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Parts 1 & 2 are BOTH here

(If you KNOW what this is about, you can skip to page 5 - DickA)

## **Starting an Old Engine, Part 1, by John Leyzorek**

Posted By *James Wesley Rawles* On May 16, 2020 @ 7:03 am

In Contest,Retreat Groups | [39 Comments](#)

I like old machinery. It tends to be simple, and rugged. Because it is considered obsolete, it tends to be available, cheap, and with a little tinkering it will often get the job done very well. I was unloading a truck and pulling saplings out of the ground with my 89 year old tractor just yesterday.

I think this interest is practical, but many more pursue it as a hobby. There are numerous web-sites devoted to this interest, innumerable threads about "Look what I found in the woods", and "Hear it start for the first time in 20/50/80 years!"

Of course, people keep refining old principles and inventing new machines to speed up or lighten any task you may think of. The new stuff is lighter, faster, cheaper (than what the old stuff originally sold for in those mythical "constant dollars"), maybe easier to use if you can figure out those Chinese instructions. It also tends not to last very long, but that's okay because a newer even better one is coming soon. Some have a lot of fancy lights and noises that may not contribute much to the function, but they look cool. Some have lots of safety features, to keep you from doing things with them that someone thinks you oughtn't, or from sticking your fingers in the wrong place. I mildly crunched a car once that I was rolling because it would not start, because the steering wheel was locked, a feature that somebody thought was a good idea. Often it reports to some central data hub all about you and what you are doing...What could go wrong with that?

I confess, I'm an engineer. I absolutely love God and Nature more than machinery, but playing with machinery lets anyone feel a tiny bit God-like, in the sense that we can pretty well understand its processes, start and stop it at our will, get great piles of stuff done with it, and often improve it as we learn .

Of course the actual inner complexity of every piece, every bolt and every atom of metal is infinitely more complicated as God created it than we will ever understand, but it apparently pleases Him to let us ignore most of that, and make things **work**.

It is possible to look at human societies as machines, too, with components and functions, and we know a good deal about the "atoms" of societies, too: the individual fallen human beings like us.

All societies have parts that make things, raise food, build houses, and defend against dangers to the parts and to the society as a whole. Craftsmen, farmers, builders, soldiers. Often many individuals contribute to more than one function.

Most societies have parts that tell other parts what to do and what not to do, although you would think that the farmer makes it his business to know how to farm and the other trades likewise, and right and wrong everyone knows, however hard we all occasionally try to push the boundaries just a little.

The "tell you what to do" parts of a society are very good at convincing everyone else that they are the most important part, although they actually contribute next to nothing of value, and they are also very good at making sure that they collect for themselves an abundance of the useful stuff they want, from the people who actually produce it. As societies get bigger and more complicated, the "tell-you-what-to-do" parts get better and better at playing a sleight-of-hand, taking stuff away from some people and handing a little of it back to others, and threatening, until they have bought loyalty and subservience from most of the people.

Of course the lazy and dishonest people in any society tend to drift into the tell-you-what-to-do parts, where there is no real work to do and lots of "free" stuff, and maybe most important, the respect of many people who have swallowed their fairy-tale about the relative importance of the different components of society.

Often the "tell-you" part will convince the rest that they are threatened beyond their ability to just work together to defend themselves, and need to form an **army**, a special component specialized and dedicated to nothing but killing people and breaking things. Since the army is directly under the control of the tell-you's, everybody else decides they had better not ask any questions, and now the tell-you's have a tool they can use to steal stuff from you and me as well as from other societies, of course almost always after explaining why they had no choice.

Of course I am using funny terms and the machine metaphor to make you think in a new way about things you think you know well, namely societies and their governments. These things are almost as old as people, and we are not the first to perceive their substantial benefits and their equally substantial drawbacks. Scripture tells us all we really need to know, not only about our own characters but about organized societies and rulers. You might say that the yeast of Scripture working in the harshly kneaded dough of England as she was trying to sort herself out after the fall of the Roman Empire, produced the first actual codified Law limiting the powers of rulers and detailing how those limitations were to be enforced. After Arthur's star flared and died, it was another few hundred years, around the end of the first Millennium after Christ, until the Dooms of Ethelred that we so often refer to.

Seven-odd hundred years later, our forefathers on this continent, an ocean away from the intricate forms and bureaucracies of England and Europe, mostly bereft of the "tell-you's" (who had stayed behind in the Old World where life was less risky), and self-selected for a level of courage and self-reliance scarcely imaginable to us, had been discovering just how well they could do, taking care of their own, and doing what made sense to themselves, without being either told, or heavily mulcted for the privilege. As the tell-yous over there extended a heavier and heavier and more and more threatening grasping hand to us here in the New World, eventually we decided to refuse its oh-so-traditional demands, and make our hard-earned independence a legal fact.

And a few inspired geniuses saw and took the opportunity to apply all the wisdom of their heritage to designing, not just allowing to happen, the 'machine' of their new society.

The result, as we all know, was our Declaration of Independence and Constitution, which made law out of the facts that God made each of us as an individual, and our associations and forms are merely ourselves serving and protecting each other under His Law; and essentially that there are to be **no** "tell-you's". Particularly, the lawful application of force, that tragic final sanction against evil, was never to be separated from US, but was to be wielded directly by **us** for **our** defense and for the execution of the Law that protects US: that is the Militia we all know.

Fast forward two bumpy but mostly prospering centuries. As it happened, the combination of our low population density, abundant land and other resources, and our predominant Christian values appeared to require little enforcement of that highest Law, and the prosperity that those coincident blessings brought forth began to seriously

soften our once legendary rugged individualism. Growing population offered more than the opportunity to wrest wealth from Nature by intelligence and toil, but to harvest it from other people by fraud, lies, and corruption.

