question everything for ourselves.

Let's break it down a little more. Whatever nation you're from you were first taught the customs and beliefs of your particular family. Take

a moment to think about the beliefs and customs your family taught you. Are they true? Have you ever investigated them? Did they accurately describe the nature of the world? Did they teach you good morals? Where did any of the things they taught you come from?

The truth is, if your family was like most they were simply teaching you what they had been taught by their parents, family, religion, and society. Did they ever question any of their beliefs? If not, how did they know that what they taught you was true?

Perhaps your family wasn't religious or spiritual; where did they acquire their understanding of the world and our purpose here? Where did they acquire their sense of morals? What was their method for recognizing truth or untruth? Did they simply believe whatever any *authority figure* told them to believe, whether it be president, politician, scientist, reporter, or professor?

Or maybe you were brought up in a religious or spiritual background. What was your family's method for recognizing truth or untruth? Were they free-thinkers? Did they investigate and analyze spiritual matters for themselves, or did they simply accept whatever was taught to them by some religious *authority figure*? Maybe the Bible was their religious authority; did they ever question the Bible?

These are all things which each person must explore, investigate, deduce, assess and reassess for themselves. Only then will it really make any sense to them.

Now I would like to get back to the influence of any *organization*, whether it be government, religious, or any other group of people who claim to hold a set of beliefs in common. Always bear in mind that the purpose of any organization is to perpetuate and expand their own power and influence. That in and of itself is not necessarily evil. An organization that tries to perpetuate and spread noble and mutually beneficial principles such as morality and freedom could be viewed as a benefit to society. I would say that it is only beneficial if it can be certain (or as close to certain as possible) that all of their intentions and teachings re-

ally are noble and beneficial, and that the organization doesn't become more important than the message they claim to represent or the goals they are trying to achieve.

When investigating the claims made by any person, group, or organization (no matter what walk of life they are from or whatever kind of truth they claim to represent), an intelligent person should always question whether their claims are true, beneficial, and/or necessary, or whether their claims are really just authoritarian control mechanisms designed to control and exploit people.

As I said earlier, there do exist very evil and manipulative people in the world, and you'll find them in all walks of life. To think that there wouldn't be those out there who are in it just for themselves and their own power and greed would be naïve. A free person must always be on guard for these people.

Here is another extremely important lesson for you—it's significance cannot be stressed enough: evil, controlling, exploitative, manipulative people are well aware of the good natures of those that they are trying to control and deceive. They know that most people believe in the inherent goodness of those around them. They also know that most good people never truly understand the depths unmoral people are willing to go to achieve their objectives. They are counting on the people who are good to give them the benefit of the doubt, to believe that no one could really be *that* evil—*that* cunning and ruthless—to hurt or destroy their enemies or even innocent people to get what they want. As long as people continue to give them the benefit of the doubt, they will continue to exploit and take advantage of them.

One aspect that I think most people just don't want to admit to themselves is that the world is or ever could be such an ugly place. They want to have hope, to believe that everyone around them is essentially good, and that they're not being lied to and manipulated. A free person faces all of the facts regardless of how uncomfortable they may be. It is part of maturing along the path of truth.

Now let's talk again about politicians and the ideas of government.

So much of our lives are devoted to *politics*, to electing *other people* to run our lives and/or the lives of our neighbors. This is not an intelligent way to live. *We should run our own lives.*

Think about it: a small group of people get together and call themselves “government” and then they somehow have the *right* to take your money and property and tell you what to do *and* punish you if you disobey. How does that make any sense? How did we let this happen? How will we ever get away from it?

In truth, it's questionable whether or not we ever will. But the ideas of freedom, especially in relation to the ideology of “government” and all that it entails is a necessary ingredient if we are ever going to begin the process of finding better ways to live.

The only truly free way to live would be to live in a voluntary community (or society) where no one had the right to “tax” or extort money or property from anyone else; where no one could make “laws” or rules for other people to follow; where the only interactions that people had with each other were voluntary. (For a better understanding of how this would work, look into voluntary and intentional communities.)

Human beings were never meant to give away the right to rule themselves to someone else; to any government, king, gang, or otherwise.

Unfortunately, the fact of the matter is, it's what we have right now, and unless enough people really want it to change, and take actions in that direction, it is what we will continue to have, and it will more than likely continue to get worse. What each individual *can* do is fight to shape their own lives to be as free as they can be.

The truth of the matter is that most people are not even free in their own minds. Most people don't even view *the idea* of government as a problem, and don't think of themselves as slaves or servants of government. Therefore, the first and most important thing that people can and

should do is question for themselves the ideas of government, if it is moral, if having government is the best way for humans to live and interact with each other, and so on...

Do you really believe that someone else has the *right* to tell you what to do, what to think, what to say, what you're allowed to buy and sell, what currency you can use to buy and sell, that *they* should get a piece or share of everything you buy or sell, that *they* should get a share of all of your earnings, and so on, etc, etc ... just because they call themselves government? And it is *not* voluntary. In fact, as political activist and author Larken Rose says, they'll put you in a cage if you refuse. Does that sound like freedom?

In your experience, do you find that the people elected to represent us are normally morally good, outstanding, exemplary citizens who fight to carry out the *will of the people* (whatever that is; what exactly is the will of millions of individual people?), or do they usually seem to be consumed in self-interest, with their number one priority being to get elected and their number two priority to get reelected? And once they have reached their term limits, don't they usually seem to be interested primarily in doing favors for millionaire and billionaire companies who will reward them if they shape the "laws" to benefit them?

Understand this: anyone involved in government automatically believes that there should be a "ruling class" of people called "congressmen" and "senators" whose primary job is to make rules for everyone else to follow (because if they didn't believe that, they wouldn't be there). *They are not concerned with your freedom.*

Anyone who believes that they have the right to rule you should *always* be viewed with suspicion. They are already starting from a place whose roots are based not in freedom for each person to rule themselves, but government ruling over them. If they already don't believe in self-rule, who knows what their real motives are or how far they will go to satisfy their own desires and ambitions?^[1]

I realize that it isn't every day that you hear someone questioning the morality and legitimacy of government, and it may be a little uncomfortable to do so at first, but remember, we said that we were going to question everything, so why not question government? This is a completely valid question. With enough questioning, perhaps people can find even better ways to construct society, just as people all throughout history have done. We should never stop looking for ways to improve how we live together as societies.

Again, to see the world you live in clearly, you must take into consideration the very real possibility that the people in power, the government officials, and the ultra rich people who get them elected and pay them off to shape the laws in their favor have an actual *agenda* of things that they want to happen. Never underestimate the possibility that they could very well have intentions that are designed not only to benefit themselves, but are also designed *intentionally* to take away your freedoms and to control your mind and actions.

For those willing to investigate this, they will find that there *is* a great amount of evidence that this is exactly the case, and that these people truly seek world domination and will do whatever it takes to achieve these goals.

Like I said before, do your own investigations and decide for yourself. I, for one, am completely convinced of the immoral and dictatorial intentions of those in power, and I believe that if current trends continue, they will ultimately achieve their goals.

Unfortunately, the people of the world just aren't paying much attention to what's happening. The people in power are using and have been using all kinds of psychological manipulation to draw us away from being as free as we can be and to control our hearts, minds, and actions. (I'll talk more about this later.) These people study psychology and human behavior and use every trick known to man (while developing new devices) to bend us to their will.

Politics has become its own kind of secular religion. Political leaders are seen by many as saviors who will fix all of the world's problems and will legislate peace and prosperity to all who follow. Each party has a set of beliefs that *must* be followed or you become *outcast*.

In the religion of politics, anyone who is not part of your party is to be hated, and if possible, their voices and freedoms *eliminated* through *voting*.

In reality, it's all a big show designed to perpetuate the illusion that we are "free people" who use our "freedom" to "vote" and "elect" our true "representatives." No free and educated person should ever fall for this, yet most do, and those who try to expose this charade for what it is are labeled "conspiracy theorists," "traitors," or "enemies of democracy."

Yes, unless people wake up—and wake up soon—the people in power will use technology to make it very, very difficult to ever resist them again (through government surveillance and the police state).

Don't get me wrong, I love the benefits of technology as much as the next person, but ultimately, our technological advances (namely, any technology that can or will give the people in power the ability to control and monitor us) will be the eventual instruments of our enslavement (enslaving us even more than they already do, that is.)

That's why people need to be as free as they can be. We cannot continue to rely so much on letting other people do our thinking for us. We cannot leave it to corporate leaders and politicians to figure out and solve everything for us instead of figuring out and solving things for ourselves.

Everything—*everything*—begins in the mind. We must actively investigate and educate ourselves and our children and encourage all people everywhere to think for themselves and not just swallow everything that government, religion, and society feeds them.

The future freedom of the world depends on discarding all of the things that bind us. To progress as human beings and feel happy and

fulfilled, we must be as free as we can be, spiritually, materially, philosophically, economically, and in any and every way that we can think of.

When the ideals of freedom inform every aspect of our existence, life itself—the journey, the experiences, our relationships—are filled with joy ... beautiful, abundant joy, and we can continue to grow and evolve and become all that we are capable of being.

I will now present you with numerous quotes on the topics of freedom and government. These are intended to help open your eyes and mind to the reality that very rich and powerful people really do “conspire” to gain power and control and to take away your rights and freedoms.

What is presented here is just the tip of the iceberg. Hopefully it will ignite in you a desire to continue to investigate more on your own, because ultimately, how much truth you know us entirely up to you.

Part II: Quotes

“Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth.”

—Albert Einstein

“There are two things over which you have complete dominion, authority and control—your mind and your mouth.”

—African Proverb

“Think for yourself and question authority.”

—Timothy Leary

“The current state of the news media is partially to blame for the public’s general lack of information vital for responsible citizenship in a democracy. The news media has become an aspect of show business, offering merely infotainment. It has evolved into an entity that tends to function as a public relations agency for wealthy and powerful multinational corporations, members of Congress, and the current Presidential Administration, including the administrations that preceded it. The news media is being utilized as a political tool of suppression and propaganda by those in power, and propaganda is psychological in nature. Full of half-truths and utter misinformation, it’s an arrogant and very commercial strategy that is implemented because it appeals to emotions—fear being the main one—relentless talk of national security, personal and

community safety, meant to trigger childhood insecurities and indoctrinated views of authority.

“The most dangerous man to any government is the man who is able to think things out for himself, without regard to the prevailing superstitions and taboos. Almost inevitably he comes to the conclusion that the government he lives under is dishonest, insane, and intolerable...”

—H.L. Mencken

“A slave is not he who works without wages, it is he tries to stop working and discovers he is not allowed.”

—Anonymous

“I divide men into two lots. They are freethinkers, or they are not freethinkers. Freethinkers are those who are willing to use their minds without prejudice and without fearing to understand things that clash with their own customs, privileges, or beliefs. This state of mind is not common, but it is essential for right thinking; where it is absent, discussion is apt to become worse than useless. A man may be a Catholic, a Frenchman, or a capitalist, and yet be a freethinker; but if he puts his Catholicism, his patriotism, or his interest above his reason, and will not give the latter free play where those subjects are touched, he is not a freethinker. His mind is in bondage.”

