

## Dr. Drew Miller's Treatise on Responsible Government

The Nanny State illegally dictates what we consume, birth control, how we invest, the spacing on our stair balusters--but can't be bothered to warn or prepare its citizens to survive the coming pandemic, or stockpile transformers so we can repair damage to the electric system in weeks rather than months or years. We don't have limited, Constitutional Government in the United States, or Responsible Government that provides security while staying out of personal affairs anywhere in the world. We have Big Government abusing power in areas where it has absolutely no business being involved, trampling individual rights and freedom.

Volumes have been written on government waste and abuse at the expense of both our income and our personal freedom. I summarize the problems in a sidebar on the following two pages, but focus this paper on explaining how we let politicians ignore limits to government and what we can do to regain the personal liberty that the United States of America was founded to protect.

The Federalist Papers and Article 10 of the Constitution are perfectly clear that the federal government has no role in social policy, no authority over local governments, and no business in private and personal matters. In Federalist 39 James Madison wrote: "the proposed government cannot be deemed a national one; since its jurisdiction extends to certain enumerated objects only, and leaves to the several States a residuary and inviolable sovereignty over all other objects."<sup>1</sup> The 'enumerated objects only' are foreign and defense policy, and very few other limited duties specified in the Constitution like settling state boundary disputes. For the federal government to attempt to regulate or set social or education or welfare policies, dictate requirements for my coffee pot, or provide for my social security or health care—in other words most of what our federal government has done over the past century—is all blatantly unconstitutional and illegal.

### **A short list of the worst problems and abuses of Big Government**

- Federal social programs that pervert and subvert individual responsibility and promote dependence on government entitlements, welfare and bureaucrats
- Elected officials who retain office by delivery political pork—government spending in their district—that is both a huge waste of taxpayer's money and unconstitutional violation of limits to government involvement
- Entitlement program spending far beyond our means to pay, raising government debt every year to a level that will at some unknown time crash the economy
- Government that favors Big Companies and Big Special Interest Groups that can afford lobbying and campaign donations to buy politicians and votes for their advantage
- More laws and regulations than people could read in a lifetime of effort, with huge costs in economic impact and bureaucratic cost, enriching lawyers and employing millions of bureaucrats while undermining personal responsibility to think and act properly
- Breaking down families with government funded programs that replace care and concern that used to come from and help hold families together

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<sup>1</sup> James Madison, Federalist No. 39, "The conformity of the Plan to Republican Principles," January 18, 1788

The Antifederalists opposed ratifying the US Constitution because they rightly feared that the new federal government would quickly ignore Constitutional limits and abuse power. Antifederalist George Mason, the principle author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, wrote many clauses in the U.S. Constitution, but ultimately rejected it due to the lack of a bill of rights and because he wanted an immediate end to the slave trade. Antifederalist objections led to the Bill of Rights, including the critical 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution that clearly states that unless a power and area of governance is specifically granted in the Constitution the federal government can pass no laws. The Federal Government is charged with foreign affairs and defense, local matters were left to State Government and personal matters left to personal choice.

**A short list of the worst problems and abuses of Big Government (continued)**

- Neglect of #1 duty of protecting citizens from outside threats they cannot deal with on their own
- Government regulations and social programs undermine personal responsibility, yielding a society increasingly dependent on government handouts and direction, subservient to government, and vulnerable to disaster when government can't care for them
- Spying on citizens
- Cheating, corrupt politicians and officials
- Lack of trust and contempt for politicians today, unlike the respect for men like George Washington
- Government so hated that Americans knowingly elected a lying, self-serving, dangerous President because he would at least be less likely to grow Big Government larger

Thomas Jefferson also warned that the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment was critical, with no limits possible if this absolute prohibition of federal involvement was not enforced:

"I consider the foundation of the Constitution as laid on this ground that 'all powers not delegated to the United States, by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states or to the people.' To take a single step beyond the boundaries thus specially drawn around the powers of Congress, is to take possession of a boundless field of power, no longer susceptible of any definition."