The insatiably mercantile North saw in the South's lingering vice of human chattel slavery, a pretext for a war that would overthrow the South's agrarian local self-reliance, and at the same time reapply to the whole Republic the yoke of central control that we had thrown off less than a century before. The trumpeted triumph against slavery, was a silent triumph of a subtler kind of domination. The victory of central control was so destructive, and the propaganda so compelling, that the whole country was shocked and awed into believing that the absolute power of central government was as necessary and inevitable as it was invincible.

Any lingering fond memory of our Law's specification for individual political self-determination, let alone conscience-based community enforcement of the fundamental principles of freedom, was burned out of our collective consciousness. And we were lulled by the panoply of growing empire, by a cascade of consumer goods, and by one crusade after another in the name not of Law or Justice, but of Democracy, the rule of the mob.

The softer richer, and more European we have become, the more the European diseases of bureaucracy, official parasitism, worship of human celebrities and institutions, and insistence on safety and predictability at all costs, have invaded our culture and body politic, not to mention a vile palette of more personal perversions.

Now the parasites are impatient to complete their reconversion of our once hardheadedly moral and independent society, back into their slaves and sycophants. To secure their conquest, they must eradicate a few dangerous vestiges of our former power as sovereigns over ourselves and our society, like the rights to arms, movement, collaboration, work, and worship.

A very few of us have been given the vision to perceive the stealthy process in its youth. We have warned, we have resisted, we have been mocked and marginalized. Suddenly, now, many see it, many are afraid, many are clamoring, "We must **do something!**"

A tiny group of men was blessed by God a dozen years ago with the vision and the perseverance to begin laboriously rediscovering under layers of lies and forgetfulness, that social machine our Founders built, but which has never yet actually been run, to

secure the freedoms God gave us. It is all there. All the parts fit. It looks like it will run....But can we get it started?

[Tactical Civics](#) is the name we have given to our program for learning how to start and operate the magnificent "machine" of our Republic as it was intended to be operated: in the language of our Declaration of Independence, "to secure these rights..."

*It is a pretty simple, not to say easy, program. It includes demanding that 27 States complete the ratification of the first of the originally-proposed amendments to our Constitution, the first article of the intended Bill of Rights, which will reduce the size of Congressional districts to 50,000 or fewer people. This will give actual representation for the first time to most of the area of our Republic, instead of just to the big cities.*

This will also exceed the capacity of the Capitol Building in Washington DC, necessitating our second reform, the **Bring Congress Home Act**. This will require that Congress meet by telepresence, every Congressman working from a single small office, in his home district, under the watchful eyes of the people he is hired to represent, out of the easy reach of the lobbyists. It will give us a whole new type of Representative: the opportunity to run an inexpensive local campaign with no need for dirty money and to serve from home, without abandoning family and business, will attract down-home statesmen, rather than arrogant, greedy careerists.

Of course down-home Representatives, to say nothing of senators and state legislators and other government employees will still be fallen as we are, as prone to succumb to the temptations of power, so the only truly novel part of our plan we call, **The Indictment Engine**. This will determine the Constitutionality of every proposed piece of legislation, and allow every representative introducing or sponsoring an unconstitutional bill to withdraw it or face prosecution.

(To be concluded tomorrow, in Part 2.)

**Editor's Note:** The author is a co-founder of a plan and organization called [Tactical Civics](#) <sup>[1]</sup> — a Trademarked name.

39 Comments ([Open](#) | [Close](#))

## 39 Comments To "Starting an Old Engine, Part 1, by John Leyzorek"

**#1 Comment** By [Tom S.](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 11:35 am

Fooled me...from the first few paragraphs I was expecting a practical article about repairing and tinkering with old machinery, not a philosophical essay. I'm disappointed. Since part 2 is tomorrow, I'll come back in 2 days.

**#2 Comment** By [just fish](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 1:44 pm

Me too! I was all geared up for pulling seized plugs or maybe even retrofitting modern bearings. I am not disappointed.

Now I have to read this article a few more times.

Putting our Republic back together is a big complicated project like restoring a locomotive.

FF below described me when he said 8th grade audience.

That is why I often re-read articles.

Like Jimbo said, from a technician to an engineer thanks for keeping it practical.

**#3 Comment** By [just fishing](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 3:38 pm

Absolutely no offense taken. Like many of us, the educational line of demarcation was middle school for me. Something about girls, guitars, and guns.

I really try to concentrate when reading heady stuff like this article.

I appreciate your input and I often times read your replies twice too. Good stuff.

**#4 Comment** By [JGinTex](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 12:00 pm

One problem. The liberals have an excellent track record of undermining most, if not all eventually, attempts at moving the country back to common sense government.

Unfortunately, a lot of Republicans assist them in their efforts. I fear having a constitutional convention would shrewdly be taken over by the left as the right has very few strong leaders. A convention is a two edged sword that could save our country or totally destroy it.

**#5 Comment** By [Guy Friday](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 4:22 pm

My concern regarding a convention as well.

**#6 Comment** By [Abram Leyzorek](#) On August 6, 2020 @ 4:15 pm

The author does not suggest a Constitutional convention for that very reason. Read the article!

**#7 Comment** By [Jimbo](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 12:11 pm

He's an engineer- they charge extra for the practical stuff.

But I believe you seem to have missed the greater lesson in this article; Tactical civics, of which I wholly agree. Prosecution of 'reps' who file unconstitutional (pork-loaded) bills would put an end to a great many woes we have in the halls of congress.

From technician to engineer- thanks for keeping it 'practical'.

**#8 Comment** By [Seymour Liberty](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 6:37 pm

You could remedy much of the problems in Congress by repealing the 17th Amendment (for clarification read Article 1, especially Sections 3-4, re: how Senators are selected).

That takes care of big lobby money at the Federal level and brings the Senate back to the States. There are many other remedies but like the joke about "what do you call 99 lawyers at the bottom of a lake...", it's a good start!