—Leo Tolstoy

“The revolutionist believes not that what ought to be, is, but what is, is, and that it may not be what it ought to be at all.”

—Jack London

“What would have happened if millions of American and British people, struggling with coupons and lines at the gas stations, had learned that in 1942 Standard Oil of New Jersey [part of the Rockefeller empire] managers shipped the enemy's fuel through neutral Switzerland and that the enemy was shipping Allied fuel? Suppose the public had discovered that the Chase Bank in Nazi-occupied Paris after Pearl Harbor was doing millions of dollars' worth of business with the enemy with the full knowledge of the head office in Manhattan [the Rockefeller family among others?] Or that Ford trucks were being built for the German occupation troops in France with authorization from Dearborn, Michigan? Or that Colonel Sosthenes Behn, the head of the international American telephone conglomerate ITT, flew from New York to Madrid to Berne during the war to help improve Hitler's communications systems and improve the robot bombs that devastated London? Or that ITT built the FockeWulfs that dropped bombs on British and American troops? Or that crucial ball bearings were shipped to Nazi-associated customers in Latin America with the collusion of the vice-chairman of the U.S. War Production Board in partnership with Goering's cousin in Philadelphia when American forces were desperately short of them? Or that such arrangements were known about in Washington and either sanctioned or deliberately ignored?”

—Charles Higham, researcher, about U.S.-Nazi collaboration during

WWII

“... the 20th century has been characterized by three developments of great political importance: The growth of democracy, the growth of corporate power, and the growth of corporate propaganda as a means of protecting corporate power against democracy.”

—Alex Carey

“Look, if you think any American official is going to tell you the truth, then you're stupid. Did you hear that? — Stupid!”

—Arthur Sylvester, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs,
1965

“It’s imperative that we alter the way we view the world’s control systems ... if we don’t break free of the multi-faceted conditioning that begins as soon as we make contact with the external world (school, news, prevailing myths, etc.) then *nothing* will ever improve. Nothing!”

—Victor Thorn, *The New World Order Exposed*

“Rebellion is only an occasional reaction to suffering in human history; we have infinitely more instances of submission to authority than we have examples of revolt. What we should be most concerned about is not some natural tendency toward violent uprising, but rather the inclination of people faced with an overwhelming environment of injustice to submit to it. Historically, the most terrible things—war, genocide, and slavery—have resulted not from disobedience, but from obedience.”

—Howard Zinn

“If those in charge of our society—politicians, corporate executives, and owners of press and television—can dominate our ideas, they will be secure in their power. They will not need soldiers patrolling the streets. We will control ourselves.”

—Howard Zinn

“Civil disobedience, that’s not our problem. Our problem is civil obedience. Our problem is that people all over the world have obeyed the dictates of leaders ... and millions have been killed because of this obedience. Our problem is that people are obedient all over the world in the face of poverty and starvation and stupidity, and war, and cruelty. Our problem is that people are obedient while the jails are full of petty thieves, and all the while the grand thieves are running the country. That’s our problem.”

—Howard Zinn

“If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State.”

—Joseph Goebbels, German Minister of Propaganda, 1933-1945

"The few who understand the system will either be so interested in its profits or be so dependent upon its favours that there will be no opposition from that class, while on the other hand, the great body of people, mentally incapable of comprehending the tremendous advantage that capital derives from the system, will bear its burdens without complaint, and perhaps without even suspecting that the system is inimical to their interests."

—The Rothschild brothers of London writing to associates in New York, 1863

"He who controls the money supply of a nation controls the nation."

—James Garfield

"I am afraid the ordinary citizen will not like to be told that the banks can and do create money. And they who control the credit of the nation direct the policy of Governments and hold in the hollow of their hand the destiny of the people."

—Reginald McKenna, as Chairman of the Midland Bank, addressing stockholders in 1924

"States, most especially the large hegemonic ones, such as the United States and Great Britain, are controlled by the international central banking system, working through secret agreements at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), and operating through national central banks (such as the Bank of England and the Federal Reserve)... The same international banking cartel that controls the United States today

previously controlled Great Britain and held it up as the international hegemon. When the British order faded, and was replaced by the United States, the U.S. ran the global economy. However, the same interests are served. States will be used and discarded at will by the international banking cartel; they are simply tools."

—Andrew Gavin Marshall

"I am a most unhappy man. I have unwittingly ruined my country. A great industrial nation is now controlled by its system of credit. We are no longer a government by free opinion, no longer a government by conviction and the vote of the majority, but a government by the opinion and duress of a small group of dominant men."

—Woodrow Wilson 1919

"The war wasn't only about abolishing fascism, but to conquer sales markets. We could have, if we had intended so, prevented this war from breaking out without doing one shot, but we didn't want to."

—Winston Churchill to Truman (Fultun, USA March 1946)

"Germany's unforgivable crime before WW2 was its attempt to loosen its economy out of the world trade system and to build up an independent exchange system from which the world-finance couldn't profit anymore We butchered the wrong pig."

—Winston Churchill (The Second World War - Bern, 1960)

"I spent 33 years and four months in active military service as a member of our country's most agile military force—the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from second lieutenant to Major General. And during that period I spent more of my time being a high-class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I suspected I was just a part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it. Like all members of the military profession I never had an original thought until I left the service. My mental faculties remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of the higher-ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service. Thus I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-12. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that the Standard Oil went its way unmolested. During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. I was rewarded with honors, medals and promotions. Looking back on it, I feel I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three city districts. I operated on three continents."

—General Smedley Butler, former US Marine Corps Commandant,
1935

"Beautiful ideals were painted for our boys who were sent out to die. This was the "war to end wars." This was the "war to make the world safe for democracy." No one told them that dollars and cents were the real reason. No one mentioned to them, as they marched away, that their

going and their dying would mean huge war profits. No one told these American soldiers that they might be shot down by bullets made by their own brothers here. No one told them that the ships on which they were going to cross might be torpedoed by submarines built with United State patents. They were just told it was to be a "glorious adventure."

"Thus, having stuffed patriotism down their throats, it was decided to make them help pay for the war, too. So, we gave them the large salary of \$30 a month!

"All that they had to do for this munificent sum was to leave their dear ones behind, give up their jobs, lie in swampy trenches, eat canned willy (when they could get it) and kill and kill and kill ... and be killed"

—Smedley D. Butler, *War is a Racket*

"WAR is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious. It is the only one international in scope. It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives."

—Smedley Butler

"If only more of today's military personnel would realize that they are being used by the owning elites as a publicly subsidized capitalist goon squad."

—Smedley Butler

“It was not my intention to doubt that the Doctrines of the Illuminati and principles of Jacobinism had not spread in the United States. On the contrary, no one is more truly satisfied of this fact than I am. The idea that I meant to convey, was, that I did not believe that the Lodges of Free Masons in this Country had, as Societies, endeavoured to propagate the diabolical tenets of the first, or pernicious principles of the latter (if they are susceptible of separation). That Individuals of them may... actually had a separation [sic] of the People from their Government in view, is too evident to be questioned.”

—George Washington, 1st President of the United States (1789–1797), from a letter that Washington wrote on October 24, 1798, which can be found in the Library of Congress. For an analysis of Washington’s warning, see the article “Library of Congress: George Washington Warns of Illuminati”

“I sincerely believe, with you, that banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies.”

—Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President of the United States (1801–1809) and principal author of the United States Declaration of Independence (1776), in a letter written to John Taylor on May 28, 1816

“A power has risen up in the government greater than the people themselves, consisting of many and various powerful interests, combined in one mass, and held together by the cohesive power of the vast surplus in banks.”

—John C. Calhoun, Vice President (1825-1832) and U.S. Senator, from a speech given on May 27, 1836

“Behind the ostensible government sits enthroned an invisible government owing no allegiance and acknowledging no responsibility to the people. To destroy this invisible government, to befoul the unholy alliance between corrupt business and corrupt politics is the first task of the statesmanship of the day.”

—Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States, *Theodore Roosevelt, An Autobiography*, 1913 (Appendix B)

“A great industrial nation is controlled by its system of credit. Our system of credit is privately concentrated. The growth of the nation, therefore, and all our activities are in the hands of a few men... [W]e have come to be one of the worst ruled, one of the most completely controlled and dominated governments in the civilized world—no longer a government by free opinion, no longer a government by conviction and the vote of the majority, but a government by the opinion and the duress of small groups of dominant men.”

—Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States, *The New Freedom*, 1913

“Since I entered politics, I have chiefly had men’s views confided to me privately. Some of the biggest men in the United States, in the field of commerce and manufacture, are afraid of something. They know that there is a power somewhere so organized, so subtle, so watchful, so interlocked, so complete, so pervasive, that they had better not speak above their breath when they speak in condemnation of it.”

—Woodrow Wilson, 28th President of the United States, *The New Freedom*, 1913

“The real menace of our Republic is the invisible government, which like a giant octopus sprawls its slimy legs over our cities, states and nation ... The little coterie of powerful international bankers virtually run the United States government for their own selfish purposes. They practically control both parties ... and control the majority of the newspapers and magazines in this country. They use the columns of these papers to club into submission or drive out of office public officials who refuse to do the bidding of the powerful corrupt cliques which compose the invisible government. It operates under cover of a self-created screen [and] seizes our executive officers, legislative bodies, schools, courts, newspapers and every agency created for the public protection.”

—New York City Mayor John F. Hylan, *New York Times*, March 26,
1922

“Mr. Chairman, we have in this country one of the most corrupt institutions the world has ever known. I refer to the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Reserve Banks. The Federal Reserve Board, a Government board, has cheated the Government of the United States and the people of the United States out of enough money to pay the national debt ... Mr. Chairman, when the Federal Reserve act was passed, the people of the United States did not perceive that a world system was being set up here ... and that this country was to supply financial power to an international superstate—a superstate controlled by international bankers and international industrialists acting together to enslave the world for their own pleasure.”

—Congressman Louis T. McFadden, from a speech delivered to the
House of Representatives on June 10, 1932

“The real truth of the matter is, as you and I know, that a financial element in the large centers has owned the government ever since the days of Andrew Jackson.”

—Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd President of the United States (1933–1945), in a letter to Colonel Edward M House dated November 21, 1933, as quoted in *F.D.R.: His Personal Letters, 1928-1945*.

“Today the path to total dictatorship in the U.S. can be laid by strictly legal means ... We have a well-organized political-action group in this country, determined to destroy our Constitution and establish a one-party state ... It operates secretly, silently, continuously to transform our Government ... This ruthless power-seeking elite is a disease of our century ... This group ... is answerable neither to the President, the Congress, nor the courts. It is practically irremovable.”

—Senator William Jenner, 1954 speech

“The individual is handicapped by coming face-to-face with a conspiracy so monstrous he cannot believe it exists. The American mind simply has not come to a realization of the evil which has been introduced into our midst. It rejects even the assumption that human creatures could espouse a philosophy which must ultimately destroy all that is good and decent.”

