

American Minute with Bill Federer

How do Politicians become Corrupt? "Love of power & the love of money" -Franklin

Ben Franklin gave an address at the Constitutional Convention, titled "**Dangers of a Salaried Bureaucracy,**" June 2, 1787:



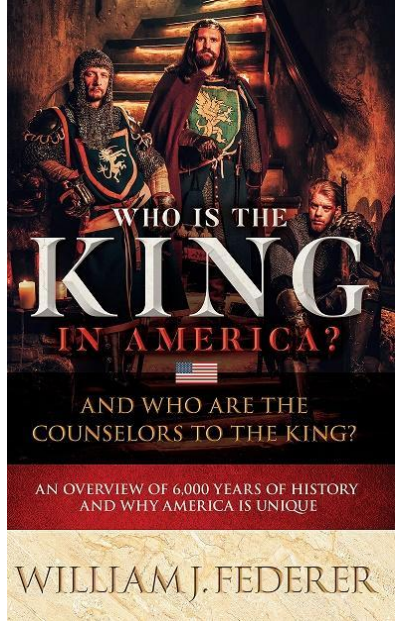
"Sir, there are **two passions** which have a powerful influence in the affairs of men ... **ambition** and **avarice** -- the **love of power** and the **love of money** ...

When united ... they have ... **the most violent effects.**

Place before the eyes of such men a **post of honor**, that shall, at the same time, be a **place of profit**, and they will move heaven and earth to obtain it."

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[Who is the King in America? And Who are the Counselors to the King? An Overview of 6,000 Years of History & Why America is Unique](#)



By 1822, the rechartered **Second Bank of the United States** was run by **Nicholas Biddle**.

Biddle bought political influence by financing the election

campaigns of politicians, and owned newspapers that could editorialize and sway voters during elections.

Ambitious politicians sought his money and his favorable media coverage.

On July 10, 1832, **President Andrew Jackson** vetoed the charter renewal of **Nicholas Biddle's Second Bank of the United States**, stating:



"Powers ... possessed by the ... Bank are unauthorized by the Constitution ... to influence elections or control the affairs of the nation."

Jackson warned September 18, 1833:



"The Bank is thus converted into a **vast electioneering engine."**

Stephanie Condon wrote in a *CBS News* article, March 27, 2012, **(Why is Congress a millionaires club?):**

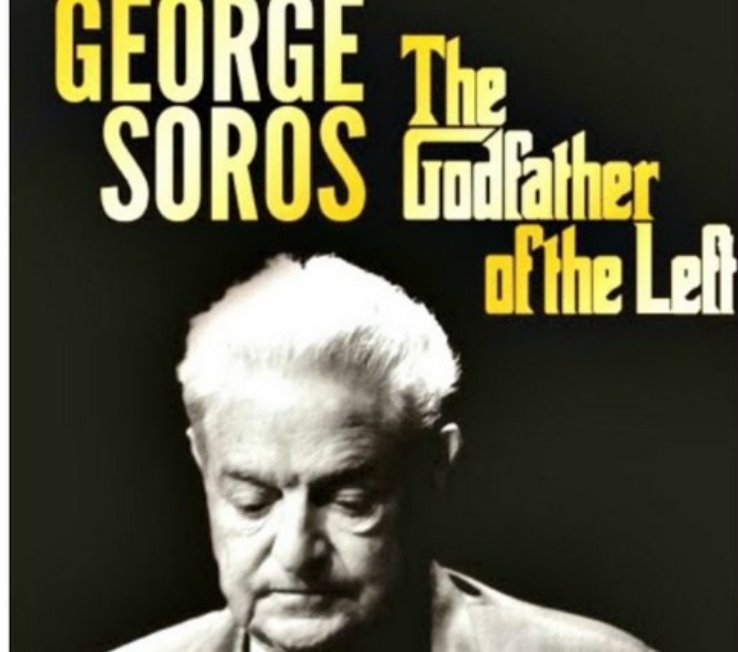


"The average Senate campaign in 2010 cost

\$8,002,726, according to the Campaign Finance Institute ... **The average 2010 House campaign** cost **\$1,163,231** ... **Congress**, meanwhile, is a **club that consists of 245 millionaires."**

Matthew Boyle wrote for *Breitbart News*, February 6, 2017:

"Democratic Party mega-donor George Soros, donated tens of thousands of dollars to top Republicans who fought against President Donald Trump in 2016, donation records compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics show."



Capital Research Center's Hayden Ludwig wrote in "CTCL's 'Zuck Buck' Invade Michigan and Wisconsin" (February 3, 2021):

"CTCL's targeted distribution of grants appears to clearly qualify as **election interference** by a tax-exempt nonprofit—something 501(c)(3) groups are **strictly barred from ...**

'**Zuck bucks**' were ostensibly about shoring up polling places amid the Coronavirus pandemic, but in reality they provided new election infrastructure **critical to Joe Biden's victory over President Donald Trump.**"



George Washington



warned that politicians' desire to **raise money** mixed with **party passions** would open them up to **foreign influence** and corruption, stating in his Farewell Address, September 17, 1796:

"Let me ... warn you ... against the baneful effects of the **spirit of party** ...

The alternate domination of **one faction over another**, sharpened by the **spirit of revenge**, natural to party dissension ... **disorders and miseries** which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the **absolute power of an individual** ... chief of some prevailing faction ...

It **agitates the community** with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, **kindles the animosity of one part against another** ...

It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which finds a **facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions.**

Thus the policy and the will of **one country** are **subjected** to the policy and **will of another.**"

Newsmax host Grant Stinchfield interviewed *New York Times* Best-selling author **Peter Schweizer**, March 2, 2022, who explained:

"I think there is going to be a real reckoning for **all these people**, and there are **a lot of them**, the **Bidens** at the top of the list, who **cashed in on corrupt deals in Ukraine**, but also in **Putin's Russia**.



Let's remember **Hunter Biden** obviously doing the **deals with Burisma in Ukraine**, he was also **taking money from Russian oligarchs** like Yelena Baturina who has been linked to Russian organized crime, **he took three and a half million dollars from her ...**

And he was looking to do **deals with other Russian oligarchs** like Oleg Deripaska who is **pro-Putin**.

So **corruption ...** is a big part of this story, and there are **a lot of people** who are making **a lot of money dealing with some really shady people ...**

Schweizer
continued:

"Unfortunately, **corruption** has become so **institutionalized**, and a lot of these people are **friends with people in the media ...**



There is a guy named Vin Roberti ... a former Biden advisor. Up until about 24 hours ago, he was a **lobbyist**

for **Gazprom** the Russian state energy company that is basically financing this war.