**#9 Comment** By Jim Lee On May 16, 2020 @ 12:39 pm

An encouraging and poignant article. This plan by Tactical Civics could be a potential saving grace for the nosedive of this country. I pray you are successful. God Bless

**#10 Comment** By Faethor Ferenczy On May 16, 2020 @ 1:02 pm

I say that the political parties should be dissolved

No more Republican no more Democrat.

Remove all donations money land etc. from the political sphere (no way for money or favor to be in politics)

Set forth a maximum cap on all funds that can be spent in campaigns to be paid for by the person running solely.

To lobby Congress or elected officials you must stand before like a town hall you must stand in front of all members and make your pitch.(if Congress has enough time to declare name changes for libraries streets post offices etc. they have time to sit in their chair and do their job)

Keep church and state separate still.

(All religions are free to be practiced in this union.) (All religions have the same common tenants at their heart "help people, don't hurt people, be a good person."

Some even have the same books to a point.)

So as long as a religion doesn't hurt no one it's protected. But it's dogma has no place in the law making process.

There shall be no credit or loans made or given at any level of government. Outside of emergency. If a state requires federal assistance it will be entitled only to the amount of money it generates in taxes and only allowed to borrow 1 years' worth to be paid back in 4 years' time and will only be allowed to raise taxes temporary to fund this by 25%. Aid will only be allowed to be sought by a popular vote in that state in a special general election. The governor of that state will then be required to stand before Congress hat in hand and request it. Funds will then be conditionally released for the specific problem.

The government must print \ make its own money supply.

25% of all federal taxes (by state) must be set aside in holdings annually

25% of all state taxes must be set aside in holding annually

25% of local or municipal taxes must be set aside annually.

Any time the savings needs to be used it must be voted on and approved of by no less than 75%.

Not everything but a start as I see it

At least it's what I think

**#11 Comment** By Hunkster On May 16, 2020 @ 3:51 pm

OK, I've read this article and the following thread and it all sounds wonderful...if we were a county of 1,000,000 people spread out over the current USA landmass. But we are not! Our society has evolved over the last 250 years and we are a country of 330,000,000 people. Realize that practices, beliefs, expectations have been long since institutionalized. And now you want this house of cards to be suddenly torn down and abandon everything that got us here? That is just "pretty words" and no common sense. Do you know how many miles it takes a fully loaded oil tanker to turn around? That oil tanker is our country and turning it around will take time, herculean effort, civil war, death, unrest, and much more!!

To make the changes that this publisher and participants want to make will take a lot of time. As the saying goes...you eat an elephant one bite at a time. We need a group of single-minded people that drive a well-defined vision year-over-year just like the progressive socialist has done since Woodrow Wilson's time. It should start with the constitutional convention that defines the first change that can be made.

Don't be delusional, keep it in the middle of the road, stay safe, stay healthy.

**#12 Comment** By [Abram Leyzorek](#) On August 6, 2020 @ 4:22 pm

No one is suggesting a quick fix to our enormous problems; as you say, that is impossible. All we can do is take one bite at a time, starting from the local level. Tactical Civics has great resources to help you with that, and we could certainly use your help.

**#13 Comment** By [Pat Riot SD](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 1:05 pm

Great read. Just like the Chi-Coms, they want us to shut up and just be another bolt in the machine.  
Keeper Coming.

**#14 Comment** By [D.B.](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 1:40 pm

As a brother in Christ, a respector of the founding fathers, a veteran, an engineer and the owner of a 1948 Ford 8N your words ring true on many levels. Truly the apathy of our society has led us to an attitude of "let someone else take care of it" especially concerning government. Local involvement in governmental affairs can fix a lot of the problems we have, if we can steer our culture in that direction. I'll be looking into the Tactical Civics organization

**#15 Comment** By [wwes](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 1:59 pm

The article surprised me as well, I was expecting to read about reviving old machines, which I enjoy, but it was a surprise. The talk of "starting and old engine" in this context makes me think of Atlas Shrugged. The article was excellent, and I look forward to part two.

**#16 Comment** By [Tom in Oregon](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 2:12 pm

Hahaha. Yup, I too, was thrown for a loop and had to read the article twice. Weird timing too. I found a late 80's Toyota Land Cruiser that's been parked for about 15 years with a seized engine.  
Going to knock on a door this weekend and see if I can pick it up.

**#17 Comment** By [wwes](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 2:29 pm

No to derail the comments, but that is cool about the Land Cruiser, I hope you're able to pick it up and get it running! I brought home an old Brillion cultipacker yesterday that is in pieces, I think I can repair it. We had a stray dog kill 12 of our chickens, and when I was looking for the rest of the chickens in the brush I tripped over the cultipacker. I never knew it was there, the neighbor told me to take it on.

**#18 Comment** By [CORD7](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 2:09 pm

Thanks again Jim for an exceptional article that was totally appropriate. Couldn't resist delighting in the last part, "face Prosecution". They SHOULD fear this. There is always a Wake-UP factor to freedom lost aware we the people. It's slow. It's growing. And when enough have had enough safety to fire the desire for freedom only evil will be in fear.

**#19 Comment** By [CORD7](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 2:42 pm

Picture must be the engine's spark plugs.

**#20 Comment** By [St. Funogas](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 3:04 pm

Interesting article so far but if I could make a slight correction on the paragraph referring to the Civil War and slavery.

"The insatiably mercantile North saw in the South's lingering vice of human chattel slavery, a pretext for a war..." The Civil War had nothing to do with slavery. That's just pablum which the public school systems feed the simple-minded knaves who never dig deeper into history than the headlines. The Civil War was about States' Rights and whether the Southern states had the right to secede from The Club when they no longer wished to belong. In many of the founding documents, the Founding Fathers refer to "these" United States because they pictured a loosely-organized European Union type of an organization, not a centrally-ruled behemoth such as we have today. Again, the Civil War was not about slavery. The Emancipation Proclamation wasn't even effective until halfway through the war, and only applied to slaves in Southern states. It did not free slaves in Northern states who were supporting Lincoln in his war: MO, TN, KY, WV, MD, DE, and parts of LA.

