

A NONVIOLENT PROTEST

A somewhat thorough examination of how we have gone astray
and some of the ways in which we can recover our sorely missed national heritage.

I have reached a point in my life where i am confronted with two choices: play along with the system and allow it to corrupt me, or continue to fight against it. Unfortunately, all that is left is my very spirit, and it is here where I must draw the line.

The system would have it at this point that I surrender myself to the spoils of the state. It would like that I join with others in picking up the mess to which the spoils have led while the spoils continue to pile on high. I can no longer bear the absurdity. The *spoils system* to which I refer is clearly outlined by Frédéric Bastiat in his masterpiece *La Loi*.¹ In this brief work of 44 pages Bastiat makes plain the abuses of government that necessarily arise when government engages in anything but its fundamental duty of protecting the individual's natural right to person, property, and the pursuit of happiness.² The degree to which this concept of *negative law* was understood by our American forefathers is not clear to me.³ What appears certain, however, is their understanding of the need to limit the powers of the newly formed federal government, if the sovereignty of the individual States were to be protected. Of course, Lincoln did away with this notion when he used slavery as an excuse to eliminate the sovereign power of the individual states and defeated the Confederate States who used the individual sovereignty of the states to excuse the perpetuation of slavery. These two issues are hopelessly confused in

¹ Frédéric Bastiat. 1850. *La Loi* (The Law). Available [online](#) at the *Institut Coppet* in Paris. 2011. An English copy can also be obtained [online](#) at the Ludwig von Mises Institute free of charge (but surely not free of cost). In this same context, but with a special treatment of the monopoly of force exercised by the state I can also heartily recommend Gustave de Molinari's work entitled *De la production de la sécurité* (1849) available online in [French](#) at the *Institut Coppet* and in [English](#) under the title *The Production of Security* at the Ludwig von Mises Institute. It, too, is very short consisting of only 54 pages. I can only speak up for the precision and clarity of the French version, for I have not read the English.

² Although I have not read it, I have read good things about Matt Kibbe's recent book, *Don't Hurt People, And Don't Take Their Stuff*. [[online review](#)]

³ In the introduction to his pamphlet *Common Sense* (1776) under the section heading *Of the Origin and Design of Government in General, with Concise Remarks on the English Constitution* Thomas Paine wrote, "Society in every state is a blessing, but Government, even in its best state, is but a *necessary evil*; in its worst state an intolerable one: for when we suffer, or are exposed to the same miseries by a government, which we might expect in a country without government, our calamity is heightened by reflecting that we furnish the means by which we suffer." Under the same heading he also wrote, "Wherefore, security being the true design and end of government, it unanswerably follows that whatever form thereof appears most likely to ensure it to us, with the least expense and greatest benefit, is preferable to all others." Paine's book can be downloaded from the [iTunes Store](#) for free (but not without cost) and opened in iBook.

the literature that followed Lincoln's war against the seceding states and strongly biased in favor of the victor's interpretation of what America's second war of secession was truly all about.⁴ Today, as if might always prevails over right, we hear little else, but the victor's story.

My goal in these few pages is not to belabor the past or even to harken to an ideological notion that has manifested itself in so many different ways around the world since our *sacred* and now largely soiled Constitution was ratified into law only two years after its inception. Important, rather, is where America derived its *exceptionalism* on the world stage in the first place, why we have lost it, and my deep concern as a patriot, that it is even possible for us to recover. For the moment, America is lost in the historically mundane state of empire and is accordingly anything, but exceptional in its exercise of military force and financial power.

Spoils are what naturally occur when a small group of people exercise a monopoly right over the use of force. This right can be granted by a people, as was partially done in 1788 when the American Constitution became binding, or it can be simply imposed. Nearly always it is a right assumed in the name of the people over whom the right is exercised. What once made the United States exceptional in this regard was the idea that the citizens of a nation retain their sovereignty over the state via their Constitution. In contrast, the British Crown remains sovereign over British citizens and Her Majesty's subjects must obey. What makes the United States still somewhat different today is the 2nd Amendment of the Bill of Rights. This passage insures, at least in writing, that the American people share in this use of force. This, however, is a far cry from what we once were and even our right to bear arms is under severe attack.