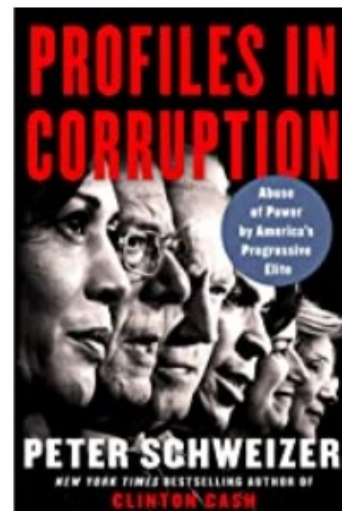
Or Teneo, a consultancy started by **two Clinton advisors** that also includes **Paul Ryan**, the former **Republican Vice-Presidential Candidate** ... advising another **Russian oligarch** who has now been put on the **sanctions list**. It goes on and on and on ...

There are people on **both sides of the aisle** doing this, and you have some Republicans that **don't want this to come up** because it is either going to **put them or their friends in the cross-hairs** ... There is this kind of a mutual non-aggression pact that too many people have in Washington because **they all have got their fingers in the till ...**"

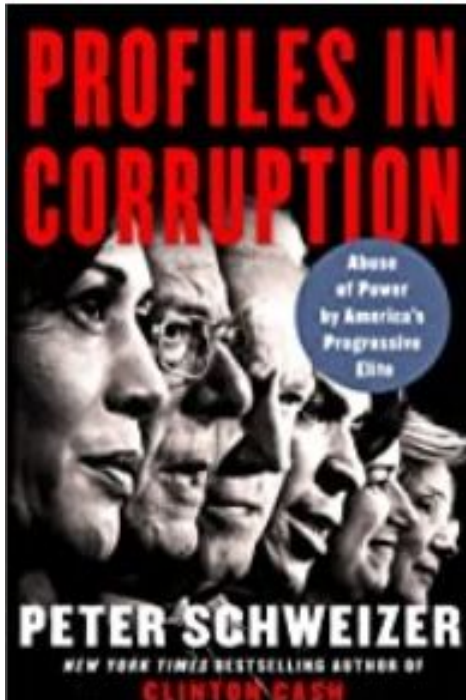
Schweizer concluded:

"Biden has been incredibly **soft** on **Vladimir Putin** ... This war could have been prevented ... **Putin** is not crazy, he is a nasty piece of work ... He wasn't deterred because **he knew that Joe Biden would not be tough on him** ...

On the other side of the world as well, **he has been very soft on China.**



I don't think it is a coincidence that his son has deep abiding commercial ties in both of those countries and its probably very likely that both of those countries' intelligence services have very compromising information on Hunter Biden and potentially Joe Biden as a result of his commercial activities."



Politicians guilty of corruption, like cheating spouses, accuse their innocent counterparts of the corruption they are guilty of.

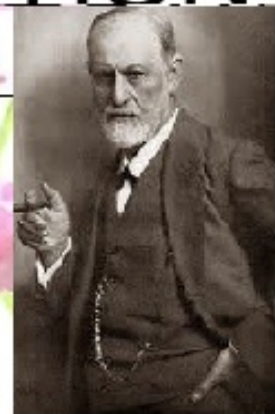
Sigmund Freud called it psychological projection, or blame-shifting, "accuse others of what you do."

Dystopian author George Orwell called it "double-speak."

PROJECTION

DESCRIPTIONS

•This involves individuals attributing their own unacceptable thoughts, feeling and motives to another person



Ben Franklin added in his "Dangers of a Salaried Bureaucracy," June 2, 1787:



"What kind are the men that will strive for this profitable preeminence, through all the **bustle of cabal**, the **heat of contention**, the infinite mutual **abuse of parties**, tearing to pieces the best of characters?"

It will not be the **wise and moderate**, the lovers of peace and good order, the men fittest for the trust.

It will be the bold and **the violent**, the men of **strong passions** and indefatigable activity in their **selfish pursuits**.

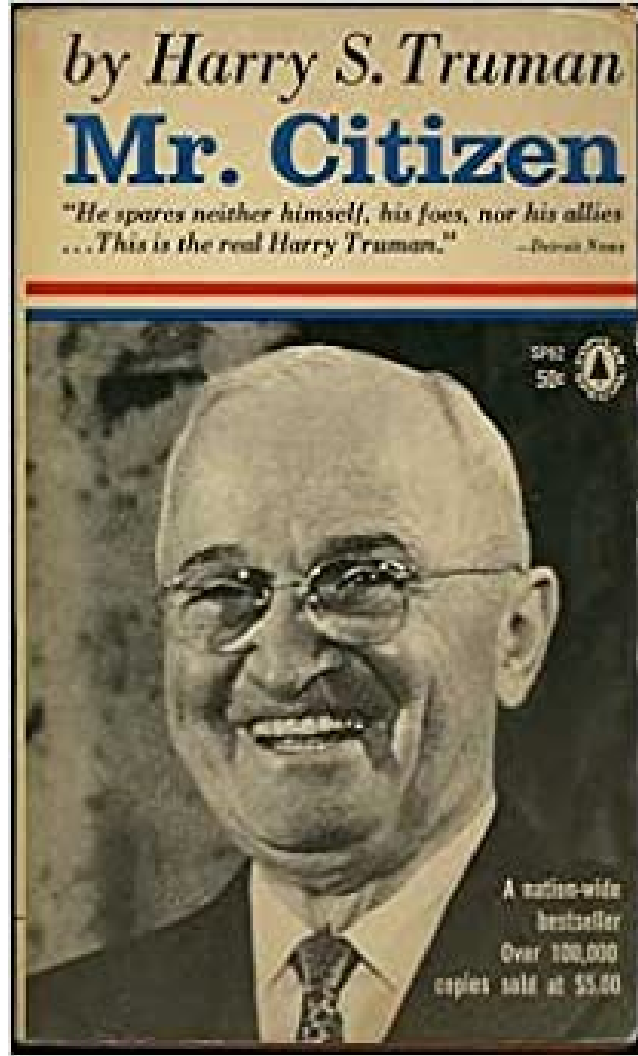
These will **thrust themselves into your government and be your rulers.**"

President Harry S Truman stated April 3, 1951:

"Unless men exercise their freedom in a **just and honest way**, within moral **restraints**, a free society can **degenerate into anarchy**.

Then there will be freedom **only** for the **rapacious** and those

who are stronger and **more unscrupulous** than the rank and file of the people."