—J. Edgar Hoover, *The Elks Magazine*, 1956

“The very word “secrecy” is repugnant in a free and open society; and we are as a people inherently and historically opposed to secret societies, to secret oaths and to secret proceedings ... Our way of life is under attack. Those who make themselves our enemy are advancing around the globe ... no war ever posed a greater threat to our security. If you are awaiting a finding of “clear and present danger,” then I can only say that the danger has never been more clear and its presence has never been more imminent ... For we are opposed around the world by a monolithic and ruthless conspiracy that relies primarily on covert means for expanding its sphere of influence—on infiltration instead of invasion, on subversion instead of elections, on intimidation instead of free choice, on guerrillas by night instead of armies by day. It is a system which has conscripted vast human and material resources into the building of a tightly knit, highly efficient machine that combines military, diplomatic, intelligence, economic, scientific and political operations. Its preparations are concealed, not published. Its mistakes are buried, not headlined. Its dissenters are silenced, not praised. No expenditure is questioned, no rumor is printed, no secret is revealed.”

—John F Kennedy, 35th President of the United States, from a speech delivered to the American Newspaper Publishers Association on April 27, 1961.

“The Rockefellers and their allies have, for at least fifty years, been carefully following a plan to use their economic power to gain political control of first America, and then the rest of the world. Do I mean conspiracy? Yes, I do. I am convinced there is such a plot, international in scope, generations old in planning, and incredibly evil in intent.”

—Congressman Larry P. McDonald, November 1975, from the introduction to a book titled *The Rockefeller File*.

“There exists a shadowy government with its own Air Force, its own Navy, its own fundraising mechanism, and the ability to pursue its own ideas of national interest, free from all checks and balances, and free from the law itself.”

—Daniel K. Inouye, US Senator from Hawaii, testimony at the Iran
Contra Hearings, 1986

“Government is an association of men who do violence to the rest of us.”

—Leo Tolstoy

Part III: Them and Us

Every single day of my life I look around at the world we live in and I feel indignation and disappointment. Indignation because I see the plight of the common person and how the cards are stacked against them. If you're not born into wealth, chances are you'll never taste true independence, financially or otherwise. (Not that it can't be done, but it's very uncommon.) The hard truth is, most of us don't deserve any better than what we have. That's where the disappointment comes in. We don't educate ourselves to the cons that are perpetrated against us every day. We want to believe that the world is essentially good, that evil forces don't exist, and if they do, that they're not *that* evil. (What I mean by evil is selfish, corrupt, ungodly, without conscience ... willing to do whatever it takes to achieve certain goals, no matter who it hurts in the process.)

In reality, there *are* ruthless, evil people in the world—many of them. They'll kill you, control you, manipulate you, and use you without a second thought. This, then, needs to become one of the foundational truths with which your life is based upon. Without it, you will forever misunderstand the world you live in.

You must also understand this: not only are there ruthless people in the world, some of them are extremely intelligent. These are the ones who really run the world. Bankers, corporate owners, politicians—they're all playing a game that you're not privy to. Many of them have philosophies based primarily on what they believe to be their *superiority* over *us*, justifying, in their minds, why people like you and me *need* them, that we couldn't have gotten this far without *them*, and that we need to be directed like sheep for our own good or we'll never survive. They are masters of psychology and will tap into your most basic fears and desires to manipulate you into doing what They want you to do.

What's sad is that so many of us play right into their hands. In our laziness and complacency most of us never bother to explore this world

we live in, and fail to wake up to the world as it really is. We live in make believe dream worlds, seeing what we *want* to see and not what actually *is*.

Perhaps for most of us it's just too painful to open our eyes. Deep down we know that evil forces exist, but we don't have the courage or feel powerless to do anything about it, so we live in denial.

What it comes down to is that the majority of mankind never asks themselves the tough questions in life. They accept what they're told, never thinking about much of anything *for themselves*. They fail to develop the most powerful tool at their disposal—their mind.

This is the first thing that separates Them and Us—they have awakened their minds. They study themselves and the world around them. They exercise their minds and try to understand how nature and the world around them work. But most importantly, they understand how *we* as *human beings* work—what makes us *tick*. They become successful because they work hard, develop their minds, and bank on you not developing yours. And guess what—it's working out pretty well for them, isn't it? And it will forever; it won't change unless *we* change.

So the question is, how much of your mind do you want to give Them? That's important to understand ... They're not *taking* it, we're *giving* it! Every day we have a choice—will we be free, or will we be what They want us to be? They've worked hard at making you who They want you to be—probably much harder than you've worked at becoming who *you* want to be; obviously, that needs to change. We must understand who we are and who we want to become; that's the basic formula—*knowledge* and *will*.

Knowledge is the key to everything. The best way to arrive at knowledge is through a process of *questioning* the people, ideas, and world around you, *comparing* any (or all) available data, *eliminating* any useless or untrue information, and ultimately (if possible) gaining first-hand *experience* of a subject. *Will power* is needed to seek knowledge in the first place and to *implement* any useful knowledge

once it is *attained*. The best use of knowledge is to use it to help *understand* the nature of a thing (whatever object you decide upon) and to then use this knowledge to *free yourself* from anything that impedes your *will*. (This works equally for both noble and sinister objectives.) The level of freedom an individual attains correlates directly with the amount of will exerted and knowledge grasped, which then correlates with a person's overall happiness in life. The more free a person is, the happier they tend to be.

So as you can see, knowledge is the first step towards freedom. If freedom is the goal, one of the most important *questions* we can ask ourselves is, "What forces exist that keep us from being as free as we can be?" The answer to this question falls into one of two categories: internal and external forces. Internal forces are your fears, desires, pride, envy, ego, attitudes, etc. External forces would be the people, (friends, family, associates, government, strangers...) or circumstances in your life.

All internal forces related to emotion or thought are connected to the mind, the most powerful tool at your disposal. Like any tool, it must be used to serve its purpose. When used to the height of its abilities, it becomes sharp as a razor. It's only when the mind is strong that it can be used to control emotion and will, and thus achieve its goals with any kind of consistency. When it is weak, it only tends to create turmoil. Before a person can even dream of freedom, they *must* have a strong mind and an iron will. In fact, these must be indomitable. You must have a clear vision of yourself and the people and world around you—not as you *want* them to be, but as they *are*.

Step Number 1: Understand Reality

I'm not going to get into a metaphysical discussion about the nature of the universe (though that is, of course, part of the equation); I'll leave that up to you. The purpose of this book is to focus on freedom from external forces and *identifying yourself as a free person*.

As I stated earlier, there are forces in the world that are working against you, trying to use you to help Them achieve *their* goals. You're not alone. Ninety-nine percent of the world is being used this way. That's reality. The question is, what's the cause of this? Let's examine a few possibilities:

- a) People are weak
- b) People are lazy
- c) People are ignorant
- d) People are afraid
- e) People are comfortable
- f) People are consumed by lust and desire
- g) People have given up hope that it will ever change
- h) People are in denial
- i) People are benefiting enough from the few perks (crumbs) thrown their way to want to change anything
- j) There's not enough people who understand what's going on to make any real impact on world affairs
- k) Threats of violence keep them immobilized (I guess that's the same as fear)
- l) Most people aren't as ruthless or violent as those in power, and don't want to become so to defeat them

So of course, it's all, many, or various combinations of the above mentioned possibilities that contribute to the current state of the world (and even more possibilities that I may not have noted). As I already

mentioned, we must first work on changing these things *within* us before we can possibly hope to change any external forces that impede our freedom. We must become educated, strong, diligent, fearless, and discontent with the status quo. This will take hard work and sacrifice, as any worthwhile cause usually does. Hard work in that it takes a lot of time and energy to educate yourself and conquer your faults and fears; sacrifice in that you'll have to give up some of your easy, convenient, comfortable ways of life to fight back against those forces that are trying to keep you down.

Which brings us to the next step: In order to fight back, we must *understand* what we're fighting against.

Step Number 2: Know Thy Enemy—Money and Power

There are two primary factors that make Them tick: money and power. They form the nucleus from which everything in the world revolves around.

Power is purely psychological. Those in power get off on controlling other people's lives, getting in their heads, and having authority over people or nations. It's like a drug, only better, because the effects go deeper and last longer.

Money is the vehicle which gets Them there. One of the most important lessons you can ever learn is that *money runs the world*. Anything that They do, They do for money. This is true in almost every single situation or scenario you can think of. It should be no surprise then that the most powerful people in the world are the ones who control the money—the Bankers.

Here's how it works: Banks use start-up capital and customer deposits to loan money to people, businesses, or countries. (Or they print it out of thin air! But that's a whole other issue.) They lend this money with the agreement that the client will pay them back the original

amount of money loaned and then a little (or a lot) more on top of that, which is called *interest*. They then loan out the money they made from the interest and make *more* money (with interest), and so on and so forth, becoming fabulously rich and powerful.

To be honest with you, I don't necessarily have a problem with this, generally speaking. It's not like the banks are *forcing* us to take their loans. (Well, in some ways that may not be true. I'll get into that more later.) If there's something that a person wants or needs that they don't have the money for, this is a viable option to help remedy the situation. It's not *evil* for the bankers to offer this service. On top of that, they are taking a risk in that they may not get all of the money they loaned back, so the money they make off of the interest is their reward for taking a chance. In fact, in a perfect world, both college loans and home loans should turn out profitable for both parties involved. Most people who go to college make considerably more in their lifetime than those who don't go to college, even after paying off their college debts. The same is usually true in the value of a home; its value goes up as time goes on. So you really can't blame Them. It's us—*we're* the ones who put ourselves in the undesirable position of needing their help in the first place.

The problems start when banks use tricks or “fine print” to mislead their customers or partake in other questionable practices such as the use of “fractional reserve banking,” which means that they are *legally* allowed to lend 10 times more money than they have in reserves (and, of course, make interest off of that money), or they use compound interest or they loan the same money more than once, or gamble with Federally insured money, giving loans to people or businesses whose ability to pay them back is highly questionable, putting the tax payers on the hook to bail them out if the people or businesses default on their loans. (It should be noted that these things wouldn't be possible if people were educated about the various forms of usury that exist in the world today and took measures to protect themselves against it.)

Let's look at some of the kinds of loans that most banks (depending on their size) usually offer.

- Car loans
- Personal loans
- College loans
- Home loans
- Credit Cards
- Small business loans
- Corporate loans

And then there's the granddaddy of them all—*government loans*. This is where the *real* money is at.

Imagine the interest paid on a three hundred thousand dollar loan; it would be a lot, depending on the interest rate. Now imagine the interest paid on a three hundred *billion* dollar loan. How about 24 *trillion* (current U.S. debt)? Now add to that all of the nations in the world that are in gigantic, unsustainable debt and your brain should officially explode! We're talking unbelievable—unfathomable—amounts of money, debt, and interest. And what does money equal? Power!

This power can be used when a nation gets into trouble and needs a loan. Sure, the banks will give them a loan, and they'll charge interest, but they may also want a little more. Maybe as a stipulation for granting a loan, a bank (or group of banks, like the Federal Reserve) may ask a certain world power to "take care" of a country that's trying to buck the system, or they'll ask a government to relax a few laws that are keeping Them from potentially making more money (laws that were created to protect taxpayers and citizens from risky investments and practices). Maybe they'll even use their power and influence to draw countries into war, causing them to need a loan to help pay their debts. (So maybe They *do* force us to get loans! Add to that the fact that this contributes to each person being individually overburdened in taxes,

which leaves every person with less money in their own hands to actually stay out of debt in the first place, and the argument could be made that most people are “forced” to take out loans that they otherwise wouldn’t have had to.)