An important related matter is how the state is funded. Is this funding achieved by the consent of the governed — namely, the people —, or through the imposition of the state, or some combination of them both? Clearly, the United States of America is a mixture of the two, and clearly the imposition of the state is growing ever larger. Whether one is a Democrat or progressive Democrat, whether one is a conservative, evangelical, imperial, or libertarian Republican has made little difference since the government of the United States was turned into an administrative state by the Roosevelt administration between the years 1933 and 1945.^{5,6} His nickname FDR is not a coincidence, for his initials are a clear symbol of the government

⁴ See Thomas J. DiLorenzo's *The Real Lincoln: A New Look at Abraham Lincoln, His Agenda, and an Unnecessary War*. 2003. New York: Three Rivers Press for a very thorough treatment of the first point.

⁵ Grover Norquist is a champion against this growth. You can find him on Twitter as [GroverNorquist](#).

⁶ For a rather lucid video presentation of this conversion see Paul Moreno's on progressivism in the [online](#) lecture series called *American Heritage* (Lecture 8 - Progressivism) sponsored by Hillsdale College in the State of Michigan. I certainly do not agree with everything the college presents online, but I found this presentation to be particularly clear and accurate. By the way, if you watch the lecture and find it informative, you might also like to listen to the follow-up discussion on the same page.

bureaucracy that he created in an effort to circumvent the will of Congress.⁷ With few exceptions Congress has granted more and more power to the presidency ever since. Because the president of the United States is still elected by the people, many Americans — at least, those who still participate actively in the party politics of our nation — believe that they are still sovereign and that the balance of power in Washington has simply shifted away from Congress to the presidency and our nine-member legislative oligarchy called the US Supreme Court.⁸ That I not wander off topic!

So long as the state is funded by coercive force — namely, the right to tax those over whom the state exercises its monopoly right —, and so long as the law does not defend the individual against this right, the people are at the mercy of their government. The result is, of course, that we, the people, in America today, have only the right to choose who exercises this force, but little or no power to defend ourselves against its exercise. This, my fellow Americans, is not freedom. Now I ask you, how many Americans, let alone our politicians, have even bothered to read Article I, Section 8 of our once *sacred* Constitution. In effect, our founding fathers viewed both government and taxation as a *necessary evil*.⁹ For them it was like fire: useful, but very dangerous unless strictly controlled. As a result, they did everything within their collective power as representatives of the individual sovereign states, the people of each state, and ultimately the American people as a whole, to contain this evil.¹⁰

⁷ America's administrative state can be traced back to people like Alexander Hamilton, Henry Clay, Abraham Lincoln, William James, Theodore Roosevelt, John Dewey, Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge and others. These were all either direct or indirect proponents of the spoils system.

⁸ The word nation is an important source of confusion in modern political discourse. For, many people fail to distinguish between a nation of people who share a similar history, language, and cultural bond, but live together as ethnic communities under a wide variety of different states. One can, for example, speak of the Kurdish nation that populates several different countries in the Middle East, but is itself not a state, but in Iraq where it is a political sub-entity of the state of Iraq. The words nationalism (the idea) and nation-state (the political reality) are closely associated, but should not be confused with the concept of a nation.

⁹ op.cit. Paine (1776)

¹⁰ Under Lincoln the order of this historical formation was reversed. According to Lincoln it was the people who formed the federal government that formed the states from the colonies; rather than the people who formed the colonies under their British sovereign and then the sovereign states that would later form the federal government — first, under the Articles of Confederation and then and only then under the Constitution. John C. Calhoun's [Fort Hill speech](#) (1831) that proceeded Lincoln's rise to power renders clearly the notion of state sovereignty and the right to secede. Please read past the discussion on slavery, and you will walk a way with a very clear notion of our true founding. An interesting legal interpretation of the Declaration of Independence can also be found in Thomas Clark Nelson's *Purging America of the Matrix*. 2012. Part 1, The Fable of Federal Jurisdiction <[online document](#)>.