The Greek philosopher **Plato** (428-347 BC) wrote in his work titled *Republic*:

"The good are not willing to rule either for the sake of money or of honor ...

But **the chief penalty is to be governed by someone worse if a man will not himself hold office and rule.**

It is from fear of this,



as it appears to me, that **the better sort hold office ...** not in the expectation of enjoyment nor as to a good thing, but as to a **necessary evil** and because **they are unable to turn it over to better men than themselves.**"

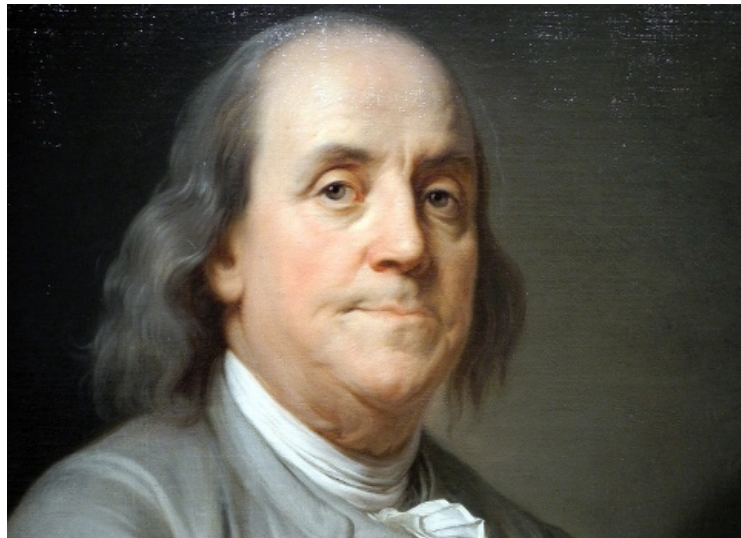


Franklin explained further:

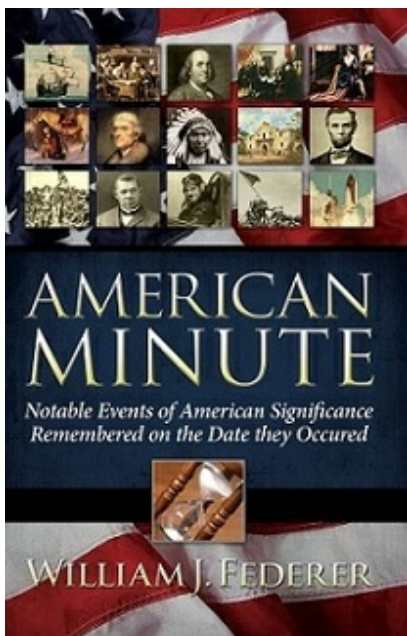
"There will always be a party for **giving more to the rulers**, that the rulers may be able, in return, to **give more to them.**

All history informs us, there has been ... a kind of **warfare between the governing and the governed; the one striving to obtain more** for its support, and the other to pay less ...

... Generally, indeed, **the ruling power carries ...** and we see the **revenues of princes constantly increasing**, and we see that **they are never satisfied, but always in want of more.**



The more the people are discontented with the oppression of taxes, the greater need the prince has of money to distribute among his partisans, and pay the troops that are to suppress all resistance, and enable him to plunder at pleasure."



American Minute-Notable Events of American Significance Remembered on the Date They Occurred

Franklin concluded:

"There is scarce a king in a hundred who would not, if he could, follow t he example of Pharaoh -- **get first all the people's money, then all their lands, and then make them and their children servants for ever.**

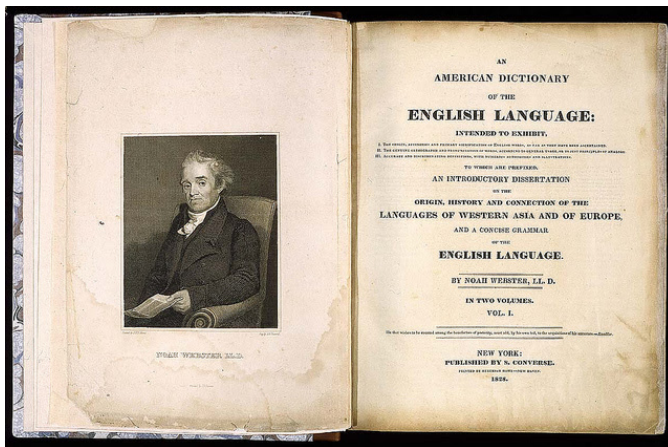
It will be said that we do not propose to establish kings ... but there is a **natural inclination in mankind to kingly government ...**

... They would rather have one tyrant than five hundred. It gives more of **the appearance of equality among**



citizens; and that they like.

I am apprehensive, therefore -- perhaps too apprehensive -- that **the government of the States may**, in future times, end in a **monarchy ...** and a king will the sooner be set over us."



A lover of money is described as having "**avarice**" or "**covetousness**" -- defined having "an excessive or insatiable desire for wealth or gain."

The **Law of Moses** admonished the children of Israel in Exodus 18:12-24 to choose leaders:

"Thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, **hating covetousness.**"



A leader should: "**Take no bribes**, for a **bribe** makes you

ignore something that you clearly see. **A bribe** makes even a righteous person **twist the truth.**" (Exodus 23:8 NLT)

Plato wrote of this in *The Republic*, 380 BC, that government would transition from being ruled by:

- **lovers of virtue,**
- **to lovers of honor,**
- **to lovers of money,**
- **to lovers of tolerance,**
- **to lovers of power:**



"Now what man answers to this form of government ... He is a ... **lover of honor**; claiming to be a ruler ... Busy-bodies are **honored and applauded** ..."

