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From: "Jack Venrick" <jacksranch@skynetbb.com>
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Subject: When Did Our Freedom Die - A Short Study

Dear Freedom Lovers and Freedom Takers:

It is important to keep a perspective amidst the ruins of our falling freedoms. This is an attempt to paint a crude picture in words from a little research. The short take is, we never received all our freedoms that our founding fathers and ancestors fought and died for. The erosion of our freedoms began as the ink was drying on our founding papers. What we have now is a relative graveyard of freedom.

If this sounds preposterous, talk to any rural property owner who has had their land or their home use stolen from them or Ms. Kelo or anyone in the freedom movement. Talk to anyone who has lost their job or their town from the environmental insanity. Ask anyone who has knows how the environmental extreme lobby works to fund and undermine private property and free enterprise. Talk to anyone who home schools their kids or sends them to private school. You can read a more comprehensive coverage of the erosion of our freedoms through the works of Ron Ewart; "The Dimming Light of Freedom", "Do You Truly Believe in Freedom?" and "Returning America to a Constitutional Republic". www.narlo.org

If you still think you are free, Google "decline of freedom in America". Go to this site and print it out.

http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/958686/posts

This email is more of a historic overview if you will. Perhaps stranger than fiction. What you thought we once had, may never have been and what you think we have now never was.

America now ranks #56 in freedom of the press. Number one and the most free being Finland, according to "Reporters Without Borders".

http://www.rsf.org/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=639

According to this site the United States ranks #15 from the top on democracy, #11 on freedom of the press and #17 on corruption. http://www.worldaudit.org/democracy.htm

The following is a crude trail of our history and starts with one random group I have picked out of the internet hat. I hope you can see the cycle of taking painted herein. While it is subtle, it becomes glaring as you see the pattern. I call it the red car syndrome. If you own a red car or whatever color, you suddenly see all the other red cars.

1. Interestingly, as our constitutional freedoms eroded over the last 230 years, hundreds of grass roots groups sprang up although more slowly and more recently. These groups in the private sector are increasingly picking up the abandonment of the government checks and balances and challenging the growing corruption. The bad news is the big government proponents and government are increasing their assault on constitutional checks and balances to steer America into a more "progressive" and less constitutional government.

An army of independent grass root groups, large and small,

have risen up to take back our individual freedoms. For the most part this is a battle for individual rights over group socialism.

The Center of Individual Rights (a legal group) was referenced in the latest "Imprimis" from the non government Hillsdale College. If you don't subscribe to Imprimis, it is free and a contrasting perspective to government academia who is rapidly taking our freedoms. www.hillsdale.edu .

You can see how this one small legal group grew to defend our 1st Amendment rights. http://www.cir-usa.org/history.html

"CIR offered conservative, libertarian and moderate attorneys in for-profit firms an opportunity to bring about meaningful legal change and to contribute to the principled defense of individual liberty in court. Co-operating attorneys nearly always worked on precedent-setting cases involving real live plaintiffs rather than *amicus* causes. CIR's clients, in turn, were able to obtain some of the best-qualified attorneys in the nation to represent them in court.

The results over the past eleven years of CIR's existence speak for themselves."

"McDonald and Greve knew that public interest law firms could, over time, change the law. Liberal groups such as the ACLU and Public Citizen had proved that. Successful public interest law firms tended to be smaller, more specialized, and utilized available outside resources better. CIR marked an attempt to duplicate the success of liberal public interest law firms in the conservative public interest realm."

2. The tension between oppressive government and

individual freedom can be seen throughout history. So it should be no surprise that our own country has not been truly free, as we are taught to believe. Here are a few excerpts from the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794 which I give to exemplify this constant tension even between a new government and free people.
http://www.whiskeyrebellion.org/rebell.htm

An additional slap in the face was the rich easterners buying land in western Pennsylvania and western Virginia even though it was already occupied and farmed. The settlers then either had to move or buy their land from the outsiders who may have never left their home in the East. This was permitted by the state of Pennsylvania as a means of producing funds and, at the urging of Hugh H. Brackenridge, a Pittsburgh attorney, and school roommate of attorney-general William Bradford, the state took steps to outlaw the secessionist activities assuring a continued flow of income.