The second part of the author's paragraph is spot on: "The victory of central control was so destructive, and the propaganda so compelling, that the whole country was shocked and awed into believing that the absolute power of central government was as necessary and inevitable as it was invincible."

The reason why Lincoln has been "deified" in this country is to get Boobus Americanus to swallow hook, line, and sinker the idea that a large, central, government is for our own good. It is packaged behind the sham that "Lincoln freed the slaves" and by this simple sleight of hand, we're all unthinkingly propagandized into believing that this huge central government that we have is great and wonderful, and that one big country is better than a United States with a southern neighbor called the Confederate States.

The next time you hear the Gettysburg Address, think about the last line: "...that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth." You've heard that line a million times but you've never really, really, thought about it. We've been too conditioned to

think about it in a certain way. I was in my fifties, I'm embarrassed to admit, before it finally hit me like a ton of bricks!

We all know some Southerners. Let's face it, they're just really different. They talk funny, they eat all kinds of weird foods and drink something called mint juleps. And my military friends growing up who were from the south not only had strange names like Billy Bob but had to call their dad "Sir!" Are you kidding me? The Civil War was all about States' Rights. The war was about the Northern States telling the Southern Boys you have no right to leave our club! What did the Southerners want? They wanted nothing more than a government of the People of the South, by the People of the South, for the People of the South. Then Lincoln gets up halfway through the war that ended up killing 2% of the total American population and wounding another 3%, to tell us that Government of the People is not going to perish from the earth? Oh, unless your one of those reprehensible Southerners, YOU don't get to have a government of the people! Anyone who eats okra is obviously too dumb for self-rule.

I hope my Southern friends will pardon the sarcasm this morning. □

Lincoln was hands down the worst president this country ever had and the nearest thing to a dictator we've experienced. He set in motion the machinery that haunts us today in the form of a HUGE centralized government that violates more and more States' Rights with each and every passing year. We, and the world, would have been much better today in 2020 had our good friends in the Southern states been left to go in peace in 1860 when they had decided they wanted to take their croquet set and go home.

I'll withhold my comments on the rest of the article until I read Part 2.

**#21 Comment** By [Charlie](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 2:18 am

Excellent view on causes of Civil War. To anyone who thinks that poor, southern boys who had to furnish their own rifles and horses, if they were fortunate to have them, would have fought and suffered starvation, lack of basic needs, even boots, for slavery, is not understanding the goals. They were fighting for the right for self-government and not be denied the right to make their own decisions at the state level. These young men would not have suffered and died for the "right" to own slaves. Read their letters written home, first person accounts of their struggles, and you will see their thoughts. They were heroic in their efforts to preserve their rights for self-government and have been maligned by history and the machinations of Abraham Lincoln since. Read the brutal accounts of the effects of Reconstruction days and lasting effects. Well said.

**#22 Comment** By [The Red Baron](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 5:46 am

I agree. Lincoln suspended the writ of habeas corpus and sought out inventions that would kill Southerners at a quicker rate.

However, if two countries were allowed to exist — with an agrarian South — numerous things might not have occurred. For instance, westward expansion would have been delayed, various presidents might not have been elected, etc. The U.S. might not have had the manpower or will to enter WW I, possibly changing the future history of the world.

There were two interesting books I read about the "what if" scenarios: if the South had won the "War of Succession" and if Germany had won WW II. I recommend that you look them up, but apologize for not having the titles.

**#23 Comment** By OneGuy On May 16, 2020 @ 3:12 pm

There is a writing style where the writer so enjoys their own writing that they intentionally bury the lead and just go on and on. Very difficult to read and usually very unsatisfying. I read to learn as does everyone. Not to stroke the ego of the writer. Here is the simple straight forward way to write an informative article.

1. Tell them what you are going to tell them. A simple one or two sentences that lets the reader know what you are going to say.
2. Tell them. Preferably in one or two paragraphs you full explain your point. It could be longer but that would probably indicate that your subject is too large for a single article.
3. Tell them what you told them. Again one or two sentences to state the main point/message. Your opportunity to end with what you want your reader to remember. Alternatively if you really want to turn off a reader the best way to do this is drone on for paragraph after paragraph without ever getting to the point.

**#24 Comment** By Dan On May 16, 2020 @ 3:52 pm

I was excited to hear about resurrecting an old truck.....too bad you changed the subject.

**#25 Comment** By Doc On May 16, 2020 @ 4:58 pm

I was a bit disappointed as well, since I have been dreaming of finding and operating an old steam engine. I do greatly appreciate the content, but consider it a bait-and-switch.

Oh well.

**#26 Comment** By Sean On May 16, 2020 @ 6:09 pm

I'm surprised anyone still believes this country as it is, can be salvaged and reformed to become a republic. It can't. It's headed for destruction, dismemberment, and being conquered by very different people. Already the rule of law is a memory in Washington D.C. as arrogant parasites and corrupt people break the law with impunity, and weak voices call out for charges and jail to the sound of crickets. The masses see this and understand. Seeking Amendments to the Constitution and so on, is akin to rearranging the deck chairs on a sinking Titanic. Alea Iacta Est. Surely, our G\*d can do anything, but do any of you believe He will save or preserve a nation of ingrates and devilish people?

**#27 Comment** By william On May 16, 2020 @ 7:52 pm

Hi Sean: I agree with your comment. If Ben Franklin is quoted accurately when he was asked what sort of government we had when he came out of "congress" and said, "a republic if you can keep it." Then our form of government has been under attack from its beginning. Our founders did not want a democracy- it was the tyranny of the 51%. I think it would take an act of G-d to bring this country back to its original form.