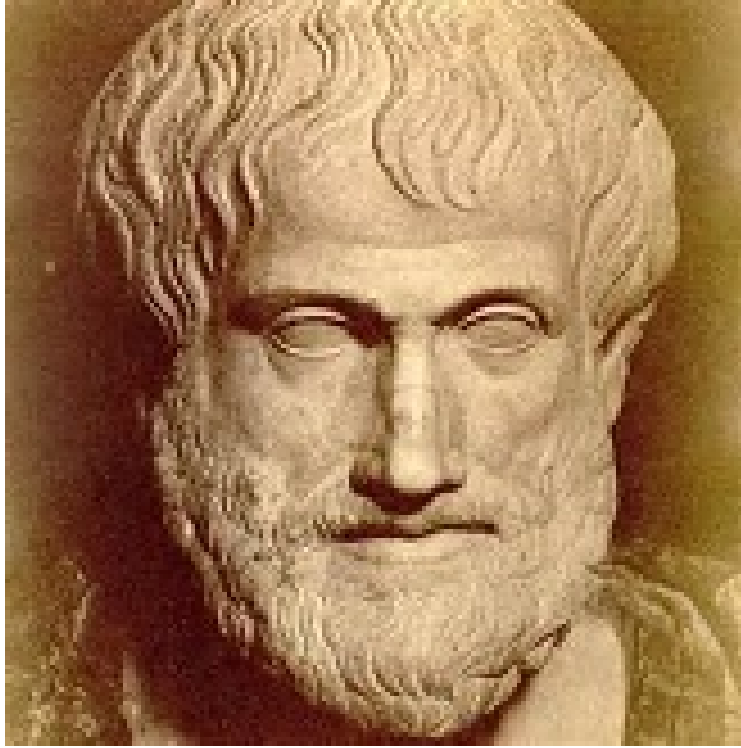
"Is not the passionate element wholly set on ruling ... and **getting fame?**"

"Not originally of a bad nature, but having kept bad company ... becomes **arrogant and ambitious** ..."

"... Such an one will despise riches only when he is young; but as he gets older he will be more and more attracted to them, because he has a

piece of the **avaricious** nature in him, and is not single-minded towards virtue ..."

"The **love of honor** turns to **love of money**; the conversion is instantaneous."



Plato continued:

"Because they have no means of openly acquiring the money which they prize; **they will spend that which is another man's.**"

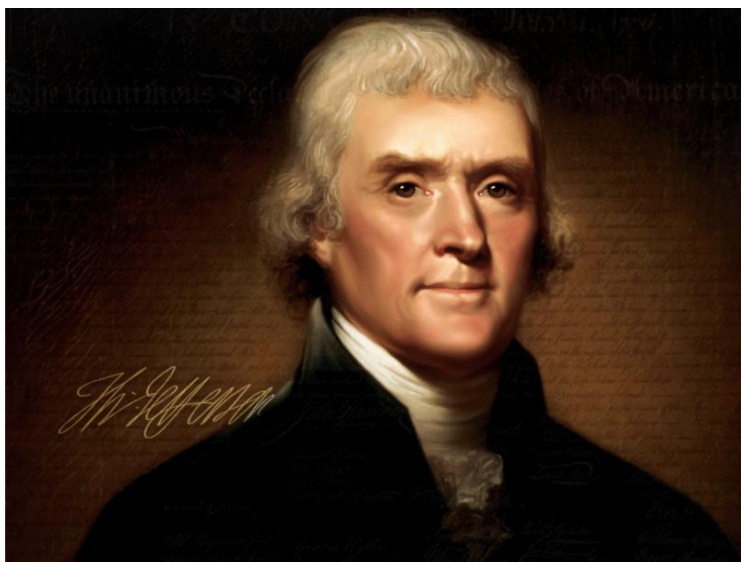
"They invent illegal modes of expenditure; for what do they or their wives care about the law?"

"And so they grow richer and richer ... **the less they think of virtue ... and the virtuous are dishonored ...**"



"Insatiable avarice is the ruling passion of an oligarchy."

Jefferson wrote of danger of the Executive branch bribing Congressmen and Senators:



"... as a machine for the corruption of the legislature; for he avowed the opinion that man could be governed by one of **two motives** only, **force or interest** ...

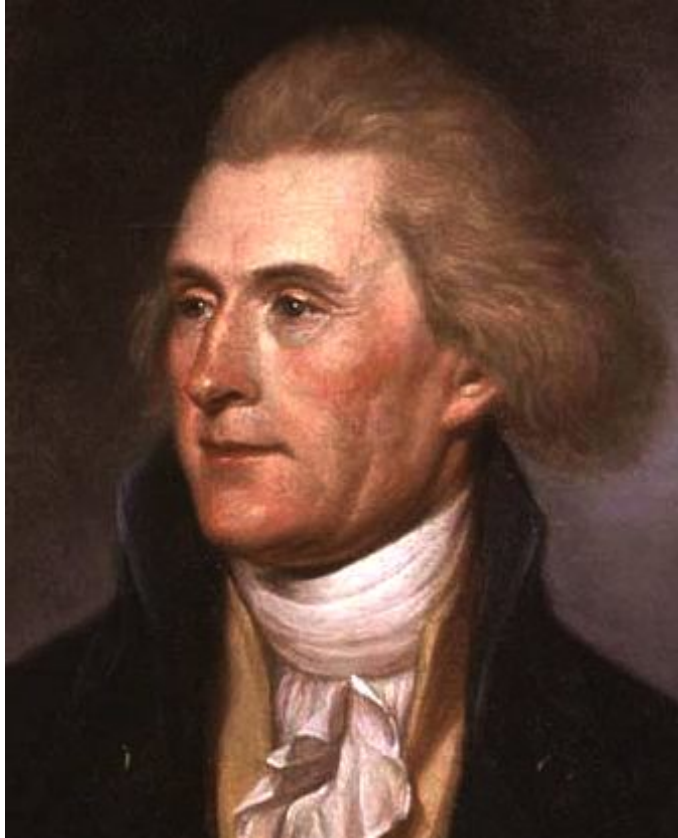
the interests therefore of the members must be laid hold of, to keep the legislature in unison with the Executive.

... some members were found sordid enough to bend their duty to their interests, and to look after personal, rather than public good.

... Men thus enriched by the dexterity of a leader, would follow of course the chief who was leading them to fortune, and become the zealous instruments of all his enterprises."

Thomas Jefferson to John Adams, 1796:

"Either force or corruption has been the **principle of every modern government.**"