(Note: The above mentioned war→debt scenario has happened many, many times. The war of 1812 and The Civil War are just two examples. Look into it. A talk entitled *All Wars Are Bankers Wars* by Michael Rivero is a great place to start.)

If the banks want something done (that is, something that will make them more money), they try their best not to use their own money to make it happen. They’ll blackmail certain countries or politicians to do their dirty work for Them (with taxpayer dollars). Why else would the United States be giving so much money to foreign countries? They’re developing third world nations with U.S. tax dollars and putting in place a stable power structure that’s loyal to Them and Them alone. It’s solely to benefit the banks and corporations.

For hundreds of years, the best way to get a country into debt was to get them involved in a war. (It still works pretty well, as a matter of fact.) But now they’ve come up with another, less bloody way to achieve the same ends—the Socialist/Welfare state. (Note: Although technically not the same thing, most socialistic societies and welfare states (according to recent data) give out increasingly more money in social programs and entitlements than they collect in taxes, especially as time goes on. This inevitably leads to government debt, bail-outs, more government debt, increased taxes, more bail-outs, more government debt, etc ...)

“Free” health care, “free” college education, increased unemployment benefits, welfare, social security, entitlement programs ... What does all of this do? It *redistributes the wealth* in a way that doesn’t cost Them a dime (in fact, They make money), and it puts countries into massive, unrecoverable debt.

Question: Have you ever wondered why so many countries in the world are being flooded with immigrants? Even in the United States, it's completely unexplainable why the government would let this happen. It doesn't benefit your average American taxpayer in the least; in fact, in many ways, it hurts them, contributing to wage depreciation and more unemployment for American workers. And for the immigrants who don't work and suck off of the government teat for their every want and need, it means a higher taxpayer burden for those who do work.

Answer: it gets more people into the consumer→debt system. It's all about money.

Sure, some immigrants are used by corporations for cheap labor, or politicians may pander to them to get more votes, and some may even get a job and pay taxes, but these are merely side effects—fringe benefits of the initial motivations—generating more wealth distribution and government debt.

I just mentioned the consumer→debt system; corporations are another tool used by the banks to put people in debt. The more goods, gadgets, and trinkets we buy, the less money we'll have to pay off loans and the more we'll need to borrow. It's all dollars and cents, and they know every angle.

What about “free” college education—that's good, right? Wrong! Think about it—what's better, a system where a *set* number of people pay college loans for a *fixed* amount of time, or one where *everyone* pays for their *entire* working lives (and maybe even into retirement) *through their taxes*? It's crazy! Add to that the decreased spending power that results from increased taxation and it's another win for the banks. (It's a scam, people! Don't be bamboozled!)

“Free” universal health care is the same way. As it is now, if the average person lives healthy and exercises they should only have to pay a small amount of health care costs for most of their lives. But They want us to pay for other people's unhealthy lifestyles. Not only that, they also want us to pay for those who aren't paying at all (and probably

never will) and who never put in the hard work and effort to get a quality job that offers health care benefits. It's all a money making scheme to redistribute *your* money so that They (the health care companies) don't have to eat the cost themselves.

It's all about power, money, and debt. Dependency on government = debt. Socialism = debt. War = debt. Health care = debt. College = debt. Consumerism = debt.

Another issue that's been in the media a lot lately is "man-made global warming." Would it surprise you to find out that it's all a fabrication, a strategy by certain world governments, banks, and corporations to get better or total control of the energy market—on a global scale? (And of course, impose more taxes, regulations, and fees.)

Not only that, it's now becoming apparent that They want to use the ideas of "man-made global warming" and "sustainability" to reshape everything about the way we live, telling us which foods are "sustainable" (They want to grow our "meat" in labs, and it won't be "meat"), what kinds of cars we can drive (if cars will even be deemed "sustainable," who knows?), what kinds of energy we can use, and how much of it ("smart" meters on every house and thermostat; there are numerous ways that They can exploit that to their advantage) ... all so that They can control every single aspect of our lives, right down to the smallest daily activities.

Who knows how many freedoms (or people) will need to be sacrificed in the name of "sustainability" by the time They are through? (They believe that "population growth" is also "unsustainable," and that we already have too many people. See: *The Georgia Guidestones* for more information.)

More and more respectable sources and publications are calling "man-made global warming" the greatest hoax of the 21st century, and are backing it up with proof, but are having an increasingly hard time getting their voices heard in the corporately owned media who bombard us daily with propaganda and misinformation.

This is the reality of the world we live in. Everything They do, they do for Them. The bankers, corporations, and politicians ... They're in it for themselves. It's all a game to Them—and They're winning.

Let's now look at some of the more personal ways that They try to control and manipulate us.

Know this: democracy, communism, socialism, nationalism ... they're all an illusion, each one used in its own unique way to take your money and your freedom.

They're like cults. What's the first thing a cult does? They *reprogram* you by giving you a new name. You're American or French, Democrat or Republican, Capitalist or Socialist. Assume one of these names and you've *redefined your identity*, replacing who you are or who you want to be with well-defined ideologies of who you now *must* be to be part of the *group*. Just like an organized religion, all of your beliefs will already be thought out for you. If you're a Democrat, you hate war but support abortion; if you're Republican, you're pro-life and pro-war. If you're Polish, you hate Russians, and Russians hate you. The same with India and Pakistan, Iran and Israel. The list goes on and on.

As time goes on and the money market changes or a certain group or country becomes a threat to Their power, They'll want you to believe *new* things. That's when reprogramming is necessary. They'll use movies, news, TV shows, and entertainers to slowly shape your ideas and beliefs, to make you think and feel what They want you to think and feel. They'll use shows like *Blue Bloods* and *Law & Order* to make you think that it's OK to "rough up" a suspect even though it's an assault on your personal liberties, thus undermining the notion of "innocent until proven guilty." They'll make you think that it's OK for a judge to decide what's in your or an entire country's best interests, even though a

judge is supposed to *uphold* the law, not *decide* the law (which is the job of Congress and our “elected” officials).

Shows like *Mr. Robot* will help you to think that “wealth redistribution” is *fair*, that someone else’s hard earned money should actually be *yours*, that it’s *owed* you, and that you’re somehow a *victim* who never got a fair shake in life. So what if you didn’t try very hard in high school, never bothered to go college, and didn’t put any of the hard work into your life that those who are successful put into their lives. Never mind the fact that most people live well beyond their means and spend twice as much as they earn, *putting themselves* in undesirable situations. *But it’s always someone else’s fault!*

Shows like *Person of Interest* will condition you to support the “surveillance state” and have you give up even more of your freedoms and privacy for the sake of feeling just a little more secure and to protect you from “terrorists” or those who want to do you or your “country” harm. Of course They never mention that the real reason for the surveillance state is to protect Them from hackers or other groups that they perceive to be a real threat to Their power and to find new ways to control you (i.e., through digital passports and digital currencies).

They’ll use news stories, entertainment, sports, and social media to distract you, confuse you, amuse you, diffuse you, so that you’re never focused on Them and how much of your hard earned money and freedom they’re stealing from you.

Like a cult, They’ll use sex, drugs, science, philosophy, and psychology to break your values and beliefs, beat you down, pummel you into submission—until you don’t believe in anything; then They can reprogram you to Their liking.

They’ll do everything they can to make you feel empty. The emptier you are, the more you’ll try to fill the hole with Them or Their products or ideas. They’ll force you to compete like rats in a race, making you do everything humanly possible to keep up with the Joneses, no matter how in debt you may become in the process.

They'll do everything in their power to make Us depend on Them, and not our own independence. They'll either use or create situations that appear dangerous (terrorism, financial collapses, system hacks, epidemics, war, etc.) so that We'll go running to Them, asking Them to save us. (Which They'll gladly do at the price of more of our money and freedom.)

They'll draw on our fears and our national pride to make Us fight Their wars, saying things like, "If it weren't for our brave soldiers all across the world, we couldn't enjoy the freedom we have today," when in reality, They use the military as corporate goons to advance their own personal agendas and increase their power and wealth, killing millions in the process.

Did U.S. soldiers fight to "free" the Iraqi people in *Operation Iraqi Freedom*, or did they fight (and die) to ensure that the (petro) dollar would remain the world currency, something Saddam Hussein was trying to change? Does the United States really care about the freedom of the Ukrainian people, or are the U.S. corporate handlers trying to draw Russia into a war (making them spend money they don't have) and ensure that Ukraine moves a little closer to the West, away from Russia, and that they get a bail-out from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), who will almost certainly exploit any resources they have for their own financial benefit and to the detriment of the Ukrainian people?^[2]

They'll use diversionary tactics—smoke and mirrors—to pit us against one another, using race, religion, and nationalism to keep us separated and distracted while the decay of our rights and liberties continues right beneath our noses.

When They look at you, they see only one thing—\$\$\$\$. Don't think for a second that They care about women's liberation or civil rights—They don't! Before these movements even started, They looked around and saw over half of the population not working! These movements were manufactured to get more workers into the workforce so that we

could pay more taxes, build bigger houses, borrow more money, and buy and produce more of their junk so that They can get even richer!^[3]

And if we ever actually do something that gets in the way of Them making money, They'll change the game. As workers at the beginning of the 20th century labored for increasingly long hours in poor conditions and for little pay, some of them got smart and had the courage to fight back, forming unions to stand up against their corporate overlords. But over time, as the labor unions got stronger (and in many cases, greedier), the corporations just packed up and moved somewhere else, to another country, like China, where there are so many workers they can't afford to unionize because if they try, they'll be replaced in an instant. Then all that the corporations have to do is lobby (pay off) the politicians so that they relax (change) the tariff laws so that They can ship their products here for virtually nothing (hence the creation of NAFTA and other free-trade agreements).

NAFTA and other agreements like it benefit Them and Them alone. Sure, we get somewhat cheaper products, but that comes with a price—namely the extinction of the middle class. Everything—everything They do is for Their benefit and Their benefit alone.

But hey, raising minimum wage, that's a good thing, right? Wrong! It gives Them an excuse to raise the price on *every good you buy*! It also makes it harder for the Mom and Pop stores to compete with the Wal-marts and mega-corporations of the world, thus destroying small businesses and giving us less choice about who we buy our products and goods from. Again, it benefits Them the most! (The problem of low wages is something I'll address later.)

You must question everything They do. Always be on guard. Even now, I'm doing the same thing They do—I'm trying to tear down your beliefs and replace them with new ones! You must be wary of anyone who does this, including me. You must ask, "Who benefits from this?" Analyze it, pick it apart from as many angles as you can find and see if what they're saying is in your benefit or theirs.

Arm yourself with knowledge. Don't be a victim. This book is just a small sample of what They do. The information is out there if you only dare to look. If you don't—if you fail to wise up and continue to play Their game—you'll have no one to blame but yourself.