Western Pennsylvania had a history of wanting to be separate. As early as 1775 the Transylvanians petitioned the Continental Congress to be recognized as the fourteenth colony. In 1776 the people in the region claimed by both Pennsylvania and Virginia, announced that they were the new state of Westsylvania. They said that "no country or people can be either rich, flourishing, happy or free . . . whilst annexed to or dependent on any province, whose seat of government is . . . four or five hundred miles distant, and separated by a vast, extensive and almost impassible tract of mountains . . ." With both states claiming this land, many peoples took advantage of the difficulty in enforcing state laws in this area until 1781 when Pennsylvania was given control. With this history, is it any wonder that unrest might occur here again in 1794?

In the East, the anti-constitutionalists attempted to minimize the powers of the state and people within the federal government. They proposed an "upper house" as a check upon the democratic assembly. This proposal was intensely resisted by the West. Alexander Hamilton was probably the strongest supporter of the trend towards aristocratic government. By early 1789 he was the treasurer of the U.S. and continually used all his influence to work toward a aristocracy. According to Hamilton, only the "well bred and rich" as he expressed it, were to be

recognized in governmental circles. "Lower" people, as he called them, were to have little or no part in government and would be held in check by "coercion of laws and coercion of arms". Hamilton's party became known as the Federalists and attempted to install a more powerful federal government (aristocracy) as opposed to Thomas Jefferson's Antifederalist party which was pushing for state's rights.

Decisions made along the East Coast had little support or effect on the highly independent people west of the mountains. Crime was of little importance because of the attitude of the masses, and courts were few and far between. This independence, naturally, resulted in a political feeling of local power as opposed to federal power. The Democratic Society was strong west of the mountains and emphasized democracy and a strong local government, which they felt was guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

The separatist attitude of the states was slow to disappear. Even after the Constitutional Convention on May 14, 1787, while the bickering and competition between the states decreased somewhat, it was retained in the West. In addition, there was little loyalty between the eastern and western regions of Virginia and Pennsylvania.

Some people today feel that David Bradford (with his opulent Washington, Pennsylvania house), after being blackmailed and forced to get involved in the dispute, may have gotten somewhat carried away with dissent. If it were not for Bradford and the other dissenters, helping to bring the state's right's/democracy issue to the attention of the easterners and lending support to Jefferson's position, the government of today might be the aristocratic monarchy that Hamilton and the Federalists tried so hard to install. Thankfully, the rebellion failed, almost before it began. It did publicize some of the problems the settlers were having with the government, gave the newly formed government a chance to flex its muscles and, in a sense, redefined the word treason to permit disagreement with the government without being considered treasonous.

3. It appears that our individual freedoms and liberties never came about in full and as intended from the very beginning. Our founding fathers, having delivered the

Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776, adopted the U.S. Constitution in September 17, 1787, and Ratified the Bill of Rights December, 15, 1791, quickly changed. Our first President goes after a very controversial tax revenue 3 years later. The Whiskey Rebellion was put down by George Washington with near 13,000 troops in August 7, 1794. Do not prejudge this event prematurely.

A. You can read a more anti rebellion version here, i.e. "Thankfully, the rebellion failed, almost before it began."
http://www.whiskeyrebellion.org/rebell.htm

B. This site is more pro rebellion.
http://www.lewrockwell.com/rothbard/rothbard1.html.

A few excerpts are included below so you can get the drift.

Opposition to the federal excise tax program was one of the causes of the emerging Democrat-Republican Party, and of the Jeffersonian "Revolution" of 1800. Indeed, one of the accomplishments of the first Jefferson term as president was to repeal the entire Federalist excise tax program. In Kentucky, whiskey tax delinquents only paid up when it was clear that the tax itself was going to be repealed.