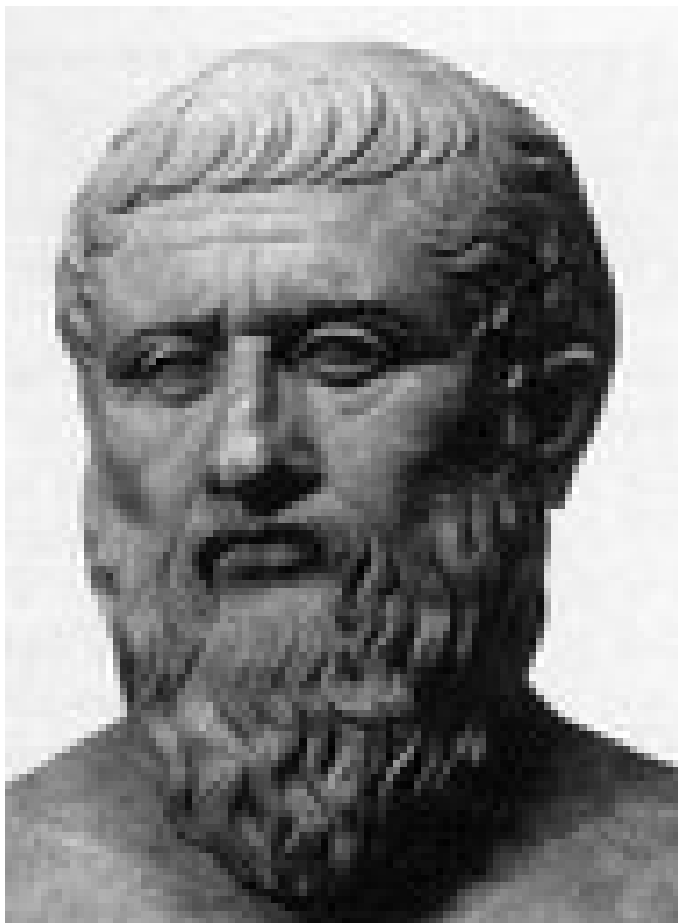


Plato added of this politician:

"He has ... allowed **the blind god of riches** to lead the dance within him ..."

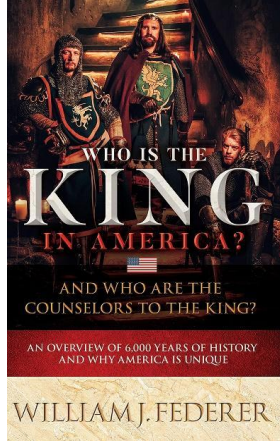
"He will have many slavish desires, some beggarly, some knavish, breeding in his soul ..."

"If he ... has **the power to defraud**, he will soon prove that he is not without the will, and that his passions are only restrained by fear and not by reason."



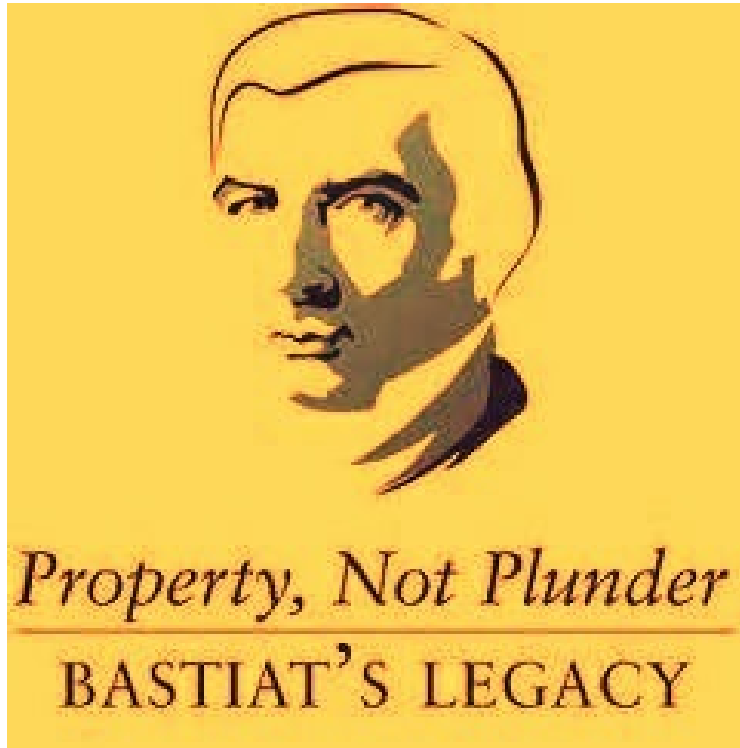
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Overview of 6,000 Years of History & Why America is Unique



Frederic Bastiat explained in *The Law*, 1850, how politicians are tempted toward 'legal plunder':

"Man can live and satisfy his wants only by ceaseless labor; by the ceaseless application of his faculties to natural resources.



This process is the origin of property.

But it is also true that a man may live and satisfy his wants by **seizing and consuming the products of the labor of others.**

This process is the origin of **plunder.**

Now since man is naturally inclined to avoid pain -- and since labor is pain in itself -- it follows that **men will resort to plunder whenever plunder is easier than work ..."**

Frederic Bastiat continued:

"It is evident, then, that the proper **purpose of law** is to use the power of its collective force to **stop this fatal tendency to plunder instead of to work ...**

But, generally, the law is made by one man or one class of men ...



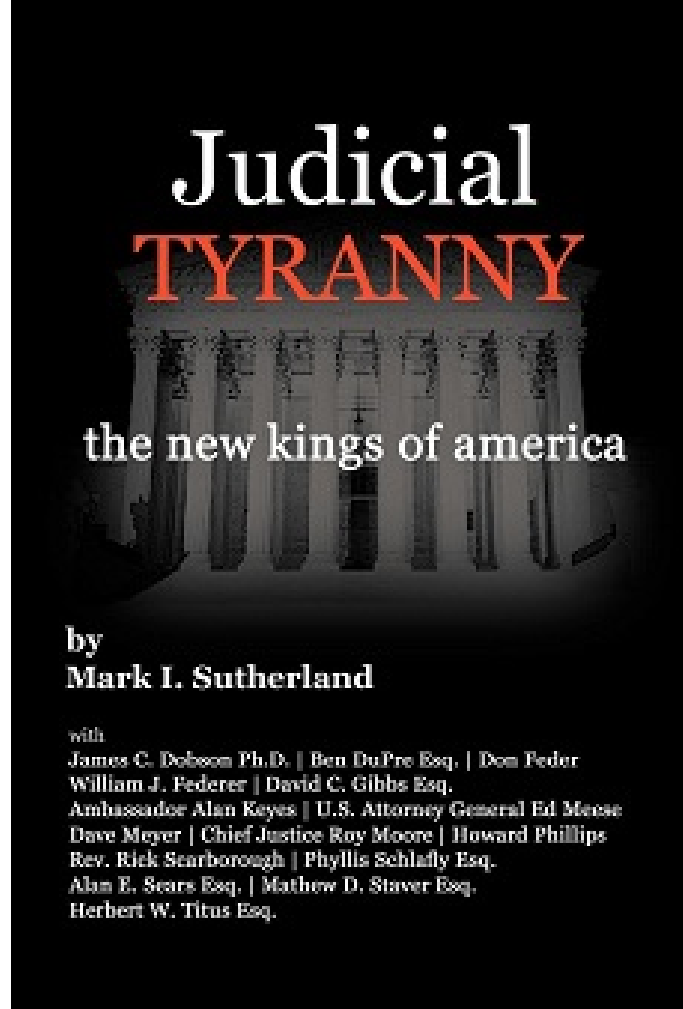
This fact, combined with **the fatal tendency that exists in the heart of man to satisfy his wants** with the least possible effort, explains the almost **universal perversion of the law.**

... Thus it is easy to understand how **law**, instead of checking injustice, **becomes the invincible weapon of injustice.**

It is easy to understand why the **law is used by the legislator to destroy** in varying degrees among the rest of the people, their **personal independence** by slavery, their liberty

by **oppression**, and their **property** by **plunder**.