You *can* do something about it. You can opt out of Their game; maybe not completely, but there are things you can do so that They win a little less and you win a little more. Who knows, you may change the world, you may not, but if you fight back even a little, you can change *your* world. *You are not powerless.* You just need to be willing to take a stand, work hard, sacrifice, and be what *you* want to be instead of what They want you to be.

Stem Number 3: Fight Back

So what can you do? The most important thing you can do is rebel against them *in the way you think!* If you still think the way They want you to think and believe in the “system” and that politicians are basically good people who care about what's best for you or your country, and that you can change things through “voting” and “elections,” you're still playing Their game. And if you're playing Their game, you're going to lose because they've set it up so that the house wins every time.

No, the real voting is how you spend your time and money—how you direct your dollars and thoughts. Every time you buy one of their gadgets—gadgets invented to make them money and you stupid—They win. Every time you watch *Big Brother*, *The Real World*, or other “reality” TV shows, the only thing you've done is shown that *you don't understand reality.*

They've turned us into TV junkies, addicted to sports, soap operas, dancing shows, *Pawn Stars*, and other mind-numbing “programming.”

I'm not saying a person can't have any fun, but according to statistics, the average American spends five hours a day watching TV, an

hour a day on *Facebook*, and another hour or two randomly surfing the internet. *They're filling your head with useless drivel, and you're letting Them!*

Fight back! Don't let them turn your brains into marshmallows! Don't be a programmed consumer. Don't be like those who have to go out and get the latest "smart" phone or gaming system the day it comes out, even though the ones they have work just fine. Don't be like those who as soon as they see a commercial for chicken nuggets at *Burger King* for \$1.49, they go ten times in two weeks and eat chicken nuggets like well programmed consumer robots.

Corporations put all kinds of time and effort into programming you, even funding psychological studies to find the best ways to sell you their products. A certain combination of colors or the image of a laughing baby may trigger a deep-seated subconscious emotion that makes you want this or that item. They'll give you something for free (something usually worth pennies) if you only spend \$35 or \$50 first. Believe it or not, this stuff works! Quite well, actually—on the uneducated sucker!

Be responsible. Save your hard earned money. Here's a simple rule or guideline to live by: If you can't afford something, don't buy it! Save up for it instead. Look at the people you know who don't have any money or are in debt—they spend more than they earn, right? They buy everything they want, whether they can afford it or not.

Sometimes you need things, I understand. Your microwave blows up or you get a flat tire; try to have some money put away for such occasions. That's part of being responsible and being an adult.

How about the sports package on your TV or numerous subscriptions to magazine or internet sites ... these are nice, but do you *need* them? Can you *afford* them?

Pets are expensive, and so are children, smoking, drinking, and gambling. Get your priorities straight. Figure out what you can and can't afford, and live accordingly.

Use things until they're ready to be replaced. For instance, according to data online, the average vehicle payment for even a used vehicle is \$355 per month. That's \$4,260 a year. Now, if you can run and upkeep your current vehicle (especially if it's paid off) for less than that, keep it for as long as you can. It's money in the bank. They'll have you get a new vehicle every three or four years. Guess what—that benefits Them, not you. Do the math—it's that simple.

There are other little things you can do. If you already have enough shoes, clothes, or purses, don't buy more. Borrow books and movies from the library. Walk, take a bus, ride a bike, cook at home, make enough food for leftovers, freeze homemade food, buy in bulk. Make coffee at home and take it to work instead of stopping at the convenience store every day. These may seem like little things, but add them all together and they can go a long way in making you more financially independent.

If you're like most people you already have the internet on your phone—why pay for it at home, too? You're paying twice! Every dollar adds up.

Say you decide not to spend an extra \$80 a month for internet at home—that's \$960 a year! \$9,600 in ten years that's still in *your* pocket, not *Theirs*!

Or, what if you go out to eat four times a month and on average you spend \$12 each time. That's \$48 a month—\$576 per year! (I know many people who got out to eat much more than that; more like four times a week!)

Be as free as you can be! Explore as many ways as you can think of to fight back!

If you're a college student, look for or create opportunities to cut costs. Get a roommate or two, learn the art of cooking, pack a lunch rather than buying the overpriced food sold on campus. Have a plan. Take summer classes; if not, get a job and earn a little money. Any lit-

tle thing you can do to be that much more free—do it! That’s one less way that They control you.

If you can, organize with those around you. Rather than Them using technology on you, use it against Them! There are ways to fight back without being violent or causing bloodshed. Don’t participate in your own enslavement by going along with what They want you to do and being who They want you to be. As the quote by Howard Zinn earlier in this book illustrates, the problem is not civil disobedience, *it’s civil obedience*. Non-cooperation is one of the greatest tools at your disposal. There are other tools as well.

You can protest to help raise awareness for a specific cause or objective, but protesting alone won’t make much of an impact; you must protest *and* have plans for boycotts if you really want to make a difference. (You need to hit Them where it hurts—Their wallets!)

The people of the past knew so much more about the power of a boycott, civil disobedience, and non-cooperation than we do today. They were pissed off. They had slogans like, “Give me liberty, or give me death!” They were suspicious of government and big business. They fought, and they fought hard, for their rights and liberties. That’s somehow been bred out of us today. We need to get it back.

Here’s a hypothetical example of what we could do: say a group of college students at a certain major university are tired of the ever rising costs of college education. So they organize and protest and get support and are able to have the entire student body boycott all sporting events until something gets done about the cost of college education. Perhaps, if the students conduct themselves with honor and remain peaceful and dignified, members of the general public may join them in their efforts. The goal of the boycott could be the elimination of at least one year of Gen. Ed. (General Education) classes for most majors (along with trimming the fat in “administrative costs”), thereby reducing the cost of college education by fifteen to twenty thousand dollars per student. Would

it work? What if through social media the cause picked up momentum and spread across the nation?

Or what if roughly the same scenario happened, but instead of boycotting sporting events, 30,000+ students at a major university all banded together and boycotted Gen. Ed. classes, pointing out that for most majors they have little or nothing to do with their specialized field of study, and that the supposed goal of “making well-rounded individuals” is really just an excuse to force college students to take an extra two years of college, thereby making universities (and banks) that much more money and putting the students that much more in debt. (I can understand the importance of these classes for some professions; for instance, they would be helpful for those who intend to become school teachers, but they could easily be trimmed back by at least half as much as is currently required.) If students fought back like this all across the country, the universities would have no choice but to concede to their demands. College would take half the amount of time and cost half the amount of money. These are the kinds of things that need to happen if we want anything to change.

Workers need to organize and unionize again, especially in the service and retail industries. People need to *fight* for better wages, just like those who struggled in the early 1900’s did, whose hard work and labor caused reforms that many of us still benefit from today. The decent wages and middle class that the U.S. enjoyed and thrived upon for so many years didn’t just happen—people *fought* for it. And now, through years of ignorance and complacency, we’ve let almost all of it slip away.

We need to put our heads together and find ways to force our “elected” officials to pass trade agreements that benefit workers and regular citizens, not just corporations. We need to boycott mega-businesses that don’t pay a living wage, especially when their own financial reports prove that they easily can—they just choose not to. (I realize that some (many?) people don’t believe that unskilled labor *deserves* better wages,

but a simple analysis of historical data shows that these same unskilled laborers make less now adjusted for inflation than they did fifty years ago, while corporate wealth has increased by leaps and bounds, in some cases by 200-300 percent when compared to the leading corporations of half a century ago.)

We have the *power* to make great change if we get together, stand up for ourselves, and refuse to cooperate with the people or corporations that use *us* to make Themselves powerful and rich.

Think about it—if an entire town got together and said that they weren't going to shop at a particular supercenter retailer until they started paying better wages and benefits, conducted fairer business practices, and sold more local, state, or national products, they'd be closed down in a month. Some other business that would accommodate these demands would happily take their place. So much is possible if we only stand up and work together.

And if none of these things work or don't happen right away, you can be an army of One. Educate yourself. Knowledge is power. Do what you can, however little it is. It all adds up after a while.

Resist. Rebel. Revolt. Rearrange your life. Make freedom your primary concern ... not just for the sake of being free from Them, but for your own good and as its own reward.

It's up to you. This book is but a small taste of what's out there. With tools such as the internet and social media at your disposal, you have the accumulated wisdom of the world at your fingertips. Use it. Free your mind. Aspire to be great, to be something other than a cog in the wheels of the bankers, corporations, and politicians money making machine.

Rise up. Fight back. Stand your ground.

Be Free.

Part IV: Ideas and Insights

This section is a mixture of random thoughts and short essays that I have written over the years that cover a variety of topics.

One thing that I would like to address before you go on is that although I believe that some sort of voluntary society would be the best way for humanity to live (as I noted in Part I), you will notice that I do at times speak of taxes, voting, and other “statist” issues. Statism (a government-controlled state society) is the system we have now, and until enough people understand that Statism is just systemized slavery, we may have to fight for as much freedom as we can *within* the system. I wish there were better alternatives, but for now, it is what it is.

Help Themselves

A growing attitude in America today is that those who work hard and are successful are expected to support those who, when their lives are analyzed, have put half of the time and effort into making themselves successful as their successful counterparts have. Yet many of these people expect to enjoy the same rewards and luxuries that those who are successful have worked so hard for.

In reality, most people’s success in life (or lack thereof) correlates directly with the amount of effort they’ve put forth. For example, I chose to get a job in high school while many of my friends chose not to; I had a car, they didn’t. I chose to study my books and do my homework; some didn’t—that was their choice. I chose not to get heavily involved in drugs or alcohol, even though those kinds of people were around. I chose to get a job that offered a health insurance plan; it was my number one priority upon graduating high school. Others have this opportunity as well; if they choose not to, so be it.

I celebrate that people have this kind of freedom. With freedom comes responsibility; what we choose to do with that responsibility is up to us as individuals.

I, for one, believe that America is more than generous with those who are below or around the poverty line. The taxpayers are doing their part to help them out and make their lives better. The question I have is, how much are they helping themselves?

Wealth Redistribution—A Parable

A hunter goes out every morning to hunt for a deer. For hours each day he sits in the woods in the cold and the snow but nothing comes along. Finally, after three weeks, he shoots a deer. He tags it, drags it to his truck, takes it home, hangs it, skins it, cuts it up, and packages it.

But then some people come along and say that they're going to take half of his meat and give it to those who don't have any. The deer hunter is confused.

"Why didn't these people go out and get their own deer?" he asks. "What were they doing?"

"Well, they were sleeping, watching TV, playing Xbox, hanging out with their friends, etc., etc..."

"That's not fair!" the deer hunter protests. "They didn't put in any of the hard work that I put in. They didn't sit in the cold and the snow and wait for days and weeks like I did. They chose not to. So why should I have to give them what I've worked so hard for?"

"That's just what we have to do if we want everything to be fair," the people reply. "Now give us your meat—it's only right."

Money = Freedom

I've always been a money saver. I had over two hundred dollars in a piggy bank when I was 12 years old that I saved from birthday parties, holidays, and allowances (which I eventually used to buy guitar equipment).

When I was 15, I got my first job. I saved all of my money, and I was the first of my friends to have a car. I had more freedom than anyone my age.