Rather than the whiskey tax rebellion being localized and swiftly put down, the true story turns out to be very different. The entire American back-country was gripped by a non-violent, civil disobedient refusal to pay the hated tax on whiskey. No local juries could be found to convict tax delinquents. The Whiskey Rebellion was actually widespread and successful, for it eventually forced the federal government to repeal the excise tax.

Except during the War of 1812, the federal government never again dared to impose an internal excise tax, until the North transformed the American Constitution by centralizing the nation during the War Between the States. One of

the evil fruits of this war was the permanent federal "sin" tax on liquor and tobacco, to say nothing of the federal income tax, an abomination and a tyranny even more oppressive than an excise.

Why didn't previous historians know about this widespread non-violent rebellion? Because both sides engaged in an "open conspiracy" to cover up the facts. Obviously, the rebels didn't want to call a lot of attention to their being in a state of illegality.

Washington, Hamilton, and the Cabinet covered up the extent of the revolution because they didn't want to advertise the extent of their failure. They knew very well that if they tried to enforce, or send an army into, the rest of the back-country, they would have failed. Kentucky and perhaps the other areas would have seceded from the Union then and there. Both contemporary sides were happy to cover up the truth, and historians fell for the deception.

The Whiskey Rebellion, then, considered properly, was a victory for liberty and property rather than for federal taxation. Perhaps this lesson will inspire a later generation of American taxpayers who are so harried and downtrodden as to make the whiskey or stamp taxes of old seem like Paradise.

Note: Those interested in the Whiskey Rebellion should consult Thomas P. Slaughter, *The Whiskey Rebellion* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1986); and Steven R. Boyd, ed., *The Whiskey Rebellion* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985). Professor Slaughter notes that some of the opponents of the Hamilton excise in Congress charged that the tax would "let loose a swarm of harpies who, under the denominations of revenue offices, will range through the country, prying into every man's house and affairs, and like Macedonia phalanx bear down all before them." Soon, the opposition predicted, "the time will come when a shirt will not be washed without an excise."

C. Here is another interesting reference on the Whiskey Rebellion. Note my underline.

http://www.taxhistory.org/thp/readings.nsf/cf7c9c870b600b9585256df80075b9d OpenDocument

4] Later, Adams examines tax policy under the Federalist party, giving pride of place to the famed Whiskey

Rebellion. In recent years, scholars have treated the rebels with considerable sympathy, and Adams follows suit. Indeed, he champions the resisters as patriots, and credits them with the downfall of the Federalist party. In the process, he takes aim at one of the early Republic's most celebrated leaders, Alexander Hamilton. Often described as America's greatest Secretary of the Treasury (faint praise in the eyes of some cynics), Hamilton is generally viewed as the young nation's economic savior. His stringent fiscal policies helped restore American credit and solidify the fledgling government's precarious financial position. Adams, however, questions Hamilton's claim to greatness, attacking his tax policies as unfair and oppressive. "His appointment," he says, "has been called 'the right man, at the right time, in the right place,' but it's doubtful that the farmers on the western frontier in 1794 agreed, and today, after two hundred years, scholars are finally agreeing with the rebels." In fact, many scholars continue to celebrate Hamilton's accomplishments, and his historical reputation seems secure for the time being. Adams's argument, however, raises useful questions about the source of whiskey tax resistance.

D. This site has our tax history in easy form to scan http://www.tax.org/Museum/1777-1815.htm. Note my underline & excerpt below.

Also at Hamilton's behest, Congress approved a whiskey excise tax in January. Unlike the tariff, it constituted a direct tax on a specific class of producers spirit distillers. Hamilton insisted the excise was necessary to garner additional funds for his debt funding and assumption plan, and argued that domestic distilling was one of the few "mature" industries in the United States capable of bearing the tax. He also added, somewhat disingenuously, that a tax on spirits stood to serve a useful moral function if higher prices led to reduced consumption of alcohol. Opposition to the excise tax in Congress was muted, since Madison and Jefferson had agreed to compromise and support Hamilton's funding plan; they had little choice but to back a bill purporting to pay for it. Designed to raise $800,000, the measure levied a tax on spirits ranging from 7 cents to 18 cents per gallon, and created an internal revenue service to collect it.