The simplest way to understand what powers the government of a sovereign people should exercise is captured in a book entitled *Uncommon Sense* by William Murray.¹¹ He states in Chapter 8 entitled *Principles* the following:

If you can't do it, then the government can't do it either.

In effect, a citizen of a state cannot grant to his government what he himself does not have. If only every member of every branch of government in the United States would be held accountable to this simple truth about what it means to be a sovereign people. Can you tax yourself to give to another? You surely can. Can you tax someone else to give to that same other? This is theft and punishable by law, if the individual does it.

My goal here is not to discuss the issue whether a government should be able to tax its citizens, for clearly those who accept US citizenship have agreed to be taxed. Rather, I question the way in which, and the purpose for which, we are taxed, as well as the opportunities available to us, should we decline our citizenship and cease to be taxed. Indeed, the way in which we are taxed is simply scandalous.¹² The purposes for which we are taxed are often outrageous. And, our alternatives are few and difficult, if even realistic.

The 16th and 17th Amendments were ratified in the spring of 1913, and the Federal Reserve Act followed in December of the same year. World War I began in July of 1914 and only three years later the United States entered the conflict. It was a war in which we, as a nation, had absolutely no business; it was also the war that set the stage for World War II.¹³ These were glorious and mischievous steps in the consolidation of our central government, and they were all achieved in the space of four years. The near simultaneous creation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (today's IRS) and the Federal Reserve System should surprise few, as the former is the tool used to raise revenue to pay the interest on the loans issued by the latter. What astounds me is the authority given to a small group of bankers to issue credit based on counterfeit money created by the US Treasury. No where in our Constitution does it state that the federal government has the right, or the right to bestow the right, of creating money ex

¹¹ William James Murray. 2006. Carson City, Nevada: Bridgehouse Publishers. This book is not a scholarly tract, but it is a work that every scholarly person who calls himself an American should read. I heartily recommend Chapter 11 entitled *Davy Crockett and the Supreme Court*. His recitation of a discussion between Congressman Crockett and a farmer in Crockett's congressional district is outstanding. Also, I am thankful for my former, but brief friendship with Edwin Yasukawa who brought Murray's book to my attention. I, in turn, brought it to the attention of Dino Rossi, former member of the Washington State Senate, a two-time Republican candidate for governor, and a former Republican candidate for the US Senate. Someone whom Donald Trump would surely tag as a loser were Dino to say something bad about Donald.

¹² The problem of income tax is an entirely different issue as witnessed in the [online video](#) entitled *Theft By Deception - Deciphering The Federal Income Tax* by Larken Rose. November 2, 2012.

¹³ Woodrow Wilson served as president from March 1913 until March 1921. The 17th Amendment was ratified under his administration. Further, the Federal Reserve Act was signed by his hand — the same hand that led us into World War I.

nihilo.¹⁴ What if you or I were to create prettily decorated paper and pass it off in the market place as having something of value other than the ink and the paper on which it is printed?

If you can't do it, then the government can't do it either.

So long as we allow *our* government to defy the Constitution and print more of this *ex nihilo* currency, the government need not worry about its ability to pay the private lenders who run the Federal Reserve System. For these latter, simply accept the debt and sell it to large commercial banks whom the government must then pay in the form of interest with the counterfeit money that the US Treasury issues. In real terms, when *our* central government wants real goods and services from the people, it sells new debt to the FED in exchange for more counterfeit currency issued by the US Treasury that it then uses to purchase munitions, new furniture for the White House, scandalous monuments to itself, and a whole host of other items that are no longer available to us, the people. This is criminal, and we sit back and let it happen! What is worse, someday the cock will come home to roost, and our entire economy will collapse taking much of the global economy with it.¹⁵ Our politicians are simply kicking the *Day of Reckoning* down the road for their successors and our children and children's children to endure at a later date.



And, if we say no to this phony practice, denounce our citizenship, and try to make it on our own as freemen and -women, we are surrounded every where we go by adherents to the state and the spoils system that it begets. Alternatively, we are forced to leave our homeland and live in another state alien to our own language and culture.¹⁶ There is nothing free about such a system of government, and it is a system that spans the globe. We were suppose to be different. We were suppose to be exceptional.