I learned early on that money = freedom. Financial independence teaches us not to be *dependent* (on other people or government), but *independent*.

In the town that I live in, we recently enacted a special referendum that existed in our county laws and *voted to raise our own taxes* for the building of a new school. To add some context, there were multiple, considerably more cost effective proposals to choose from, but for some reason our town voted for the most expensive, over-the-top design. Add to this the fact that the existing school was less than thirty years old, could have easily been renovated for millions of dollars less, and still had outstanding debt, and your mind, like mine, should be officially blown!

What would the founders of our country say to that? What would early Americans say if they knew how much money the government already takes from us and the way it's spent, wasted, and abused—in many cases being used on things that have nothing to do with the *good* of the people at all?

They would probably say, with a fresh set of eyes, that we must have some sort of *selective amnesia* to forget about all of the abuse and corruption that's poisoning our government and try to steer us clear of any misguided rationalizations that would let us give them even more of our hard-earned income (and freedom). They would probably look at the real solution, which isn't raising taxes, but putting the already enormous

amounts of money they take from us to better and more efficient use (like simply renovating the existing school for a fraction of the cost).

Very wise and intelligent people made it a law in our county that the government couldn't raise our taxes more than a certain amount to protect us from extortion—and we willingly bypassed that law by enacting a special referendum and gave them more money!

When we don't hold our leaders accountable, we give them our freedom.

When we sit quietly by as they spend our taxes in (sometimes) the most heinous ways, we give them our freedom.

And when we *volunteer* to give them *even more* of our money in taxes—money that we now can't spend on ourselves, our children, or our families—we give them even more of our freedom.

I don't think that's the way it was meant to be. I don't think giving more of our money or freedom will make us more independent. It just doesn't work that way.

White Privilege Conference

I recently read a promotional op-ed article about something called a “White Privilege Conference.” I must say that I take great exception to the existence and promotion of such a conference. I am white and come from a town of mostly white, hard-working Americans. My direct ancestors came to this country with barely two nickels to rub together, worked and toiled in coal mines, on railroads, and in factories until they could get enough money together to send for their wives and children. They didn't have much but learned how to live responsibly and frugally, going without many luxuries and no “safety net” to save them when things got tough. They worked unbelievably hard and earned every penny they made.

My entire life, most of the people I've known have gotten up every day and went to work in the hot, dirty, dust-filled factories in my hometown, as did most of their parents before them. Everything they have, they worked for. Although some in my family have been more successful than others, most have made an effort to live responsibly and within their means. I was never lacking of anything, but I was also not spoiled. I began working when I was 15 years old and have worked ever since. I'm currently a janitor. I didn't get my job because I'm white; I got it because I showed up every day, worked hard (part-time until I was hired full-time), and showed that I could be an asset to the organization. In fact, I can't think of anything that I've gotten in this world that either myself or my family didn't work for.

To me a "White Privilege Conference" is extremely counter-productive; it goes completely against Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of being judged not by the color of our skin but by the content of our character. In fact, our society seems to be increasingly *obsessed* with highlighting race, gender, or sexual orientation whenever the opportunity presents itself—at times even going out of its way to do so. (That's my experience, at least.)

I could go on and on about the problems and challenges of those who struggle around or below the poverty line—and offer some possible causes and solutions—but for now I only wish to say that a "White Privilege Conference" isn't, in my opinion, part of the solution; it only adds to the problems. It divides and separates us, and in the end creates an environment ripe for negativity to flourish. It creates, in my opinion, a false narrative that can then be used against certain persons or groups of people in numerous *negative* ways, creating new wounds in the process.

All of us, regardless of race or gender, deserve better.

Free Trade

I think that what we know as "free trade" is quite misleading; what it *really* is is trade that is shaped to help the largest corporations "trade for free." It's set up to help the largest and wealthiest people and corporations bypass countries with strong unions or work forces and manufacture in places where they can pay a dollar a day to wage-slaves (no offense intended) who are happy to get even that little bit of income, then ship their products around the world for free, making the corporations unfathomably rich in the process. Real free trade would resemble a system where our country's interests are put first, not multi-national globalist corporations who only care about profits (not people), and who have no loyalty to any country, just their own corporate interests.

It's true, we've gotten cheaper goods in the U.S. because of what we call "free trade," that's indisputable; but the loss that "free trade" has created in the middle class has hurt families, local and state governments, and the Federal government monetarily through the taxes those higher wages generated, leaving ghost towns full of failing roads and infrastructure, and a growing number of people on government assistance to try to pick up the pieces and make ends meet with low paying service jobs. All the while, the largest corporations have less and less competition to contend with as more and more businesses close, as only the largest corporations can profit from "free trade." Add to that the extra advantage of these corporations not having to pay American wages or health care to their employees (since they now manufacture outside of the U.S.), and it's a win all around for those rich enough to shape our laws (through lobbying) to what we call "free trade."

Like nearly everything affiliated with government, it benefits THEM (politicians/corporations), not US (hard working citizens)!

How to End Poverty

I, like everyone, personally know a few people who live in relative poverty. It's not "America's" fault that they live in poverty. A large majority of them simply refuse to go out and get a job. That's it. Period. They could get up every day and go to work like everyone else, but they choose poverty instead. They choose to sleep in and watch tv and play on their phones while everyone else goes to work. (I'm not talking about those who are truly disabled. That's something altogether different.)

All of the people who I know who do not live in poverty go to work every day. I'm pretty sure that's how you end poverty (if you live in poverty) ... go to work! Get a job, live responsibly. Problem solved.

Government Sanctioned Theft

Mark my words: Socialism will catch up with every one of the countries (who practice socialism) eventually, especially if they allow massive immigration (which will result in massive changes in culture). One of the fundamental core values that I've learned from the philosophy of Stoicism is the idea of "living in harmony with nature." Socialism is completely against the laws of nature. In nature, we reap what we sow. I'm all for "voluntary" wealth redistribution (also known as giving to "charity organizations"); but INVOLUNTARY wealth redistribution (through taxes) is legalized theft, plain and simple. For someone to vote to redistribute another person's property is immoral. If it's not freely given, then it is forcefully taken (through taxes, with the threat of punishment or imprisonment if refused). That's not love. That's not neighborly. That's not freedom. That's theft—government sanctioned theft, plain and simple!

Need, Convenience, and Self-Interest

A show I watched recently (*Undercover Law*) had this line in it:

"Most people are motivated by three main things: need, convenience, and self-interest. Everything else is pure romanticism."

This quote from an article I recently read sums it up perfectly:

"...There's been a striking shift in how corporations see themselves. In normal times, corporations serve a lot of stakeholders—customers, employees, the towns in which they are located. But these days corporations see themselves as serving one purpose and one stakeholder—maximizing shareholder value. Activist investors demand that every company ruthlessly cut the cost of its employees and ruthlessly screw its hometown if it will raise the short-term stock price."^[4]

The ugly truth of the matter is, it's dog-eat-dog out there. Power and success go to the ones who devise the most ruthless strategy to dominate their adversaries; and if they don't, someone else will do it to them.

In all honesty, most people aren't quite that bad, especially on a personal level. But take the "personal" out of it, where the victim becomes a faceless, nameless, abstract entity, and the game seems to change quite a bit.

For instance, most corporate owners and their shareholders have no idea of the conditions in the factories in China where most of their products are made, and they don't want to know. It's called "willful ignorance," and is necessary for them to be able to sleep soundly at night. They are probably pretty decent people in their everyday life, but have cut themselves off from any moral responsibility they may feel,

and hide the truth from themselves. Deep down I think that most people who benefit from the unfair labor of others know that they are living out of harmony with conscience, and maybe they even do some extra philanthropy work because of it, but that's as far as it goes. And so the world turns...

I see absolutely no way for this to change—now, or in the future. Governments can't force corporations to become more "moral." (Anyways, that would be the pot calling the kettle black!)

Confucius taught that the citizens will either consciously or unconsciously follow the examples of the people in power. When, in the past, the people in power seemed to have more morals (when those in power were more openly Christian, for example, and actually practiced their religion more), we, as a society, had more morals. Now, those in power (governments, corporations) seem to be almost completely morally bankrupt; it's no wonder our country is the way it is!

How to Live

I see freedom as an essential part of society. Without freedom, especially the freedom to choose how to live one's life (religiously/spiritually, socially, and economically), human beings can never truly be content or at peace, within themselves or with others.

The Biggest Problem in the World

The majority of people practice no kind of philosophy in life whatsoever. If people had a more philosophical perspective towards life, I believe that people would be happier. That's what I see as the biggest problem in the world.

Without a guiding philosophy in life, people wander from one attachment to another, finding happiness only in whatever provides external stimulation. Most things in life have as much power as we give them. Income, for example, can increase or decrease our overall happiness to an extent, but if each person had a more philosophical (and I think realistic) outlook on life, they would find happiness in the things that really matter.

I, personally, practice spirituality, and find that it adds great value to my life. But if spirituality isn't for you, then at least practice a philosophy composed of logic, morality, love, and freedom.

Logic, morality, love, and freedom—exactly what the world is in need of!

Government Spending Can't Fix It

A friend of mine always wants the government to step in and fix what he sees as the greatest problems in the world. One of the problems that really concerns him is child obesity.

The poorest people are often seen eating fast food, which costs at least twice as much as cooking at home. (I suppose the Dollar menu may be the exception.) No amount of government spending can undo the natural laziness that goes along with the large majority of people who just don't care about themselves or what's in their own best interests ... even the health of their own body!

It's extremely unfortunate that the children of these kinds of parents are raised in the kinds of conditions that contribute to their obesity. As they become adults though, they then need to take responsibility for their own health, diets, and exercise.

All of this is unfortunate, but I don't see how much the government can really do. Children may not know what's healthy for them, but adults do. When I see the people I work with stop at Sheetz, Burger

King, and McDonald's and get fast food everyday and chase it down with a giant sized soda, *they all know that it's unhealthy for them. They simply don't care*, and would rather indulge their insatiable desire for the taste of fast food and the desire to avoid cooking. Government spending won't fix it, and more education will go in one ear and out the other (in my opinion). Bleak as it may sound, this is free-will and all that accompanies it. As I've said many times, with freedom comes responsibility.

And a side note on all of the recent ideas on taxing everything that's unhealthy for us: of all the people who I went to school with who smoked, not one of them who did quit did so because of the cost. All of them knew (and still know) that smoking is bad. If they did quit, they quit because they wanted to become healthier or out of their own sense of self-worth and self-responsibility. Education (or lack thereof) wasn't the issue. And tax increases didn't deter them in the least.

People have a right to live how they want without government interference. That's what freedom is all about!

Accountability

We all have a responsibility to ourselves to take accountability for our lives and our actions, and not make excuses or blame others for our own poor choices or work ethic. Sometimes we are put in less than desirable conditions, but if we remain positive and work hard, we can improve our condition over time. (If this weren't true, there wouldn't be so many examples of people bettering their lot in life.)

As the saying goes, "The unexamined life is not worth living." If people aren't willing to explore the world around them and figure out the forces that are working for and against them, then it's really nobody's fault but their own. The world is our oyster, after all.