**#28 Comment** By Cabot On May 18, 2020 @ 1:49 am

The 'Act of G-d' would be revival... a return of our whole nation to submission to G-d. If we want to see this kind of change happen, we must BEG on our knees every day for revival.

**#29 Comment** By Greydog in WV On May 17, 2020 @ 4:50 am

If I want to live in a tent on my own property, who's going to stop me? My lifestyle is my choice, period. There are places where growing food isn't legal? I sure am glad I don't live there. Most children nowadays aren't even taught common sense or respect. They are slaves to their devices and social media, completely spoiled, not even knowing the meaning of the word chore. The changes must be made on the familial level. Another civil war is the last hope for revolution from the tyrannical progressive socialism. Free thought ended with the alien technological takeover. I saw it happen to my younger brother. He thinks the constitution is outdated legislation. What a shame, that digital age technology is destroying freedom. I have a degree in antique automobile restoration, and feel somewhat baited, but definitely am not disappointed. When the gun and freedom loving taxpayers such as myself are gone, that is when the populace should really start to worry. My father taught me well. Not all wars are fought with gunpowder. We just need to stand up for our rights. There shall be no other money than silver and gold. All the rest is just debt. I constantly convert my fiat to tangible. I refuse to join any social media or even own a cellphone. I.M.O., If you want freedom restored, outlaw cellphones, everything would change dramatically. I know a man that has to go to a foodbank to feed his kids, yet he has the latest smartphone and a large bill to go with it. Not much of a man, and of course refuses to listen to me. Some real losers in this country, The winners just need to stand for what we believe. S.B. tends to be a bit religious for my taste, but I am not afraid to try to listen and learn. Thanks for reading my rant. Very simply, we cannot let China's germ warfare, or the political overreaction destroy our way of life. Our founders are rolling, it's not the American way.

**#30 Comment** By Mike On May 16, 2020 @ 7:04 pm

Great article! I'm looking forward to tomorrow's post. I'm going to check out your videos on Youtube as well.

Thank you,

MSM

**#31 Comment** By Oldhomesteader On May 16, 2020 @ 7:20 pm

Ever watch a favorite horse or dog die ?? Not a thing you can do or try will change things , this thing we call home ,the land of the free ,is dying ,the death throes are clear for all to see ,if one will see and understand ,it's like telling a child there puppy is dead it crushes you ,

Well folks the USA is in its death throes ,

Where do we go from here???don't know about you but I'm prepping to rebuild ,USA will be gone ,died of a cancer, from within ,ever been bed side of someone dying of cancer? Ever seen the last spark of life leave?

That's what we have with the USA

Oh well who is John Galt ,, and what was his message??

**#32 Comment** By Yankee Terrier On May 16, 2020 @ 7:23 pm

A wonderful piece of writing! Thank you!

**#33 Comment** By [charles anderson](#) On May 16, 2020 @ 8:05 pm  
civil war was mainly over state's rights vs the federal government, not slavery. slavery was the excuse for the war

**#34 Comment** By [I](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 1:16 am  
Many thanks for the comments. Apologies to all those who want, "just the facts", and are offended by an invitation to an intellectual walk-in-the-woods. Everything is connected to everything else and God made a world in which themes echo endlessly like images in a hall of mirrors.

I do love actual greasy rusty unkillable old engines, but since I do not own an oil well and refinery, I think flint-knapping will be of more long-term utility than engine rebuilding, if we fail to halt the disintegration of our culture. Wood gasifiers or steam engines do not alter the equation: whatcha gonna oil them with?

To those distressed by my mentioning slavery in the same sentence as Lincoln's War, read it again and notice that I said it was pretext, not cause.

I agree fully that a new Constitutional Convention/COS is the worst possible idea. Perhaps your private dream-world forbids the possibility that it will run away like the first one did but in an opposite direction. But tell me if you can how adding new limitations on federal overreach will help when the sufficient structural and explicit ones we have already are not working for lack of enforcement. As Part II will describe, TACTICAL CIVICS™ teaches how we can..must..take up the duty of enforcing the Constitution we already have, as specified in the text itself.

Our Constitution already prescribes honest money, and printing ain't in it.

Thanks again!

**#35 Comment** By [Oldhomesteader](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 1:40 am  
Yankee Terrier ,,was a hard post indeed , but I must call it as I see it ,I was born during ww2 , as a tot I remember the pride in country ,the men and women of my family that served are all gone ,I'm glad they can't see how things are now ,my dad was shot down at coral sea never to walk again without pain , my uncle survived the Indianapolis sinking ,another uncle did D day came home body intact but his mind still on the beach My anger of how things are going has turned to grief ,,,  
Watching someone or something you love die is hard ,,  
I have done all I can

**#36 Comment** By [Krissy](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 8:59 pm  
Dear Oldhomesteader, What a wonderful heritage you have. Like you, my parents were born during WWII. My grandpa fought in the AF and my great uncle in the Navy in the South Pacific. I have this feeling that we will be called to great sacrifices also. I like what you shared except for the last sentence, "I have done all I can."

I do not believe you are done. Why? Because you inspire me. I look forward to reading your comments and hearing what you have to share. I have so much to learn. You may not feel like it, but you are mentoring us younger folk. With much appreciation for learning from your wisdom, Krissy

**#37 Comment** By [Oldhomesteader](#) On May 18, 2020 @ 12:54 am  
Krissy ,,,thank you ,,

**#38 Comment** By [Lee](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 2:16 am

The problem is that most Americans are hardworking and tolerant people. The majority of that group have not yet realized the scope of the lies and propaganda of the MSM and others. They can see that there are problems but the distractions and fake news keep them from putting all the pieces together. But something totally unexpected happened in the last couple of months and there will be some serious unanticipated consequences from this. Bankruptcies, job loss, children missing out on college, businesses failing, food shortages and more. This covid-19 emergency and its consequences may drag out for years. Politicians will be voted out of office, law suits will continue to take their toll for years. The truth will leak out around the fake news shield the leftist media will throw up to hide the truth. This is going to be a game changer. A lot of Americans will be mad and a lot will not be content to just sit and take the abuse anymore. The November election could go either way, it could be stolen with mail in ballots and other dirty tricks. Either way Life won't be the same. One way or another we are in for some very interesting times. It's hard to say what America will look like in a year or two or four.