1792 Distillers hardly viewed themselves as members of a "mature industry." The majority were frontier farmers operating in isolated, underdeveloped economies. Spirits served more than simply recreational purposes. Specie and bank notes tended to be scarce in many areas along the trans-Appalachian frontier, so whiskey wound up functioning as an important medium of exchange, especially for eastern trade. In western Pennsylvania, where one quarter of the nation's stills were located in and around Pittsburgh, the whiskey excise acted as a currency tax, threatening farmers with economic hardship. Distillers and their representatives in Congress tended to view the excise on spirits as an odious measure imposed by easterners desperate to avoid a land tax. The latter stood to

burden the east disproportionately, since that region boasted most of the nation's improved property.

Westerners generally refused to pay the tax, often resorting to acts of limited violence reminiscent of those perpetrated by the Sons of Liberty. In May, Congress acted on Hamilton's advice to reduce tax rates and liberalize payment schedules. The Legislature later altered the law so that legal suits regarding the tax could be heard in local state courts rather than distant federal courts. Despite these palliatives, districts in North Carolina and western Pennsylvania were cited for noncompliance, prompting President Washington to issue a stern public proclamation admonishing tax offenders. Although he threatened federal reprisal, the government took no action for a year and a half.

4. After 1776 our newly established freedoms came under near instant attack from the government and business sharking forces plus human greed and envy which drives free civilizations into the 200 year death spiral of freedom, i.e. 1. From bondage to spiritual faith; 2. From spiritual faith to great courage; 3. From courage to liberty; 4. From liberty to abundance; 5. From abundance to complacency; 6. From complacency to apathy; 7. From apathy to dependence; 8. From dependence back into bondage.

A. The first federal income tax in American history actually preceded the Internal Revenue Act of 1862. Passed in August 1861...

The first income tax was moderately progressive and ungraduated, imposing a 3 percent tax on annual incomes over $800 that exempted most wage earners. These taxes were not even collected until 1862, making alternative financing schemes like the Legal Tender Act critical in the interim. The Internal Revenue Act of 1862 expanded the progressive nature of the earlier act while adding graduations: It exempted the first $600, imposed a 3 percent rate on incomes between $600 and $10,000, and a 5 percent rate on those over $10,000. The act exempted businesses worth less than $600 from value added and receipts taxes. Taxes were withheld from the salaries of government employees as well as from

dividends paid to corporations (the same method of collection later employed during World War II). In addition, the "sin" excise taxes imposed in the 1862 act were designed to fall most heavily on products purchased by the affluent. Thaddeus Stevens lauded the progressivity of the tax system:

"While the rich and the thrifty will be obliged to contribute largely from the abundance of their means . . . no burdens have been imposed on the industrious laborer and mechanic . . . The food of the poor is untaxed; and no one will be affected by the provisions of this bill whose living depends solely on his manual labor."

But the war grew increasingly costly.....

5. Since the founding documents were signed, we have seen escalating government takings in many forms, e.g.

- Increased & disproportional application of the tax burden & growing abandonment of Const. Section 8 uniform application, et al
- Executive Branch Supremacy via Executive Orders & Proclamations short circuiting the Legislative Branch starting at the first administration of President Washington in 1789. 158 EO's were issued up to Teddy Roosevelt & 13,698 including & following him
- Positivism starting after 1902 whereby prior case law establishes precedence in judicial decisions vs. constitutional and legislative intent
- Increased takings of our freedoms by Judicial Branch Supremacy roughly starting around 1954