--Thomas Jefferson, Opinion on the Constitutionality of a National Bank, 1791

The limits held for a few decades, but were undermined by clearly improper interpretations of "general welfare" which some politicians claimed justified anything Congress deems good, every law passed. During the Franklin Roosevelt Big Government Administration, the Commerce Clause was turned into "the everything clause" and used to justify anything the federal government wanted to do. The "distortion of the clause's original meaning was so great even the vigilant Antifederalists could never have imagined the government getting away with it."<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Gary Galles, "The Antifederalists Were Right," Mises Institute, 09/27/2006, <https://mises.org/library/antifederalists-were-right>

New York judge Robert Yates, another Antifederalist, warned that the Supreme Court would become a source of massive abuse because they were beyond the control "both of the people and the legislature," and not subject to being "corrected by any power above them." Yates predicted that the Court would adopt "very liberal" principles of interpreting the Constitution and create grounds "by their own decisions" to increase federal powers, manipulating the meanings of vague clauses to justify ignoring the Constitution.<sup>3</sup> The Supreme Court did try to stop some of Roosevelt's blatantly unconstitutional acts during the Great Depression (a result of bad federal government policies more than Wall Street excesses), but soon gave in and today makes no real attempt to enforce Constitutional limits on federal power.<sup>4</sup>

If there is a need for something that only the federal government can provide, and the States and the people support, some national parks for example, we can vote to approve changes to the Constitutional limits. Constitutional Amendments fixed the national sin of slavery, and made other improvements. We also amended the Constitution for alcohol consumption—amending the Constitution to allow the federal government to ban alcohol, then changing our minds and repealing this amendment. But since then the Federal Government doesn't bother with any pretense of obeying 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment limits today, regulating drugs and alcohol, birth control, spending money and issuing laws on anything politicians, lawyers, and bureaucrats want. States that should oppose this are bought off with block grants of federal funds that state and local politicians can use to buy votes while denying responsibility for the federal tax and spending costs.

The vast majority of people working in government are good people. The problem is not bad people in government, but a political system that enables bureaucracies and elected officials (especially lawyers in elected positions) to increase their power and spending without limits. Worse, the problem of government overreach and interference, for the benefit of elected officials, lawyers, and government bureaucrats has expanded to State and Local Big Governments as well.

If groups work to help the poor or whatever social cause they believe in by voluntary association and donations, no one else's rights or freedom are harmed. But when the unlimited power of Big Government is leveraged to pursue social agendas that some citizens will oppose, personal freedom is violated. People will never agree on what is the right—more so as the population is more diverse. We should be free to voluntarily pursue social causes and support charities we choose. But when Big Government gets involved, freedom of choice is destroyed. We have not just the huge costs and waste of bureaucratic programs and loss of liberty, but often abuse of the power of government. Government action is inherently costly and ruthless, the enemy of personal choice and freedom. George Washington condemned government involvement unless there was a national emergency, pointing out that "Government is not reason, it is not eloquence, it is force; like fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Judge Robert Yates, quoted in Galles, *The Antifederalists Were Right*

<sup>4</sup> Many books cover this, but Charles Murray's *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, provides the best explanation

<sup>5</sup> Quotation widely attributed to George Washington and oft cited, but not found in any of Washington's papers.

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*“The federal government was created with one overriding duty: to allow us to live freely as we see fit, as long as we accord the same right to everyone else. It has betrayed that duty.”*

*-- Charles Murray, 2015*

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The worst oppressors of freedom in the world today are terrorist groups and Big Governments. The worst enemies of the U.S. Constitution are the United States Congress and their accomplices in violating the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment, State Governments who are supposed to enforce this most important part of the Bill of Rights, not be bought off with federal grants.

It is particularly hard, galling, for military officers because we take an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, yet serve under a federal government that promulgates illegal, unconstitutional programs. We swear loyalty not to the President or Congress, but to “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.” At the USAF Academy we lived by an honor code that politicians and Presidents violate daily.

The best book explaining how we failed the U.S. Constitution and let politicians, lawyers and bureaucrats screw us, is Charles Murray’s *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*. His summary is accurate and depressing:

“The founder’s Constitution has been discarded and cannot be restored, for reasons that are inextricably embedded in constitutional jurisprudence. Aspects of America’s legal system have become lawless, for reasons that are inextricably embedded in the use of the law for social agendas. Congress and the administrative state have become systemically corrupt, for reasons that are inextricably embedded in the market for government favors.”<sup>6</sup>

While arguably the most important book for Americans to read and heed, Murray’s *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission* which should have sparked a popular revolt, has been largely ignored.

Probably 99% of Americans today have no clue what the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment is, or that most federal government programs are blatantly unconstitutional and illegal. Perhaps most wouldn’t care if they did know, since they are addicted to government social welfare programs and corporate business benefits. The violations of personal freedom, from the federal government dictating your birth control and personal consumption, to local code inspectors violating your home, has grown to such a point that few protest even the most grotesque laws and interference are tolerated.