¹⁴ *Ex nihilo* is Latin for the creation of something out of nothing. The Articles of the Confederation were believed to be weak, because the confederation had no power to tax. Although our newly revised federal government was given *the right to coin money* — i.e., put its stamp on gold and silver collected in taxes —, it was never given the right to create money *ex nihilo*. Much of the War of Independence was funded through the creation of such money, and by the war's end this money, called the *Continental*, was nearly worthless. Hence, was born the saying, "Not worth a Continental". Our founding fathers had no desire to repeat this experience. See Murray N. Rothbard's *A History of Money and Banking in the United States: The Colonial Era to World War II*. Auburn, Alabama: Ludwig von Mises Institute, 2002. Available [online](#) without charge, but certainly not without cost.

¹⁵ See David Stockman's [Contra Corner](#). It is only one of many places to look, but I have found it to be one of the best as a timely indicator of where we are headed and how we will get there.

¹⁶ I have spent 23 of the past 25 years living and working in the homelands of other peoples in eight countries on three continents including in the Middle East. However rewarding an experience this has been, I know from experience that this is no easy task and not something that everyone can or even should have to do. From what I have read, becoming a *freeman* in the United States is no less challenging. What is more, as a freeman, you would more than likely contribute to the system by trading in the same counterfeit currency that everyone else does.

Not only are many of us taxed against our will, but the government steals from us in the form of inflation. The US dollar has lost 97% of its worth since the Federal Reserve System was created in 1913! Unfortunately, few understand the effect of this phony money creation on the business cycle and how this cycle transfers wealth from the many to the few with each succeeding up- and downturn of the general economy.¹⁷ And, once created, how is this money spent if not on wars for profit and the further transfer of wealth from one group of citizens to another in the form of corporate and social welfare.¹⁸ Fellow patriots, the fire is out of control, and I am not at all sure that we can stop its ravaging flames!

It was reported by James McHenry, a delegate from Maryland and participant to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, that Benjamin Franklin was asked by a certain Ms. Powel of Philadelphia as Mr. Franklin was leaving the convention hall, “Well Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?”, whereupon Mr. Franklin replied, “A republic, if you can keep it.”¹⁹ Excuse me, my fellow citizens, but we have lost it. Our once *sacred* Constitution is today little more than a carefully protected shrine, an object of idolatry and state worship that most of us have never read, and still fewer understand. What is more, our current educational system does not train our lawyers and judges in the basic tenets of the law of our land — the US Constitution.²⁰

When I was still in my late 20s I suffered a bout of unemployment and was permitted to live in my parents’ house. As i was a financial burden on my parents and took my good fortune for granted, my father told me one day to visit the local welfare office or find another place to live. Within two weeks i had found work mopping floors at a local country club! In those days social welfare was still associated with social stigma, and there was no shortage of jobs. And yes, my father knew how to motivate me like no other. I thank him dearly for it! Then too, I am much better informed today and understand well the true source of the stigma. Social welfare is not,

¹⁷ See my note “Money Creation and the Revolution: Along the Path to Real Change” in *Procesos de Mercado*, 2012, Vol. IX, No.1, pp. 429-443 <[online journal](#)>, and my working paper entitled “Hayek's Triangle, General Equilibrium, and Keynesian Folly: a first step in bridging the gap between the Spanish-Austrian school and mathematical formalism”. Social Sciences Open Access Repository <[online document](#)>. You can also read the works of Ludwig von Mises, Friedrich Hayek, Murray Rothbard, and many others of the Spanish-Austrian and now American tradition at no cost to yourself from the Ludwig von Mises Institute (among the [top 10](#) think tanks in the nation for economic research). Or, if you like something more timely you can read the works of the living, including Jesús Huerta de Soto (Spain), Jörg Guido Hülsmann (France), and Roger Garrison (USA). These are just a few of the many others.

¹⁸ Smedley Darlington Butler, Major General, United States Marine Corps. 1935. *War Is a Racket*. <[online document](#)>. The title speaks for itself. This book can also be obtained in an edited paperback at [Amazon](#). [Ron Paul](#) combines this notion with sound money.