- Legislator Branch Supremacy via pandering to special interest groups trading away individual constitutional freedoms
- Abuse of emergency clauses
- Breakdown of the check and balance of the three branches of our government whereby government now colludes to lock up power
- Kidnapping of a representative form of government by political parties and special interest groups
- Expansion of government social programs pimping out government funding creating generations of dependent societies
- Increasing role of government funded academia to act as Academic Supremacist justifying more government & blocking competition
- Increasing role of government has undermined individual self reliance, the role of the church & charity, taken jobs from the private sector, propped up failing social models & political groups, created generations of dependent people, generated massive debt and corruption, blocked competition & created excessive debt
- Increasing demands by Americans for the government to protect them from other Americans constitutional freedoms

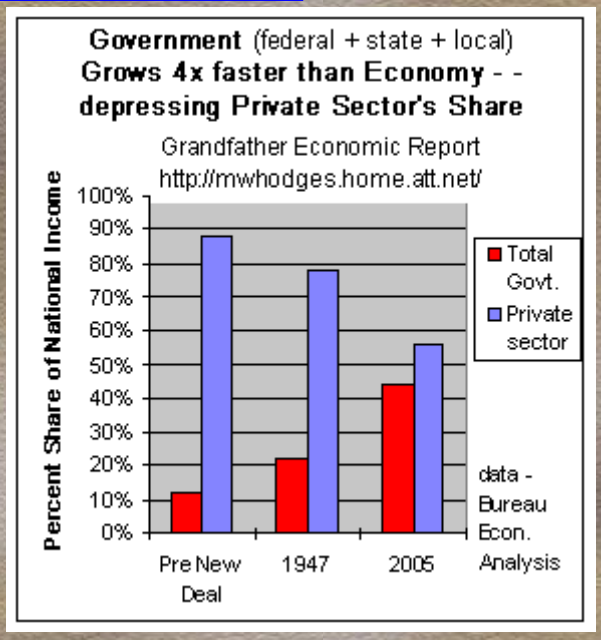
6. If all this is not enough to convince you then

consider freedom is dying when:

- You see the constitutional rights of your property rights disappearing,
- Your vote nullified by corrupt election systems,
- The sovereignty of your country being riddled by the UN and global governance,
- Your borders disappearing,
- Your government growing ineffective and more corrupt,
- Exponential growth of environmental extremism,
- A media unable to tell both sides of the story
- Its hard to tell the entertainment industry from the media
- Your gun rights under attack,
- Your right to see expressions of God in public places,
- Out of control government spending,
- Out of control political corruption,
- Concentration of populations in the cities and government telling small rural farmers how to manage their land,
- 10,000 cases (attempted and successful) of eminent domain by cities in the last 5 years,
- A class action suit of 30,000 cases of permitting abuse against King County WA (Executive Ron Sims),
- Pushing loosing transportation systems for the cities at the expense of everyone
- Pushing sports stadiums against the will of the people and ignoring the PDA

- Blocking rural land & home improvement by transferring county overhead costs onto home owners, i.e. double taxation
- Allowing a 20,000 seat rural outdoor amphitheater for the Muckleshoot tribe on private land
- Rural people and other counties say no more environmental taking & having to go to the supreme court to fight the county to stop it
- Extravagant environmental nonsense, e.g. digging up rural roads and adding $100,000 concrete bunkers for a few fish,
- Implementing ineffective bloated environmental acts such as ESA based on junk science and green lunacy logic
- Implementing ineffective social engineering programs to increase density in the cities & park out the country when only 6 % of the total land in the U.S. is developed & the programs only make matters worse.
- Ignoring individual freedom of choice and our State and United States Constitutions,
- Hiring more government to solve government problems
- Freedom is neutralized by the increasing numbers on government dole
- People do not honor the struggle of others and allow them to solve their own problems their own way, e.g. family, church, charity

Too much government is turning our individual freedoms into a graveyard. Still don't believe me, link to the Grandfather Economic Report http://mwhodges.home.att.net/.



Jack Venrick
Rural Property and Home Owner
Fed Up With Those Who Have Breached Our Sacred Freedoms Throughout History
Enumclaw, WA

Only 6% of the total land in the United States including rural areas is developed.
Public Policy Toward Land Use
Randall G. Holcombe