Many people choose the *easy way* because the examined, successful life takes a lot of hard, hard work. It means not giving in to every whim or desire. It takes sacrifice, determination, will-power, and a desire to become the best that you can be. That's my take, anyways. I'm not perfect by any means, but I'm also not afraid to call it like it is. Any faults I have are my own. I'm responsible for them. That's the truth.

Won't Work For Free

I went to a certain supercenter grocery store today to pick up a few things (we don't really have small, local grocery stores anymore), and as I went to check out I passed by (as usual) all of the self-checkout isles (which were full of people checking out their own groceries) until I came upon one of the isles that had a real live human cashier. The cashier was standing out in front of the checkout isle, waiting to check people out.

For the record, there have been times that I've stood in line for twenty minutes waiting to check out, refusing to "work for free" in the self-checkout lines, so I was quite happy to not have to wait this time.

As I unloaded the groceries from my cart, I commented to the cashier that I couldn't believe that all of those people at the self-checkout machines would work for free checking out their own groceries while she stood there, getting paid, waiting to check people out. The cashier's reaction was not at all what I had expected.

"I check my own groceries out, too," she said.

"You do?" I responded, incredulously. "Why would you work for free like that?"

"I don't like the way cashiers bag my groceries," she responded.

I then proceeded to tell her how recent articles stated that the family who owned this particular superstore market makes \$70,000 every minute, \$100 million every day, and that I couldn't understand how any-

one would volunteer their labor to such already rich people, especially when it means that less people will have a job because of it.

“It won’t matter anyways because soon all checkouts will be self-checkouts,” was her flippant response.

“Because everyone keeps going along with it...”

“They can’t keep any workers anyways,” she continued. “Hell, they even pay them \$11 an hour to start out! More than I ever made!”

I tried to explain to her that the store would be able to keep workers if they paid higher wages, but it was falling on deaf ears, so I shut my mouth.

But I am glad that I talked to her. I always find it interesting to get insight into another person’s thought processes.

So think about it the next time you volunteer your labor for a corporation that makes 100 million dollars a day.

Very Different Reactions

I literally blew someone’s mind today! I know we hear that phrase a lot, but this was the first time that I ever really saw someone’s mind blown. This man had a very shocked, unsettled look on his face and his mouth was hanging open. The guy is twice my age, but on multiple occasions now I’ve turned his world completely upside down.

This occasion was in reference to an article about a group of NYC Fire Commissioners calling for a reopening of the 9/11 World Trade Center investigation, citing “overwhelming evidence” that the towers were brought down by “controlled demolitions,” not fire and jet impact. My friend had never heard anyone question the official government version of 9/11, and as I proceeded to provide more details about alternative views of how the towers fell, he was literally beside himself.

I think what made it harder for him is that I had already gained credibility in his eyes a few months prior when I convinced him (with plen-

tiful evidence) of the “man made climate change” hoax. That was also a shock to him. Add to that the new information I presented to him about 9/11 and the look I saw on his face was of someone who had just come to the realization that much of what they think they know in life is a lie, that there really is a group of people sadistic enough to kill thousands of people (and deceive billions more) for their own personal gain. Unfortunately, I had to leave at that point, but it will be interesting to see if he has anything else to say about it when we meet next week. (I won’t bring it up to him; I’ll wait to see if he brings it up again.)

Oh, and I almost forgot; when I emailed him the article about the NYC Fire Commissioners, he said, “I didn’t see this in the news!” Ain’t that the truth!

A couple of hours later I had the same conversation with another person. I presented it the same exact way and got a completely different reaction. This man was in complete denial. He said (and I quote), “I simply cannot believe that! I don’t *want* to believe that my government would kill thousands of innocent people for personal gain!”

I tried to explain a little more, but he shut me down. The conversation was over. Apparently he would rather live in denial, believing that those in power are good, kind-hearted people, incapable of anything so heinous. I guess that makes him feel better.

Two different people—same subject, same presentation—two very different reactions.

For me, personally, I don’t care how much it hurts; I want to know the cold, hard truth!

Trickle Down Taxes

I recently read an article about France imposing a “Digital Tax” of 3% on the largest online marketplaces. Their reasons, according to the government, was to ensure that large online corporations pay their fair

share of taxes. Apparently a small town bakery ends up paying more taxes than many of the giant online marketplaces, and the government wanted to fix it (or so they say).

So how did the online marketplaces respond? They raised their seller fees 3%, naturally! The sellers, though not explicitly stated in the article, will no doubt raise their prices 3%. So in the end, the “Digital Tax” is really just another tax on consumers. The government gets their 3%, it’s a washout for everyone in the middle, and the consumer pays 3% more.

And guess what? This is how it works every time government thinks up a new tax. The largest corporations either wiggle out of the new tax through tax loopholes or they pass it down until, eventually, it trickles down to the everyday working people of the world.

Government knows this. They know that they would have to close tax loopholes if they really want to make the corporations pay more taxes, but they can’t do that because:

1. The corporations may move to another country
2. The government may be closing tax loopholes that they (the politicians) as individuals benefit from
3. The corporations wouldn’t finance the politician’s election/reelection.

So the next time you hear that government wants to find a new tax to impose on corporations or “rich people,” get ready to open up your wallet, because you’ll be the one paying it!

Pointless Rioting

I heard a conversation today between two guys talking about some rioting that's been happening in France. I haven't been following the situation closely, but apparently the everyday people are feeling cheated in one way or another by the government due to a decline in living standards and the introduction of even more taxes. (As one of the most socialist countries in the world, France already has some of the highest tax rates of any country.)

In any case, the one guy on the bus said that he thought the protesters were doing a good job so far by burning and destroying luxury cars to draw attention to their movement.

I don't think that burning and destroying luxury cars is a good thing! What does that solve? All that it shows to me is that the protesters don't stand for much at all if they're going to take their frustrations out on wealthier people's property with random acts of destruction.

To really get things done people need to follow the examples of Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. Government knows how to deal with violence—simply strike back with more violence. Non-violence is harder for them to justify the use of force.

But government has gotten smarter over the years. They now have a technique of infiltrating non-violent groups with their own government agents who impersonate actual nonviolent protesters and whose real job is to incite violence, thereby giving government an excuse to crush them.

One thing government can't fight against very well is a good old-fashioned boycott or strike. Gandhi was able to bring the entire nation of India to a standstill by declaring days of "prayer and fasting." On these days, no one would go to work, businesses started losing money, and that brought about results against their overlords, Great Brittan.

That's why the "Occupy Wall Street" protests not too long ago were a joke. They had no organized message and no plans for boycotts or strikes.

Anyways, it probably matters very little. Most Americans are far too comfortably numb to care about protests, boycotts, and strikes. Sadly, these movements usually only happen *after* people have nothing left to lose.

Pennsylvania Property Tax

Someone I know recently told me about some Pennsylvania official or representative who wants to eliminate property taxes and replace them with various other taxes. My initial reaction was, "Would government ever consider doing something like this if they weren't going to make *more* money in the long run? They certainly wouldn't do it if they were going to make less!"

Apparently (though not explicitly stated), what they really want to do is collect all of the tax money into one big pot and redistribute it as they see fit, taking money out of wealthier communities and putting it in other less attractive communities, communities that everyone is leaving because of drugs and crime, decades of poorly elected officials, high taxes, and/or lack of quality employment.

I'm not convinced that this will pass any time soon (I could be wrong), but it probably will someday. We'll be fooled again!

I realize that, once in a great while, one politician or another will implement a so called "tax break." Usually that just means that they created a different tax somewhere else, or the supposed tax break will be put back in another four or eight years, or they promised the elimination of one tax in favor of another, only to have the eliminated tax be reinstated somewhere down the road. We fall for it every time. How rarely do we hear anything about the real problem—government spend-

ing! That should be the focus! Cut off all of the unnecessary spending and there would probably be no need to raise taxes to begin with!

A Losing Battle

I was recently talking to someone I know who is very into all of the digital technology that is increasingly dominating people's lives. I, for one, am actually scaling back my use of digital electronics and media to what I believe to be a more moderate level.

In any case, I was telling them that I recently disabled my "cookies" on my phone and am using only "private mode" now, which creates various problems (for myself) from time to time. (Although most of you are probably aware of what "cookies" are, for those who are not, "cookies" are used by websites to track and store what you do when visiting their site, which they then use to better understand your likes, desires, and tendencies and also to sell to 3rd party companies to do with as they please.) Many sites simply will not even load when the cookies are off, presenting a blank, grey screen. When that happens I just move on to something different; they don't get my business.

The person I was speaking with said, "Yeah, it's a losing battle." I didn't say it at the time, but what I should have said was, "No, losing is to not battle at all."

And that's the problem with so many people today. People aren't willing to battle at all. They just accept whatever they are told to do or buckle to the slightest pressure, never standing up for anything whatsoever.

I know that disabling my "cookies" is pretty small in the grand scheme of things, but at least it's fighting back a little. That's what I am, a fighter; I know exactly what I want in life, and I fight the good fight in many little ways. I want my freedom as much as possible, from as many things and people as possible. I consider it a badge of honor to

have to endure some inconvenience or hard work to achieve my goals. It helps to give my life greater meaning, and therefore, much more joy, peace, and satisfaction.

Sometimes I feel that the people in my life who are familiar with my fighting spirit only see what I'm giving up (like giving up the internet and cable at home, for example), but not what I *gain* (better use of free time, less television *programming*, more reading and writing, etc.), which is so much greater than what I'm giving up.

So no, it's not a losing battle. Losing is to not battle at all!

It's Not an Accomplishment

Here's a topic that really shouldn't even be a topic: the race/gender issue. I think that it's important that we don't go around being "proud" that we're white or straight or female or right handed, or whatever. They aren't accomplishments ... we were born like this. There is nothing to be proud of or ashamed of. But if I were to go around and "insist" that others view or identify me in a certain way, then I'm off track because how each person views things is up to them as individuals, and I have no right to force another person to feel or believe what I believe. But that's what's happening in many ways these days. I just think that too many people are too wrapped up in labels and wanting recognition for things that aren't even accomplishments, and then using these labels to divide and "conquer" those around them.

It shows how much people *identify* with things that eventually help to define them, and that these identifications can sometimes (or often-times) become *attachments* that eventually act as *mental constraints* in their relations to those around them. People identify as addict, hurt, marginalized, superior, inferior, victim, and so on, along with their identifications and attachments with religion, race, political affiliations, or nationality.

For those who feel a political or cultural divide between themselves and others, who put the political and cultural divide between them? They, themselves, did (or their society)! In their own minds, they identify as politically and culturally divided.

What would happen if, in their own minds, they were to break free of these mental constraints and pre-judgments (prejudices) and see the world in another way? That's really what the majority of the division in the world comes down to. And until the world *unlearns* this kind of thinking and learns how to see without self-constraining attachments and identifications, the world will continue to be so much less than its true potential.