**#39 Comment** By [Henry](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 4:00 pm

I skipped reading it yesterday, busy, I work on lots of old stuff, I should have known better. Red it all today. Went and followed the links, so far it has only cost me 50 bucks and a few hours.

I would guess that the investment in time and money will go up. Looking for a great return on the investment !

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## Starting an Old Engine, Part 2, by John Leyzorek

- SurvivalBlog.com - <https://survivalblog.com>

Posted By *James Wesley Rawles* On May 17, 2020 @ 7:03 am In Contest, Current Events & Politics | [26 Comments](#)

(Continued from Part 1. This concludes the article.)

Now we come to the oldest parts of our marvelous rediscovered machine, already centuries old in our English Common Law heritage when they were written into our Constitution.

Who will indict powerful members of government itself, when they break the law they are sworn to uphold? Everyone knows how the System protects itself, and the law be damned. The Grand Jury, that is who, an institution first described in the year 997 and wholly independent of judges and prosecutors, with lawful power to investigate any suspicion of crime in its jurisdiction and to examine any records and summon anyone for questioning.

And who will carry the lawful demand for records to the offices of powerful officials, bring them in for questioning, even arrest them if necessary? Surely few ordinary sheriffs or police agencies, needing money for re-election or paid by the very crooked officials the Grand Jury indicts. Our Constitution contains only one mention of law enforcement, specifying that it is Militia that is to "execute the laws...".

And who is the Militia? In the words of Signer George Mason, "The whole People"..All of us. We ourselves, for the protection of whose natural rights our whole edifice of government is built.

It's ours. The Founders knew, only we, the People, ourselves, can be trusted, without delegation, to keep it straight.

I said, simple, but not easy. What should that look like on the ground?

Our Constitution says that Congress is, "To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States, reserving to the States respectively, the Appointment of the Officers, and the Authority of training the Militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress". But neither the States nor Congress have fulfilled this duty for 150 years! Does that mean that our Constitutional Militia, not only in the words of the 2nd Amendment "necessary to the security of a free state", but our only ultimately non-political and non-corruptible law enforcement, is gone forever?

It does not, because our Declaration of Independence, in its catalogue of the crimes of King George III sets forth the principle that the power to perform a duty, delegated to

government by the people, if government neglects that duty, "returns to the People at large for its exercise."

So, as many of you following this essay know, Tactical Civics has prepared a Constitution Enforcement and Militia Ordinance, that any County or independent City or Town governing body can pass, which will bring back into solid legal existence and practical operation the Constitution's specified, necessary "machine" for enforcement of our highest human Law. If you want to know more about this **please** contact me, but the details of the Ordinance are not the subject of this talk.

Any community can take up its duty of actually securing the rights of its citizens and making local self-determination, personal freedom, and common-sense, *enforceable* in that community. We do not have to wait for the Governor, or for the President. We are not the subjects of a king, or Chinese, or Europeans. It is not *their job*. It is **ours**. So, the question I actually want to explore here is **why** this plan, so simple (but not easy), so clearly lawful, and so comprehensive is not being widely, eagerly, and quickly adopted all over our Republic? Why so much grousing and hand-wringing, and so little action? Why won't the old engine start?

Several reasons occur to me, but remember we are not here to make excuses for why we can't, because this is an essential, a necessary duty, more visibly necessary every day. So we discuss the obstacles only so as to get past them.

I think the first obstacle is mere unfamiliarity. Our civilization has evolved (or devolved) to leave less and less of our own lives in our own hands. We call a plumber to fix our pipes, a teacher to teach our kids (except homeschoolers. God bless you, homeschoolers!), a lawyer to navigate the law, a doctor if we cough, a landscaper if we want flowers, a policeman if we hear a thump in the night. So, too, "enforcing the Law" seems like not-our-job.

But what is law, anyway, but a built-up system for applying the rules of right-and-wrong that everybody knows, to the conflicts of daily life and the control of our impulses? Do we know right from wrong? Of course! In our own experience, do bureaucratic institutions reliably apply this knowledge? H\*ll, No! So we return to the Founders' wisdom, enforcement of our Law must be **ours**. We have to grow up, and get used to that.

But, what about the cops? The prosecutor? the Sheriff? All those people in the Courthouse looking down their noses over their glasses, or through those scary

mirrored shades at us? They think the Law is **their** very own big stick, their playground, their candy-store..

A few of these are indeed hopeless arrogant thugs, but most are not, even if they have been soaking in some serious unhistorical bad-attitude and have unconsciously absorbed a lot of it. They are all **sworn** to uphold the same Law that we are talking about here, that we love, that makes America the unique place she is, that we are ready to fight for. They all want safer, more prosperous communities as we do. **We pay them**, in many cases we elect them. We are their neighbors. Deep breath here, we outnumber them.

Our first resort must be to educate them, as sweetly and gently as possible but as roughly as necessary, that we are in this together, that our goals are the same, that **WE** as Militia offer them more in enhanced capability and support and backup than they have dreamed of, as long as we all remember that we are on the same side and our highest Law comes first; that the job and purpose of that Law is to secure our rights, that we will stand for *nothing less*.

Our countryside and even many of our cities are full of Militia groups, dedicated to the Constitution and to their communities. All of them know that they are our last defense against invasions, and spend huge amounts of their own energy and money on training and supplies for armed confrontation with any "enemy foreign or domestic".. Most are also right there helping everyone after a disaster, looking after the vulnerable every day.

These are, *you are* the guys and gals whom our Founders called, not only to repel the Indians and the Redcoats, but to enforce the Constitution, which means keeping our servants in government on the straight and narrow path of securing our rights, not infringing them.