This is done for the **benefit of the person who makes the law**, and in proportion to the power that he holds."



In *The Spirit of the Laws*, 1748, **Montesquieu** wrote:

"In a popular state, one spring more is necessary, namely, **virtue** ...

The politic Greeks, who lived under a popular government, knew no other support than **virtue** ...



When **virtue** is banished, ambition invades the minds of those who are disposed to receive it, and avarice possesses the whole

community ...

When, in a popular government, there is a suspension of the laws, as this can proceed only from **the corruption of the republic, the state is certainly undone.**"



Harvard President Samuel Langdon stated in his address "Government Corrupted by Vice," May 31, 1775:

"They were a **sinful nation ...**

who had **forsaken the Lord**; and provoked the Holy One of Israel to anger ...

Everyone loved gifts, and followed after rewards ... more than the duties of their office; the general aim was at profitable places and pensions; they were influenced in everything by bribery;

and their avarice and luxury were never satisfied, but hurried them on to all kinds of oppression and violence, so that they even justified and encouraged the murder of innocent persons to support their lawless power, and increase their wealth."

Noah Webster wrote in his *History of the United States*, 1832:

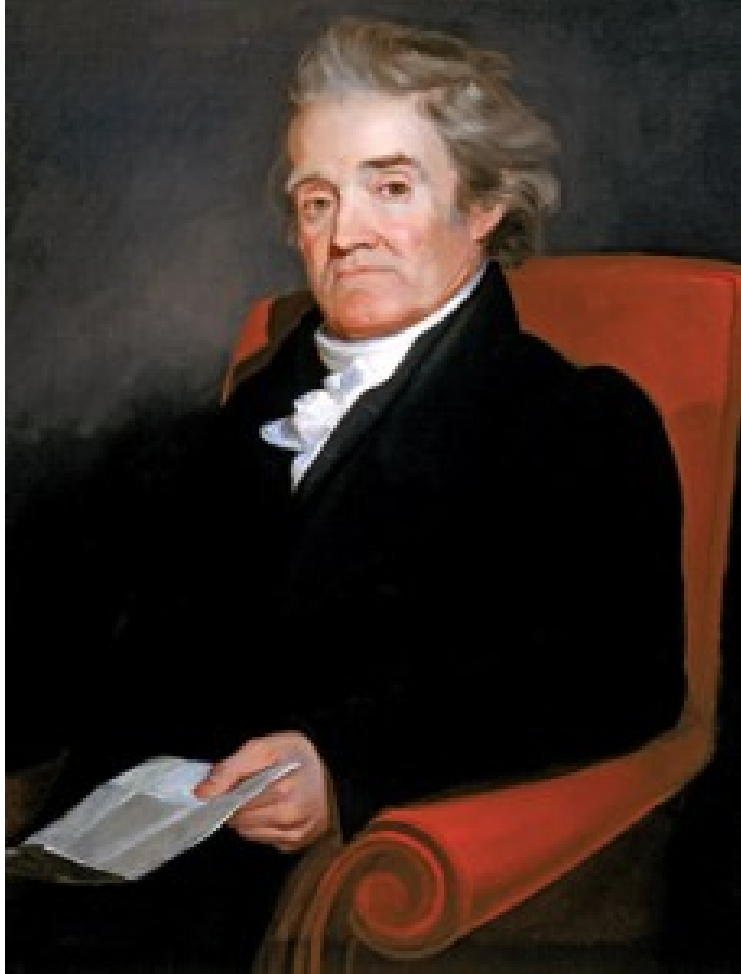
"When you become entitled to exercise the right of voting for public

officers, let it be impressed on your mind that God commands you to **choose for rulers 'just men who will rule in the fear of God'...**

If the citizens neglect their duty and place unprincipled men in office, the government will soon be corrupted; laws will be made not for the public good so much as for the selfish or local purposes;

corrupt or incompetent men will be appointed to execute the laws; the public revenues will be squandered on unworthy men; and the rights of the citizens will be violated or disregarded.

If a republican government fails to secure public prosperity and happiness, it must be because the citizens neglect the divine commands, and elect bad men to make and administer the laws."



As recorded in his *Memoirs*, **Charles Finney** wrote:

"The time has come for Christians to vote for honest men,



and take
consistent ground
in politics or the
Lord will curse
them

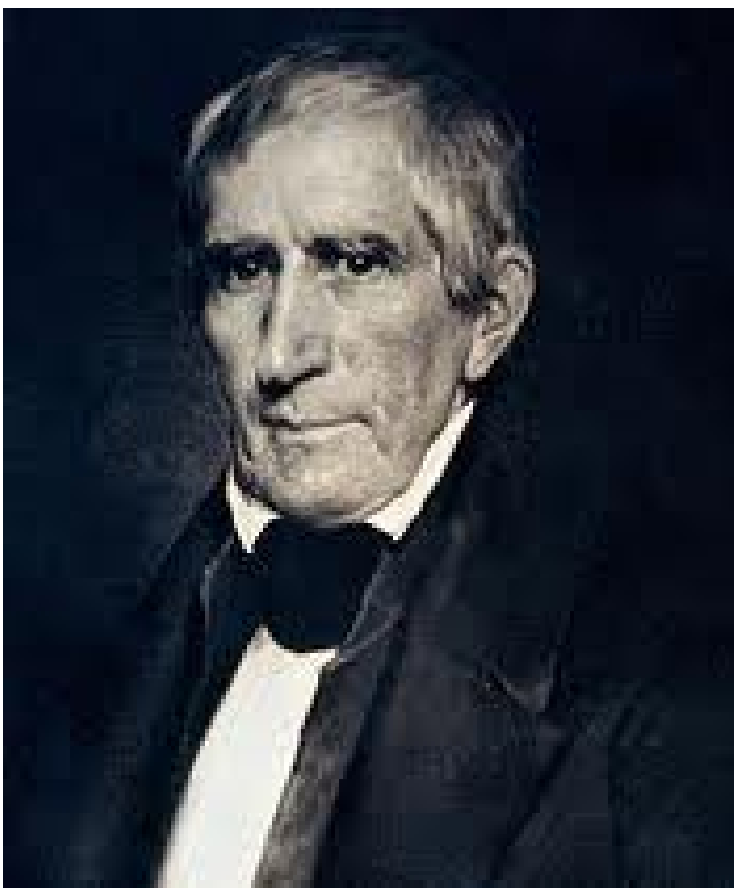
Politics are a part
of a religion in
such a country as
this, and
Christians must do
their duty to their
country as a part
of their duty to
God ...