Market Crash

Every time the stock market/economy crashes, the world's wealthiest people/corporations lose *some* money (in our most recent crash, fake, printed-out-of-thin-air inflated money) but eventually acquire physical assets through asset purchases, company takeovers (both/either physically or through stock purchases), and increased market dominance (less competition/bankrupt businesses). This trade-off will pay more in the long run through greater monopolization and centralization of powers and the fact that they now own physical companies rather than paper money alone, which loses its overall value over time through inflation. Add to that the fact that a crashed world economy weakens the independence of most/all countries through the forced emergency spending/borrowing of money/resources and it again increases the likelihood of manipulating/exploiting these countries for personal gain.

I think that is the main reason the markets seem to crash every 10-12 years to varying degrees; it's simply a way for the wealthiest people and corporations to eliminate their weaker adversaries, both corporations and nations, and add to their own wealth.

Round-About-Bail-Out

I heard in the news recently that the President wants to give each tax-paying American \$1,200 to help “stimulate the economy” during the coronavirus outbreak. What *isn't* stated is that this is basically just another bail-out for the banks/corporations. The government gets more in debt (to the banks) by borrowing money to give to us, and in turn, we will use that money to buy things (which helps the corporations) or pay debts (which helps the banks, as they weren't certain that they were going to get those debt payments while many things are shut down and many people aren't working). We, the people, are just middlemen for the corporations/banks to get more money from the government—a round-about-bail-out!

So when you hear the words “stimulate the economy,” *economy* = *banks/corporations*. *Stimulus* = *giving tax-payer money to banks/corporations*.

Government as Savior

More and more, people are starting to view government as their “savior,” especially with the coronavirus outbreak. But even before the outbreak, people are becoming increasingly less religious/spiritual and more political, basically replacing their faith in God with a new faith in *government*. People now defend their political *beliefs* as ferociously as people of the past used to defend their religious convictions. Liberalism and Conservatism are the new religions in our modern world today, and government is god. Rather than being *suspicious* of government, as the people who founded this country were (and continued to be for many generations), people now look to the government as their savior, blind to the many hypocrisies of *their* party, while both parties slowly erode our individual freedoms while we aren't paying attention and we fight

against each other. When will people learn that the vast majority of politicians are only in it *for themselves* and that they don't have *our* best interests at heart?

As I read somewhere before, most politicians are interested in two things: 1.) How to get elected. 2.) How to get re-elected. They will say and do anything they can to achieve those goals. And the bigger politicians can't even get elected without some form of corporate/banking money financing them, so they are simply puppets for the world's wealthiest people.

No, government won't save us. We need to save ourselves from government! Man-o-man have we ever got it backwards! Yes, the banks/corporations control the politicians, but the politicians are the ones who write/shape the laws, so it is Them we should hold accountable, and Them we need to save/free ourselves from.

Come on, people! Wake up!

Emergency Legislation

Know this—any time the government introduces some sort of emergency legislation, they will use it as a power grab, each and every time. Sure, the legislation may help some people, but hidden within will be extra legislation designed to help Them, the people in power (and their corporate overlords), and Them alone, at the cost of the taxpayers, and with a loss of personal freedom for the common people. They've done it countless times before, and they'll continue to do it, no matter which party is in power, and no matter who introduces the legislation; Republican or Democrat, it doesn't matter. They both have the same overlords, and they both want to maintain their power. So don't fall for these tricks. If emergencies don't happen on their own, They will invent some (false flag events) and use any opportunity to add to their own wealth and power. This history has repeated itself often enough.

Different Parties for Different Objectives

Pay attention and you'll see that The Powers That Be will use different presidents to accomplish different aspects of their overall objectives. They'll use a Republican to carry out certain "wars" (war = land/resource grab, weakening or annihilation of enemies), Democrats to further any socialist objectives (socialism = weakening of personal independence, dependence on government), and "bipartisan" coalitions to screw everyone (bipartisan = circumvention of constitution/rights/freedoms).

Don't fall for their tricks. They "fake" all of this Republican/Democrat drama to keep us pitted against each other, but it's all for show. It's theatre—a soap opera. We are the audience. And like all theatre, it only works as long as we "make believe" that it's real.

Quit living in a dream world! Wake up! Don't just follow blindly! No matter how real the illusion seems, it's still an illusion! Sometimes They put on a pretty good show! Will you get sucked in to the drama?

Remember This

I recently read somewhere that since the year 1900 A.D., governments have killed 100 million more of their own people than have been killed in all wars during that same period. Pretty crazy, huh? Just remember that.

Practice Freedom

If you want to be a good runner, you have to practice running. If you want to be a good boxer, you have to practice boxing. If you want to be free, you have to practice freedom.

Censorship

People ask me all the time, “With so many conflicting viewpoints and data out there, how do we know what’s true and what isn’t?”

I always tell them that the truth has nothing to hide, and therefore, feels no need to censor opposing viewpoints or shy away from honest debate. Only lies need to silence those around them for fear that their dishonesty will be exposed.

Think about that the next time you hear of videos, articles, opinions, or facts being banned or censored. If truth is on their side, what are they so afraid of?

Pharmaceutical Lobbying

I recently read that the pharmaceutical industry has had the crown as the largest lobbyists to the government for years, doubling their next closest rival, oil. When we consider that “lobbying” is basically just another word for “bribing,” and that bribes are usually only needed to cover up corruption or illegal activities, what illegal activities are the pharmaceutical companies involved in that they need to lobby twice as much as their nearest competitor?

If you’re willing to investigate, you’ll find that the pharmaceutical companies and the products they produce injure and kill way more people than the mainstream media ever reports. You’ll also find that they own considerable stock in all of the mainstream media companies and have considerable influence on what information is reported about them and their products.

Think about that the next time government and the media are pushing some sort of drug or “mandatory” vaccine on you or your family, “for the good of society...”

The Blood of our Forefathers

We're heading down the wrong path as a country. Our forefathers fought so hard, they bled and labored to make this country the best that's ever been known in the history of man. They didn't do it by giving everyone a free lunch, cowering in fear of freedom of expression, or telling those around them how to live their lives. They intentionally made a government that was meant to be small and limited. The idea was to make a system where the government could never get too big, too powerful, or too controlling.

This country was built on strong, hard working, freedom-respecting people. (In most cases, that is ... slavery, the treatment of Native Americans, women's rights ... I admit it took a while for society to catch up with some of the ideas in *The Declaration of Independence*). We may be more tolerant and progressive *in some ways* today (though maybe that's starting to go the other way), *but I dare say we're not more free*. Our taxes are higher than ever before, government is bigger and more intrusive than ever before, and religious tolerance and the right to freedom of speech are at an all-time low.

Independence is what our country was founded on; how independent are most people today? (It can be argued, convincingly, I believe, that we're more *dependent* on the government now than we've ever been in our nation's history.)

What I can't stand is a person or group of people (government or otherwise) who feel that they have the right to tell other people what to do, how to live their lives, how to spend their money, how to use their property, what food they can eat, what they can drink, and so on. Equally as bad is when people use the government to do it for them!

I'm just trying to point out what I see as a major problem in our society and that is people having no problem with using the government to force people to do things according to their own, self-interested agenda. That's not freedom! America was built on a "live and let live" philoso-

phy, with respect for individual freedom. Look at us now! What happened? What are we doing here?

As my one friend always says, we get the government we deserve. Ain't that the truth!

It Starts At Home and At School

Here is the biggest difference between Them and Us: *They* are always calculating, always planning, dreaming up new ways to control and dominate those around them. Freedom lovers, on the other hand, aren't overly concerned with what other people are doing and just go about living their lives, letting each person do as they please.

The problem is that freedom minded people need to at least start paying attention to how they can secure and defend their freedoms from those who wish to take them. The war for our minds is a constant battle, and it begins at a very young age.

Look what *They* are doing to our kids in schools all across the world, filling their minds with all kinds of programming and propaganda. We give our children to government run schools eight hours a day, nine months of the year, and by the time they graduate they are lucky if they have even one original thought that isn't contaminated with carefully crafted propaganda designed to make them slaves. Add college into the mix and it is extremely difficult to undo 16-18 years of non-stop mind control.

We either need to take our kids out of school and teach them at home, or fight the school board, fight the government, so that our kids aren't taught lies and perversions from the age of 5 and for the rest of their lives.

The battle for our minds starts at home and at school, and it never ends. We must defend ourselves and our children before it's too late. Don't let them control our children's minds any longer.

Closing Thoughts

What's happened to us? What's happened to the pursuit of freedom as a fundamental part of human existence?

Somehow we've gotten used to the idea of letting "government" (or other forces) decide what's best for us, what we need, what we should think, say, do, when and where we should meet other people, how to dress, act, what we watch, what we read, what "speech" is acceptable...

I'll tell you how: we quit thinking for ourselves. We let other people do our thinking for us and never question their motives or if what they say is true or not.

Our society is being increasingly led by the nose to do other people's bidding, to be cogs in the machines of government extorters and billionaire power junkies.

Where will it all end? If we're not careful, it will end in our lives being controlled by a select few people. The freedom to do as you please will be nothing but a distant memory. The mechanisms of control will be so vast, so invasive, so utterly complete that the human race will never taste freedom again.

Individual freedom is never something that will just happen in society. Like any well kept garden, weeds must be pulled out regularly or they grow just like the flowers; it is the same with our minds and philosophies.

Our lives and the societies we build will turn out exactly as we choose to develop them. If we all work hard together and put in great effort, fighting for our freedoms and values, great things can be accomplished. If we take little interest in fighting for freedom, we will end up with very little freedom indeed.

Society is just an extension of the collective will of the people. The world we have now is apparently the way most people want it; if enough people wanted something different, they would fight for it, and change would happen.

Until that day comes when the world is ready for something different, be as free as you can be in your own life. Live for things which bring you hope and happiness. Be a person of intention. Think for yourself. Question everything! Live according to the principles of freedom. Seek truth wherever you may find it. Share truth with anyone who is interested, for truth, as the saying goes, really will set us free.

“Most people prefer to believe that their leaders are just and fair, even in the face of evidence to the contrary, because once a citizen acknowledges that the government under which he lives is lying and corrupt, the citizen has to choose what he or she will do about it. To take action in the face of corrupt government entails risks of harm to life and loved ones. To choose to do nothing is to surrender one's self-image of standing for principles. Most people do not have the courage to face that choice. Hence, most propaganda is not designed to fool the critical thinker but only to give moral cowards an excuse not to think at all.”

—Michael Rivero

“The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion.”

—Albert Camus

Notes

^[1] I must give credit to author and political activist Larken Rose, whose book *The Most Dangerous Superstition* explains what government *really* is in great detail, and has informed me invaluablely on the ideas of self-rule in the context of government. Although I don't agree with everything he says (I happen to be nonviolent; he is not), I have found much value in his views and thoughts.

I have also been influenced in this regard by authors Robert A. Heinlein and Leo Tolstoy, whose writings highlight in various ways that each person should rule themselves and that government is an institution designed to rule over others.

^[2] For more information, see the previously mentioned *All Wars Are Bankers Wars* by Michael Rivero, *War is a Racket* by Smedley Butler, and *Trading With the Enemy* by Charles Higham.

^[3] See the four part documentary *A Century of the Self* by Adam Curtis.

^[4] *The Remoralization of the Market* by David Brooks. (New York Times, 1/10/19)