¹⁹ “Papers of Dr. James McHenry on the Federal Convention of 1787”. *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 11, No. 3 (Apr., 1906), p. 618. Published by: Oxford University Press on behalf of the American Historical Association and available [online](#) at JSTOR free of charge to the general public, but surely not free of cost.

²⁰ Kevin R. C. Gutzman, J.D., Ph.D. *The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Constitution*. Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing, Inc., 2007.

as many believe, contributing to our nation's welfare and individual freedom; rather, it is tearing away at our once tightly woven social fabric. The notion that government has the right to take from one to give to another is antithetical to the notion of a sovereign people, and this contradiction is making hypocrites of us all! Not only unto ourselves, but the rest of the world.

Can you take by force from one neighbor what belongs to him and give the same to another without criminal ramifications? No, you cannot. Therefore, you cannot bestow that right upon government and somehow think of it as being just. Once again,

If you can't do it, then the government can't do it either.

The general welfare clause in our Constitution has nothing to do with the taking from one and giving to another.²¹ In fact, rather than enhancing the general welfare of our nation it destroys it by creating resentment between those from whom it takes and those to whom it gives. What is more, it increases the desire and demand to receive more, for the simple reason that it can be obtained for *free*! This is not *freedom*. Government has all but destroyed charity as anything more than a means to escape additional taxes as a result. For, why should anyone give, when the government is already doing it?²² If Congressmen and -women wish to show their compassion, then let them express it out of their own pockets and hard work, and not the pockets of their own constituency! It is an outright disgrace that they would buy votes through acts of charity that, when carefully thought out, are clearly acts of theft.

Human beings are pretty much a fun-loving, but lazy lot. This and our political freedom are what makes market competition so important. For whatever reason, there are few among us who are willing to act on our own in an effort to raise ourselves above the norm in which the majority of us dwell. It is these entrepreneurs and market competition that make for a strong nation that others respect. It is not a question of being a Democrat or Republican and fighting over who controls the pie; rather, it is a question of being an American and striving to make the pie bigger — not through imperial overseas adventures, but through trade, commerce, and industry at home.²³

The idea of pooling and redistribution works pretty well in small, tight communities such as a tribe or local village, where everyone knows everyone else, and no one lives in the community who is not a blood relative of everyone else. When someone is in need, everyone knows why, and few are unwilling to pitch in. Such communities existed in the United States during our early history, and on rare occasion one can even find them today. It works because the pooling and redistribution are voluntary, and no one is compelled to give who cannot be persuaded through moral suasion. For example, you do not have to give to a fellow villager whom you suspect of having once stolen from you. In fact, there is social peace, because you feel

²¹ US Constitution. 1776 <[online document](#)>. Read it and understand it. It is the law of the land, and it is yours — not the property of nine black-robed justices sitting in Washington, D.C.

²² When I wrote to my Japanese friend about my hunger strike, he posted back an article written in Japanese about a recently deceased sumō. The Japanese are heavily taxed — this, despite the comparatively small size of their government.

²³ Hans Hermann Hoppe. 2010. *A Theory of Socialism and Capitalism*. Auburn, Alabama: Ludwig von Mises Institute.

vindicated by his accidental or self-inflicted misfortune. Moreover, nearly everyone is in need from time to time, and few will be unwilling to help out.

It is not the same with the state. For, the natural goodwill that is built into all of us at birth disappears when someone comes knocking on our door and tells us that we must surrender a portion of our income to help people whom we do not even know.²⁴ The problem worsens when large corporations and labor unions go to government and bribe our officials to regulate markets in their own favor in an effort to eliminate competing firms and workers. The bitterness simply grows as each group or person feels cheated by the favors granted to some other group or individual. This is political competition, not market competition, and it is an important source of today's *malaise*. Our entire money supply, the life blood of today's world market place, is tainted by this kind of corruption, and it poisons our very existence.

No, Ms. Powel, you did not keep it!