Writing in *The Coming Anarchy*, Robert Kaplan warned: “The clock ticks toward something unpleasant, while our entertainment culture dilates to the point that the Academy Awards has achieved a status akin to a national holiday.”<sup>7</sup> Many “Tea Party” supporters and Libertarians

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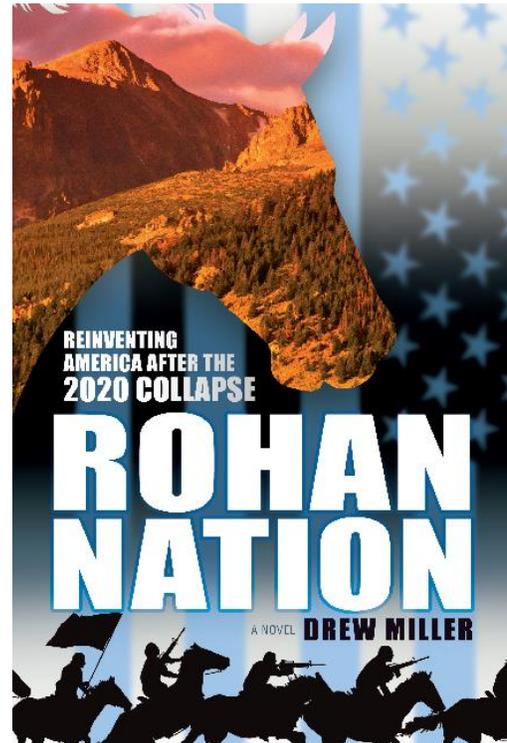
<sup>6</sup> Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, Crown Forum, 2015

<sup>7</sup> Robert Kaplan, *The Coming Anarchy*, 2000

actually know about the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the vital need to eliminate most government programs and Big Government, but government pork, entitlement bribes, government bread and circuses to buy reelection votes.

I wrote *Rohan Nation: Reinventing America after the 2020 Collapse*, to explain reasons for our corrupt and irresponsible Big Government and to warn people of the bioengineered pandemic and EMP threats, and the likelihood of a long period of collapse and lawlessness after any major disaster strikes. I wrote this book in a format that people focused on entertainment might read—an action adventure novel.

In *Rohan Nation*, as the devastated nation slowly recovers from a long collapse, survivors vow not to let unconstitutional, irresponsible, corrupting Big Government return. *Rohan Nation* explains my best estimate of how a collapse may play out, and how citizens may finally come to realize that we must have limited government focused on security (which includes protecting us from environmental damage). In the book, survivors in the mountains of Colorado adopt this resolution on responsible, limited government:



*Whereas the Declaration of Independence states that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of the ends of Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and institute new government; and*

*Whereas the Constitution of the United States has been twisted, perverted, ignored and violated; and*

*Whereas the Government erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance; and*

*Whereas the Government has plagued the country with social welfare and entitlement programs that bankrupt the nation and corrupt the citizenry; and*

*Whereas the federal and state governments have failed in their primary, most important duty of protecting the populace from foreign and domestic threats; and*

*Whereas the citizens of the United States have heretofore been grossly negligent in defending their liberties from a pandering political class;*

*We are now highly resolved that:*

*The Constitution must be followed absolutely,*

*In the absence of Courts enforcing the Constitution, state legislatures and citizens must declare laws that violate the Constitution null and void, and oppose their implementation.*

*The purpose of government is defense and security, protecting its citizens from all manner of threats that they cannot reasonably protect themselves from, not regulating or interfering in their personal affairs.*

*The general welfare clause must be repealed since it is abused as an excuse to justify spending and meddling in anything elected officials want.*

*Federal and state governments should provide no social programs beyond those necessary to reward and care for those who have served honorably in the military or government.*

*The “cruel and unusual punishment” clause must be amended to clarify the clear acceptability of the death penalty.*

*The interstate commerce clause must be amended to limit federal powers and regulations to just those necessary for defense and security. On all other matters of standards and regulations, such as those necessary to protect the environment, Congress can pass recommended laws and standards, but until over 60% of state legislatures have approved them, they shall have no power of law.*

*Citizens should promote sustainable development and limited population growth to avoid stress on the environment, save resources for future generations, and reduce causes of human conflict.*

*Security and environmental protection laws and all conduct of government business, should be designed to favor and promote citizens living in smaller communities, both to enhance their security and to better enable small governments and more responsible citizens.*

*National youth service should be promoted, either in local community militias for disaster recovery and local defense, or other local community government-approved activities.*

*In order to vote, citizens should complete programs of education and community or military service to earn the right, electing representatives who are qualified to defend the nation, not pander to personal benefit.*

*Citizens should lead examined, responsible lives; marching to the sound of their different drummer, but responding to the trumpet call of their community and their duty to serve neighbors and nation.*

*This is not a call for revolution or secession, but a return to Constitutional government, maintained by free and responsible citizens.*

*The free citizens of the Rohan mutually pledge to each other our lives in support of our freedom and defense of the United States.*

*The free citizens of the Rohan and the United States will refuse any orders of government that violate the Constitution or this resolution.*

*Approved by the citizens of the Rohan, August 1, 2023.<sup>8</sup>*

My theory is that it is governments gross and deadly negligence in preparing us for the inevitable pandemics and other coming disasters and collapse may finally wake people up to the reality that Government focus on security is an absolute necessity—not just preferable so we can move more personal freedom.