Oh, but the Courthouse is unfamiliar territory, scary territory. Most of us have been there at one time or another, maybe paying crazy fees or trying to find records, or all alone or with a very expensive but not very helpful lawyer, to answer either for some dumb thing we know we should not have done, or to seek justice for something done to us, or for some perfectly righteous and reasonable thing we did that the bureaucrats did not like. And we felt lucky as Hell to get back out, and dirty all over from the experience.

That is not how it should be, not how it must be. But that kind of experience creates a huge psychological barrier, a great aversion to even going in there, even when we know we own the place. We need to get over it. We built and pay for that place, and pay all

the folks in there, and they work for us under our Law, and we need to re-educate ourselves and them, as sweetly and gently as possible but as roughly as necessary, not alone but in numbers, but not as a begging, pleading, or threatening mob but as We The People, who *to secure these rights established this government*.

Part of the process of establishing our Militia again in their law-enforcement function is to get the recognition, the "organizing arming and disciplining" that Congress has refused, from our local governing body, in the form of our binding Ordinance. And all of us know politicians. Our local guys are hopefully not nearly as bad, as arrogant, as two-faced, as ambitious, as dyed-in-the-wool liars as their congeners in Washington, but many are trying to be, and it is too much to hope for that more than a few will help us merely because they love America as we do. If they refuse our lawful demand, we are not stopped, but we must seek their recognition.

Again, we are their neighbors. We can look them in the eye even if they will not look back. We can talk to them in their own language if they pretend not to understand ours: Their passing our Ordinance will not only put them in the history books alongside Button Gwinnett if not George Washington, but everybody in Town will thank them on election day for the return of their jobs, their freedom, for safer communities, for a new way of enjoying community, and for a new sense of control over their own destinies. If your group has the kind of community support I think it does, that it has worked hard to earn, they will listen. They will know that they are getting **paid** to listen, and not listening will mean soon not getting paid any more.

We live in scary times. Tall buildings fall down that should not. People commit suicide who had no reason to. People are falling dead in heaps all over the world, or maybe they are not. But it is not, yet, nearly as scary as it was the last time we had to stand up in numbers against tyranny. Then you could be hauled out of your house and hanged the same day. Our country could get there again, some say it is headed that way fast, but we still have time. It **has to** start in our local communities, as it did 200 years ago, because too much power has done its inevitable job of corrupting, everywhere we have allowed it to. But it is not too late. The task is unfamiliar, that is why we discuss it, to make it familiar, It is scary, but fear is the source of carefulness and the mother of courage. That odd, small but growing group, Tactical Civics, by Divine Providence has found the keys, the Plan that can bring the light, the freedom, the prosperity, the self-respect, the American beacon of freedom roaring back.

But it has to start in **your** community. Grab that rusty crank, and turn, darn it, all together, turn it. It **will** start. The team at Tactical Civics will answer any question, will stand by you every step, our hands are on that crank, too, but darn it, it is **your** community, **turn!**

**Editor's Note:** [Tactical Civics](#) <sup>[1]</sup> is a Trademarked name.

26 Comments ([Open](#) | [Close](#))

## 26 Comments To "Starting an Old Engine, Part 2, by John Leyzorek"

**#1 Comment** By [CORD7](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 12:02 pm

Thank you John for one of the most simple, direct, informative and hopeful articles I've read in a long time. "WE" the people are the engine running this nation and to start the local community cranking is exactly what's needed.

Few (spark) is always enough when most (fuel) support the ideas of freedom (air).  
Crank brother

**#2 Comment** By [Matt in Oklahoma](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 12:39 pm

Asking folks to do something and/or extra isn't going to happen under the current circumstances. CHANGE REQUIRES DISCOMFORT.

It almost got uncomfortable but then along came .gov with free. I know 6 people making more money while unemployed. I know 2 businesses who can't get folks to come back to work. This on top of employers who still paid even while closed or worked from home. 1 guy I know tried to refuse to go back to the office and stay working from home. Then came the stimulated money and all the sudden those who had income could get the car fixed, new mattress, new dishwasher or even in this preparedness community the new rifle, case of ammo or the generator alluding them. It was a perfectly timed move. Nothing uncomfortable bout that for sure.

Join a militia, get on a list, yell at politicians and be active in the community all sounds exhausting to most. In fact IT sounds uncomfortable and would require change from sitting in front of the TV, drinking and smoking "medical" dope, in the climate control, looking in the drive at the super duddy XP5000 waiting for the climate controlled indoor range to reopen to shoot that new XPZ78A toy while stroking the beard and tattoo shopping while slurping down a giant drive thru soda in flip flops.

Folks stay comfortable and they don't care about what anyone else does or some old engine. It's gonna take more than an article or a speech and when they do move it might not be the direction you think it will be. They will move to get back to comfort at any expense. You need to know your opposition.

**#3 Comment** By [Roadkill](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 1:55 pm

Dang Matt,

What's your proposal then?

**#4 Comment** By [Matt in Oklahoma](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 5:18 pm

Roadkill I ain't making proposals. I'm just stating things the way I see them.

**#5 Comment** By [Roadkill](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 7:47 pm

That's nice but it really doesn't help. Instead of writing a quite long response to why what the author said won't work. Which it may not. Maybe put some thoughts into what you think may help. Writing something like a John wrote takes guts; putting himself out there. It's easy to disagree without coming up with a solution of your own for others to contemplate.

I'm sorry if this goes against SurvivalBlog standards. If it does please delete and I apologize in advance.