God will bless or
curse this nation according to the course **Christians take
in politics.**"

Lord Acton wrote to
Bishop Mandell
Creighton, April 5,
1881:

"All power tends to
corrupt and **absolute
power corrupts
absolutely.**"





President William Henry Harrison stated in his Inaugural Address, March 4, 1841:

"The love of power ... When this corrupting passion once takes possession of the human mind, like the love of gold it becomes insatiable.

It is the **never-dying worm in his bosom**, grows ... and strengthens with the declining years of its victim ...

As long as the **love of power** is a dominant passion of the human bosom ... so long will the **liberties of a people** depend on their **constant attention to its preservation** ...

The tendency of power to increase itself, particularly when exercised by a single individual ... would terminate in virtual monarchy."

President Andrew Jackson stated in his Veto of the Bank Renewal Bill, July 10, 1832:

"It is easy to conceive that

great evils to our country and its institutions might flow from such a concentration of power in the hands of a few men irresponsible to the people."



George Washington stated in his Farewell Address, September 17, 1796

"Of fatal tendency ... to put, in the place of the delegated will of

the Nation, the will of a party -- often a small but artful and enterprising minority. ...

They are likely, in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to SUBVERT the Power of the People and to USURP for themselves the reins of Government; destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion."

Colonial leader John Cotton stated:

"For whatever transcendent power is given, will certainly over-run those that give it ... It is necessary therefore, that all power that is on earth be limited."



James Madison stated at the Constitutional Convention, 1787:

"All men having power ought to be distrusted."



President Andrew Jackson warned December 5, 1836:

"There is no such

provision as would authorize Congress to collect together the property of the country, under the name of revenue, for the purpose of dividing it equally or unequally among the States or the people ...



The practical effect of such an attempt must ever be to burden the people with taxes, not for the purposes beneficial to them, but to ... support a band of useless public officers ...

All would be merged in a practical consolidation, cemented by widespread corruption, which could only be eradicated by one of those bloody revolutions which occasionally overthrow the despotic systems of the Old World."



Gouverneur Morris spoke 173 times during the Constitutional Convention, more than any other delegate.

He was the head of the Committee on Style, and penned the final draft of the U.S. Constitution, where he originated the phrase "We the People of the United States of America."

Morris pioneered the Erie Canal, was a U.S. Senator and helped write New York's Constitution.

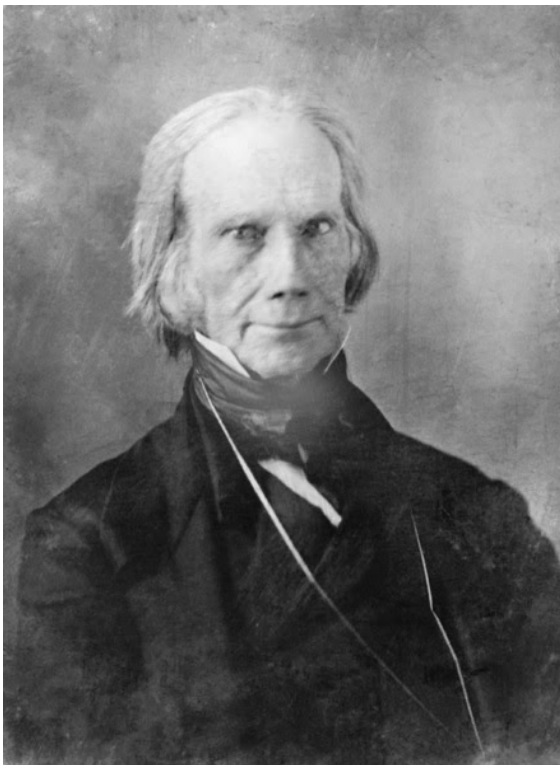
In 1785, Gouverneur Morris addressed the Pennsylvania Assembly regarding the Bank of North America:



"How can we hope for public peace and national prosperity, if the faith of governments so solemnly pledged can be so lightly infringed? ...

This hour of distress will come.

It comes to all, and the moment of affliction is known to Him alone, whose Divine Providence exalts or depresses states and kingdoms ... in proportion to their obedience or disobedience of His just and holy laws."



Speaker of the House Henry Clay stated in 1841:

"Patriotism, which, catching its inspiration from the immortal God ... prompts to deeds of self-sacrifice, of valor, of devotion, and of death itself -- that is public virtue, that is the noblest, the sublimest of all public virtues."

Henry Clay was part of the **"Great Triumvirate,"** with

Daniel Webster and **John Calhoun**, leading Congress

during the early 1800's.

He was second cousin's of abolitionist **Cassius Marcellus Clay**.

Henry Clay

warned the Senate, July 22, 1850:



"If there be a war

... I will not assert what party would prevail ... for you

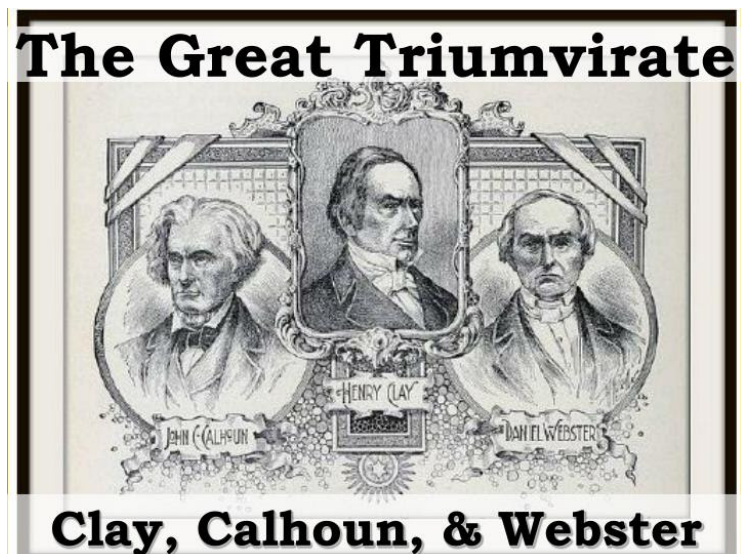
know, sir, what all history teaches ... that **few**

wars...have ever terminated in the accomplishment of the **objects for which they were commenced** ...