In the absence of a responsible government limited to protecting citizens from harm we cannot deal with on our own, we must take matters into our own hands.

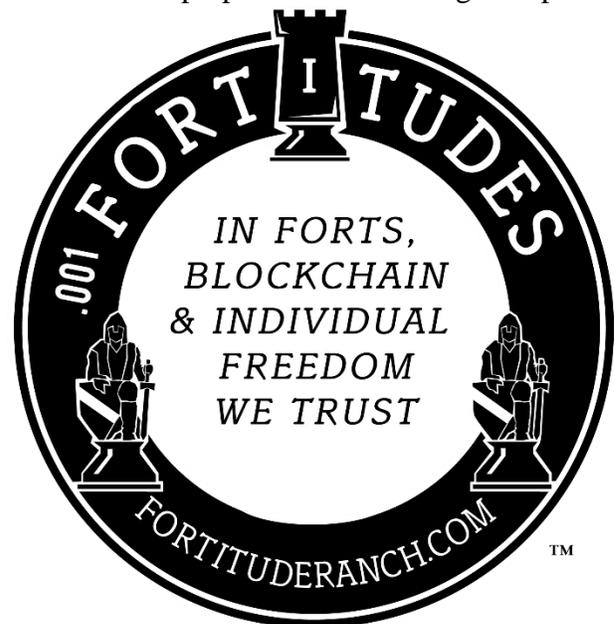
I founded Fortitude Ranch for two reasons. First, because new technologies and increasing urbanization and complexity in our economy are accelerating the likelihood of disasters and collapse. Second, because it is also clear that the irresponsible, illegal Big Government we have today is not going to protect us from these disasters.

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<sup>8</sup> Dr. Drew Miller, *Rohan Nation: Reinventing America after the 2020 Collapse*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed, Responsibility Press, 2017, pp. 410-411

The blockchain and cryptocurrency revolution gives individuals more power to resist the unbridled power of Big Government. It enables easier, more effective voluntary association and action without government oversight, regulation and interference. In his Second Inaugural Address to Congress during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln urged citizens to rise to think anew and rise to action: “The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise to the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew.”<sup>9</sup> Blockchain, the Second Internet Revolution, is a new technology we can use to resist illegal government and prepare for the coming collapse.

The motto on the back of the Fortitude coin, “In Forts, Blockchains, and Individual Freedom We Trust” reflects my view that we cannot trust Big Government to do its paramount, vital job of protecting citizens from deadly threats. Big Government as the Nanny State regulates our personal affairs and conduct (from what we choose to consume to how we are allowed to invest) and fails to protect us from obvious threats like bioengineered viral pandemics or an electric system widely known to be fragile and vulnerable to long lasting destruction. Because of this fundamental failure of misguided, unconstitutional Big Government, we must trust in forts, blockchains, and our own preparations to survive the coming collapse.



If Big Government ever attempts to ban survival communities or regulate them to death, we will oppose this. Charles Murray, the W. H. Brady Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, the leading Libertarian public policy expert in the world, argued in his latest book, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, that citizens need to say no to unreasonable laws and government bureaucrats and stand up for our rights.<sup>10</sup> Murray contends that being a good citizen “does not command our blind allegiance to the law.” Indeed, “it is part of our national catechism that government is instituted to protect our unalienable rights, and that when it becomes destructive of those rights, the reason for our allegiance is gone.”

We must have responsible, limited government that stays out of individual lives and decisions that do not harm others, and focuses all efforts on protecting people from the threats and harms we cannot deal with on our own. Blockchain and cryptocurrency are new tools we can use to fight this illegal government, politicians and lawyers, abuse of power. Because Big Government is irresponsible and negligent in preparing us to survive a pandemic, loss of the electric system, and collapse, we must take responsibility and action to protect ourselves.

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<sup>9</sup> President Abraham Lincoln, Second Inaugural Address to Congress, Washington, D.C., December 1, 1862

<sup>10</sup> Charles Murray, *By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission*, 2015