When I contemplate how things have become this bad, I can find many reasons, but you have likely already grown tired of my lecture and are asking who am I to be teaching you. You are probably thinking: do like the rest of us and suck it up. Apply for SSI and food stamps, find a cheaper apartment far away from the center of the action that won't be so costly, and volunteer what remains of your spent life in charitable activities in your local community helping those less fortunate than you. Chill. Get a life. Buy a dog. And, leave us in peace.

I hear you, but I will not let you ignore me. For, the crisis, be it near or far, is on its way, and I will not serve as a nursemaid to a corrupt system that is leading us down a path of utter destruction. Enough talk; it is time for action.

Alas, I listened carefully to the voices at the Republican National Convention and believe sincerely that Donald Trump will make *a good emperor*. Although I hope that the Libertarian Party scores well in the upcoming presidential election, it is unlikely that Gary Johnson will carry the day, for we, the people, are still asleep. Now, Mr. Trump, may not be able to "make America great again", but he might very well be able to slow the decay and buy us time until more of us understand better what it means to be a sovereign people. And yes, despite Mr. Trump's sassy mouth, he appears to be of good character and genuinely willing to make the sacrifices necessary to serve as president. Unfortunately, he is either hiding from the American people what they really need to know, or is, himself, ignorant about what truly needs to be done.

²⁴ Frank Ochmann. 2008. *Die Gefühlte Moral*. Berlin: Ullstein Buchverlage. The number of American authors and scientists that he cites in this work is simply amazing. It is a lucid explanation of the nature, cause, and expression of morality in human society. In this book you learn that we are genetically engineered as moral beings! Unfortunately, there is no translation for this book, and when I asked him, if I could not do it for him, he expressed indifference. I even offered to translate a chapter free of charge just to prove my literary worth, but he still declined. I do not know why.

We have abandoned sound money — the very life-blood of a sound and free economy, and we should return to it as quickly as possible.²⁵ We have created an empire with a vast army, rather than an industrious and prosperous nation of free people. This is not something that Mr. Trump alone can change, and despite his trumpeting of several good ideas, he does not appear to understand the root of the problem. Surely, what was expressed at the convention was the lowest common denominator to which all Republicans could agree, and certainly there were things said along the campaign trail that never appeared at the event. This said, the lowest common denominator appears too low to reach the level of excellence that Mr. Trump has promised to achieve. I did not even bother listening to the Democratic convention — despite, some of their truly genuine concerns. Simply, we have been there so many times before and look where it has gotten us: Woodrow Wilson (WWI), Franklin Delano Roosevelt (WWII), Lyndon B. Johnson (the Vietnam War), Barack Obama (a continuation of the Bush legacy). These are our presidents most responsible for our current welfare-warfare state. But think! Why should we blame them, when so many of us have so freely abandoned our own *sacred* heritage and sovereignty as a free people to put them into office?

And yes, the Republicans are no less guilty. Lincoln discarded the US Constitution to save the Union and consolidated national power in Washington, D.C. Did the problem of slavery go away? Hardly. Where before there were slaves and indentured servants, now there is a nation smothered in debt with half of its citizenry receiving some sort of direct government subsidy. America's race relations, if not the worse in the world, are very close to the top.²⁶ A quarter century living in eight countries on three continents including in the Middle East has led me to this conclusion. More than 600,000 Union and Confederate (American) citizens lost their lives to solve a problem that was resolved, for the most part, peacefully in nearly every other nation of the Americas where it was practiced. Haiti is the only notable exception in this regard, and look at where it is today. Still, the Republican Party vaunts itself before the American public as the direct descendants of the scourge of Lincoln. Once again, I encourage you to read Thomas J. DiLorenzo on this very subject.²⁷

It is now a decade and a half since the tragic hours of September 11, 2001, and still we do not know with any clarity who was behind it.²⁸ Instead, we have blamed entire nations and bombed

²⁵ Stegemann, R. A. "Central Banking: The Enemy of Sound Money: A Transition from Unsound to Sound Money". Presented on 17 March 2013 at the Western Economics Association's (WEA) Biennial Pacific Rim Conference in Tokyo. <[online document](#)>. Others that you may wish to read in this regard include Friedrich Hayek's *The Denationalization of Money*. The Institute of Economic Affairs. 1990. Available as an [online document](#) at the Satoshi Nakamoto Institute.