Think alone of our God, our country, our consciences, and our glorious Union ... without which we shall be **torn into hostile fragments**, and sooner or later become the **victims of military despotism, or foreign domination** ..."

Clay continued:

"What will be the **judgment of mankind** ... who are looking upon the **progress of this scheme of self-government** as being that which holds out the highest hopes ... of ameliorating the condition of mankind ...



Will not all the monarchs of the old world pronounce **our glorious republic a disgraceful failure?** ...

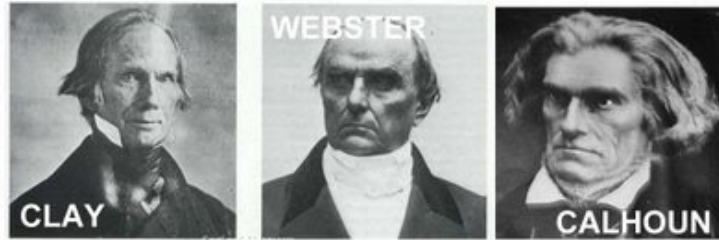
It is possible that, for the **chastisement of our sins and transgressions, the rod of Providence may be still applied to us, may be still suspended over us ...**

I pray to Almighty God that it may not lead to the most unhappy and disastrous consequences to our beloved country"

Henry Clay told the Senate, February 5, 1850:

"I hope it will not be out of place to do here,

what again and again I have done in my private chamber, to **implore of Him who holds the destinies of nations and individuals in His hands, to bestow upon our country His blessing, to calm the violence and rage of party, to still passion ...**



THE GREAT TRIUMVIRATE OF THE US SENATE

I implore ... Heaven ... that if ... **the dissolution of this Union is to happen, I shall not survive to behold the sad and heart-rending spectacle."**

The Constitutional Convention was in a deadlock over how large and small states could be represented equally.



Some delegates left.

On JUNE 28, 1787, 81-year-old **Benjamin Franklin** spoke at the

Constitutional Convention and shortly after, the U.S. Constitution became a reality.

Franklin stated:

"Groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us,

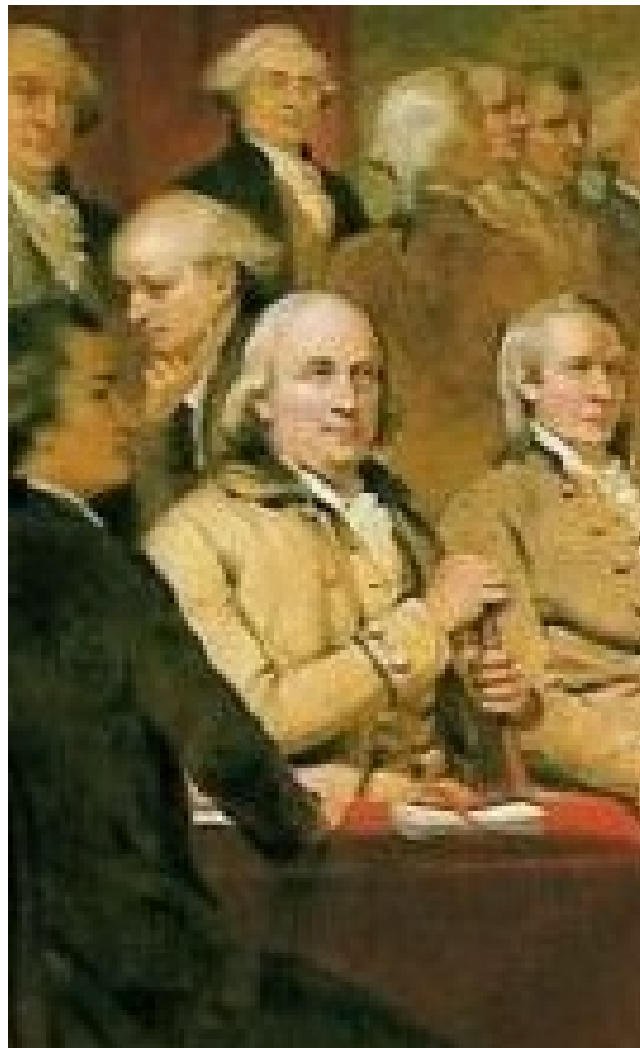
how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of **humbly applying to the Father of lights ...**

... In the beginning of the Contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for **Divine** protection.

Our prayers, Sir, were heard and they were graciously answered.

All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a **Superintending Providence** in our favor

...



And have we now forgotten that **powerful Friend?** or do we imagine we no longer need **His assistance?** ..."

Franklin
concluded:

"We have been assured, Sir, in the **Sacred Writings**, that 'except the **Lord** build the House, they labor in vain that build it'



...

I also believe that **without His concurring aid** we shall succeed ... no better than the **Builders of Babel.**"

--

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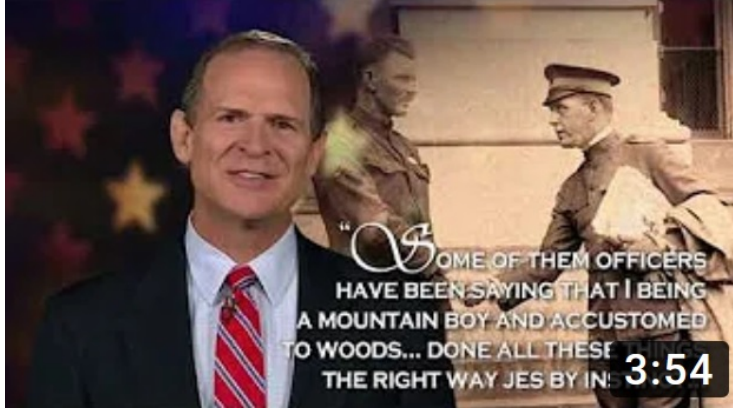
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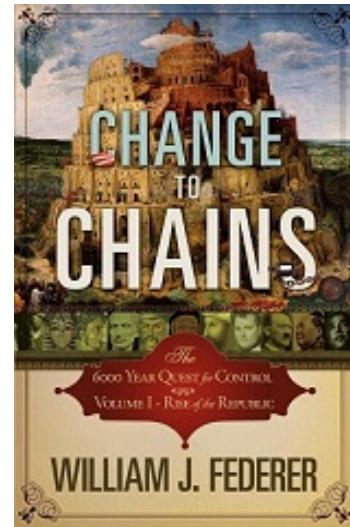
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