

# The Modern Anglo-American Robin Hood

## A Time Past, or Still an Uncharted Future

Just before I left Seattle in 1990 for a temporary teaching post at Western Washington University with my newly awarded M.A. in economics from the University of Washington, I met a Seattle undergraduate who was returning from a filming expedition in downtown Seattle. He appeared tired and frustrated, and I asked him why. He replied that people do not care. Looking back, it is common among youth who have yet to enter the work force and still depend on parental care for their livelihood to be easily grieved by society's short-comings. Then too, many a working adult cares as well, but in the vast majority of cases only enough that someone else does their caring for them. Unfortunately, it is all too easy to understand why, for those who need the most care are often pretty messed up.



Then too, paying someone else to do your caring for you with money that is not yours can hardly help matters, unless of course, you believe that solving one problem by creating another is a good thing, and that tax dollars in the amount currently demanded at all levels of government are freely given in the vast majority of cases. This hardly appears to be the case.

In a common court of law the taking of another's wealth under threat of punishment is considered extortion and punishable with imprisonment. In this light, giving to another what you have just taken from the one and claiming yourself to be morally superior to the one from who you have just taken is nothing less than outrageous. This is, of course, what happens regularly in American government and society today.

Things become even worse when the motivation for the "good will" was to solve a problem that is not solvable in the manner that you had hoped to solve it. Let us take up each of the first two points separately, and for a more thorough discussion on the

intended solution, please see my recent article entitled "Seattle City Hall: Eighty More Matts for the Homeless".<sup>1</sup>

### **The Extortion**

Our nation was founded on the principle that "government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil".<sup>2</sup> Since Lincoln's war of consolidation from 1861 until 1865 when marshal law was first declared on American soil by someone other than the British, we have gradually replaced the above phrase with "government is necessary".

It has taken more than a century and a half to realize what Lincoln set into motion with the death of more than 600 thousand American lives and the many tens of thousands more who survived their wounds only to live the rest of their life as a maimed war hero. It was an ignominious war that trampled the US Constitution and made Washington, D.C. sovereign over the once free and independent federated states. Although the 13th Amendment was surely a welcome result, historical documents show with good clarity that it was hardly Lincoln's motivation for declaring war.

Further, the principle of taxation with representation was palatable so long as the general public understood the primary purpose of government in a free society -- namely, protect the right of the individual to his "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness".<sup>3</sup>

The **right to life** was understood to mean the right to bear arms and defend oneself against all aggressors. Today, we think of it as the *Right to Life* of the unborn, a far cry from its original intent. In those days you were lucky, if you even made it past the first several years after a successful birth.

The **right to liberty** was based on the idea that all of us are to be treated equally before the law, that the people are sovereign, and that we, the people, have the final word under which laws we wish to be governed -- in short, rule by consent. Today, it appears to mean little more than the right to offend whomever you like for whatever reason.

The **right to the pursuit of happiness** was just that -- a right to pursue. It was not a guarantee of outcomes. It simply meant that each of us had the right to acquire property, and that the fundamental purpose of government is to defend our right to our

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<sup>1</sup> Roddy A. Stegemann. 2018. *Viewpoint*. "Seattle City Hall: Eighty More Matts for the Homeless". (July 20). <[https://www.hashimori.com/moogoonghwa/viewpoint/kuow/cityhall\\_homeless.pdf](https://www.hashimori.com/moogoonghwa/viewpoint/kuow/cityhall_homeless.pdf)>

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Paine. 1776. *Common Sense*, p. 8. Philadelphia. It is said that no written document contributed more to America's declaration of independence from England than *Common Sense*.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas Jefferson. 1776. Declaration of Independence. Philadelphia. The US Constitution was written to safeguard the principles set forth in this declaration.

property “against all enemies foreign and domestic”.<sup>4</sup> To this end, by the way, a federal government was formed that would have the appearance of a sovereign state to the outside, but be the servant of the people and the several states to which they were loyal on the inside. Today, state flags are typically flown beneath the national flag and nearly all Americans and every state depend on national government for their existence.

Four hundred thirty-five representatives, 50 senators, nine Supreme Court justices, a president, a vice president, and a national bureaucracy dictate to some 360,000,000 people how they should live their lives. Although there are still three branches of government, the separation of powers and due process -- our primary defenses against oppressive government -- have been largely dissolved through an unconstitutional sub-delegation of legislative authority to unelected national bureaucrats and the president on the one hand, and judicial deference on the part of our court system to the same on the other.<sup>5</sup> Today, we stand as citizen-subjects before our national government in much the same way that British citizens kneeled before theirs in the early 17th century when our New England forefathers fled England to the western shores of the Atlantic in search of political and religious freedom.<sup>6</sup>

We have become a disgrace unto our founding.

### **The Outrage**

Robin Hood was a British folk hero whom most everyone still recognizes today.<sup>7</sup> Unfortunately, his courageous heroism as a vigilante in constant flight from the British Crown whose wealth he stole from cruel and arrogant nobles on behalf of the needy, his renegade band, and himself has been perverted by modern liberal thought. Today, Robin Hood’s hat and costume have been donned by political cowards protected by law that they themselves write, and whose booty is taken from income earners across the nation without regard to the moral integrity of the earner.

In effect, these cowardly charlatans have institutionalized the banditry of the poor, perverted our nation’s founding principles, and cut our nation into opposing halves --

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<sup>4</sup> Constitutional Convention. 1787. Philadelphia. The first government document written in the history of the world that acknowledged the right of a people to choose its own government and live according to deliberated laws of its own making.

For a brief introduction to what you should have been taught in your high school civics class, but probably was not see Hillsdale College’s *Free Online Courses* at <<https://www.hillsdale.edu/academics/free-online-courses/>>

<sup>5</sup> Philip Hamburger. 2014. *Is Administrative Law Unlawful?* Chicago. The University of Chicago Press. This book is available in the University of Washington Law Library.

<sup>6</sup> Alexis de Tocqueville. 1835. *De la Démocratie en Amérique*. Tome Premier, Chapitre 2. Paris. Librairie de Médicis. Available in the Suzallo-Allen Library on the University of Washington campus.

<sup>7</sup> Howard Pyle. 1883. *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*. Project Gutenberg: <<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/10148/10148-h/10148-h.htm>>

those who receive from government and those from whom government takes. What is worse, these self-righteous hypocrites then have the nerve to place themselves on a moral pedestal above those from whom they steal while granting political favors to only the wealthy among them in exchange for political campaign funding to further their sinister, but flagrant theft and own political careers.

That anyone votes for these charlatans at all bespeaks well the moral decay into which our once great nation has fallen. Indeed, these arrogant bandits our found in large numbers on both sides of America's bi-polar, political aisle and at all levels of American government.

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