²⁶ I have lived in France, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Thailand for extended periods of time and in none of these are race relations as conflictual as they are in the United States of America. Then too, my European experience was more than 20 years ago, and I have been told that Europe is no longer the same. Certainly, I trust neither the national, nor world news media to provide an accurate picture, though.

²⁷ op. cit., Thomas J. DiLorenzo (2003).

²⁸ Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth, Inc. 2015. *Beyond Misinformation: What Science Says About the Destruction of World Trade Center Buildings 1, 2, and 7*. <[online document](#)>

their peoples into oblivion. And still, the bombing has not stop, as we clamor to build a wall, spy on our own citizenry, and persecute those who would reveal the truth, while the real villains run free in our nation's capitol, on Wall Street, and who knows where else.

Yes, the problem of illegal aliens is real, and I will not speak out against the wall that Mr. Trump and so many others are desirous to build. Unfortunately, it does not go to the root of the problem: the misguided War on Drugs ushered in by Richard Mulhouse Nixon and the social welfare programs created under the FDR and Johnson administrations. When I read that Senator Rand Paul would be performing *pro bono* operations on the blind during the Republican National Convention, I broke out in laughter followed by a tear.²⁹

And, let us not forget our dedication to Israel, while most of us completely ignore how the Israeli nation was formed, and why the Palestinians, proud warriors of despair and misery, have fought so fearlessly and relentlessly to defend their homeland against the last remnant of Western colonization.³⁰ It was on this very issue that Senator Ted Cruz lost my support. No, I have not fallen into the trap into which so many others who denounce Israel have fallen. I do not see an evil Zionist behind every bush and tree in Washington, D.C., but I have grown deeply suspicious of the American Jewish community who remained quiet for so long as their religious confederates colonized the former British protectorate of Palestine. And, in the end, we share, as a religious community, far more in common with Muslims than with Jews — this, despite our strong political, financial, and cultural affinity with the present state of Israel.

I also particularly enjoyed the dialogue between Peter Thiel and those who shouted, as he was speaking, that Donald Trump is not gay. I applaud Mr. Thiel for helping to take down Gawker and his reminding the American nation that the social divisions that have arisen in the United States are a diversion from what really matters in the healing of our nation.

At this point, I only wish that Donald Trump would recruit or at least consult people who understand the true nature of our current financial dilemma — people like David Stockman, *former* businessman, U.S. representative from the State of Michigan, and director of the OMB under Ronald Wilson Reagan; Joe Salerno, *current* economics professor, chair of the economics graduate program in the Lubin School of Business at Pace University in New York, and academic vice president of the Ludwig von Mises Institute in Auburn, Alabama; and Grover Norquist, founder and president of Americans for Tax Reform.

I am 66 years old, have been shut out of the labor market, my credit rating will soon be ruined, and I am left with the choice of seconding a corrupt, un-American system of government or accepting my own financial destitution and going down with my head held high in protest. That

²⁹ "Rand Paul Isn't at the RNC. He's Literally Curing the Blind Instead". 19 July 2016. <[online document](#)>

³⁰ See *The War on Terror* at Moogoonghwa's [Viewpoint](#) — a list of downloadable articles written (some better than others) in an effort to understand the nature, causes, and hypocrisy of the war.

That charity be given freely or not at all!

August, 2016, Seattle, Washington

my life be one small step toward a *bigger, stronger, better* America.³¹ That I might exercise my *freedom of last resort* in the name of what I hold dear — the spirit of a sovereign and free people and not *the evil of last resort*.

Peace, prosperity, liberty, and the courage to act,

Rodney (Roddy) A. Stegemann, A.B., M.A., M.A.

Paul Revere Apartments, First Hill, Seattle, Washington

³¹ The [lyrics](#) and [music](#) to *That Power* by [Justin Bieber](#). Just do not waste it, Justin. Put it to good use and keep your head high. There is a unique message that you could deliver like no other: “If you can’t do it, then the government can’t do it either”. There is a shortage of well-informed leaders today, and your following is not only large, but global.