**#6 Comment** By [Matt in Oklahoma](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 10:01 pm

Roadkill I didn't say it wouldn't work. I said know the opposition. You can't change it if you don't know why it broke nor what it's going to take to make that change. It's no different than being the boss or raising kids. You must know how to motivate them to do what you want. I've been in countries that enacted change and every one of them were extremely uncomfortable. Even myself am comfortable in sitting in my recliner and won't move till I'm uncomfortable and need to pee. Change requires discomfort

**#7 Comment** By [Once a Marine...](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 6:00 pm

Yep, As Matt says, CHANGE REQUIRES DISCOMFORT. Yikes.

So, John, I am intrigued by what you propose: " So we return to the Founders' wisdom, enforcement of our Law must be ours. We have to grow up, and get used to that."

You go on to suggest education of public servants. YES.

Please give us some examples of what you propose in practice. Where/when have you witnessed this in any institutions of business, education, church, government, or...?

Stories of successful (or unsuccessful) action would give us all models for doing what you suggest.

Carry on in grace

**#8 Comment** By [Patti](#) On May 18, 2020 @ 6:31 pm

Look at Tactical Civics. It's all there.

**#9 Comment** By [JBH](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 2:44 pm

Interesting concepts. Their website is interesting.

Don't know about a Constitutional Convention. It could go very good or very bad. Many of our current amendments are pretty poor. It is hard to say if we could get the correct ones through.

I do think this country is at a crossroads and the events of this year and a few following will be quite important for generations to come. Citizens are rising up in many states that have the most tyrannical lockdowns and who knows where that will lead.

Interesting times. We will see.

**#10 Comment** By [D.M. Zuniga](#) On August 13, 2020 @ 9:39 pm

TACTICAL CIVICS™ has always strenuously OPPOSED a ConCon, and we have written against it in no uncertain terms, quoting luminaries from James Madison to Antonin Scalia.

If you refer to Our First Right, that is an OPEN, unfinished Article V proposal passed by Congress in 1789 and ratified by 11 states in 1789-91, and needing just 27 more yes votes. NO constitutional convention!

**#11 Comment** By [Lee](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 3:00 pm

You have to know that the first thing to go in a constitutional convention would be the 2nd amendment. We need to prevent a constitutional convention at all costs.

**#12 Comment** By [James Wesley Rawles](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 3:34 pm

I concur, wholeheartedly! The risks of a runaway Constitutional Convention far outweigh the potential rewards. Once the convention begins, then EVERY PART of the Constitution is up to the whims of the delegates, because they can re-shape the fundamental terms, scope, and limitations.

**#13 Comment** By [Roadkill](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 3:46 pm

Absolutely. Without the knowledge of the history of English common law; which has at its base the laws of nature and natures God, we would be doomed to the whims of men and their capricious ideas of what they think law should be.

**#14 Comment** By [Sean](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 4:18 pm

Roadkill, Matt didn't make a counter-proposal, he said about what I said yesterday. I would add that being prepared as you can for anything to happen is probably a good idea. Keeping an eye out for what is happening and being ready for a change in which way the wind blows is the idea. I believe this thing is too big, the rot too far gone, the corruption too accepted and emulated. Like the meme about the tectonic plates shifting beneath us, and asking what are we going to do about it. There may be plenty of people still good and willing to reform and change for the better, but there are not enough of them, because they are outnumbered by non-English speaking, non-Christian illegal immigrants bent on looting the place, and corrupt English speaking, non-Christian peers who no longer care about those illegals (they help make the good people a non-issue) or what this country once was. The deck is not only stacked against us, but the rule of law no longer exists, because the leftists in charge make it work only the way they want it to work. And they don't care about fair, justice, right, or wrong. Think of the US as being run by Eli Wallach and his forty thieves and murderers, and there are no Magnificent Seven in town. Why else do you think Rawles is living in his Redoubt?

**#15 Comment** By [St. Funogas](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 7:07 pm

Sean, you totally hit the nail on the head in every single point you made.

Please don't shoot the messenger, but someone needs to ask all the good patriotic American Judeo-Christians who came up with all kinds of excuses why they didn't go forth and multiply as their Bible commanded them to do. You can't blame all the immigrants when you failed to produce enough offspring necessary to make the country grow. Even Ward and June Cleaver back in the 60's only produced Wally and the Beav and that's not enough to grow a country or grow an economy so what else can you do other than open the gates and let more immigrants in? Everybody stood up and

cheered when we went Full Metal Socialist and started sending out social security checks every month in 1940, but how did you think we were going to support that Ponzi scheme without an increasing amount of new workers entering the system every month? And if the people who founded this country, European Judeo-Christians, didn't bother to reproduce, I'm very confused today in 2020 about how it is they can be complaining so loudly about all the foreigners who have taken over this country? My first grandchild was born 14 years ago. When my latest one was born recently, he was born a minority. A minority! A baby with 100% British Isles/Scandinavian/German ancestry, who had ancestors on the Mayflower and at Jamestown, was born a minority in the United States of America. THAT'S when I finally realized it's all over.

This fine essay by John Leyzorek really got my engine fired up this morning, but I'm just a teenie weenie little minority, like my newest grandson. Demographics say that we've turned the country over to people who wear strange headdresses when they're sitting in Congress. Demographics say we lost the battle a long time ago. Demographics say things are only getting worse. Demographics clearly indicate the ONLY chance this country could possibly have to get back to any semblance of sanity and remotely close to something Thomas Jefferson and George Mason envisioned, would be a total grid-down TEOTWAWKI event lasting long enough to take out 98%+ of city and urban dwellers, leaving rural survivors to start over again. There are no fixes, there is only wiping the slate as clean as possible and starting over, hopefully with some Humans that learned something from this current go around. And if they can't grasp the simple concept of private property this time, then perhaps extinction is our best option.

**#16 Comment** By [St. Funogas](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 5:08 pm  
Very inspirational message, I will definitely hand you that.

One slight correction. George Mason was not a signer of the Constitution. Below is a link to the document outlining his reasons why. In his very first paragraph he mentioned the following, "There is no Declaration of Rights; and the Laws of the general Government being paramount to the Laws & Constitution of the several States, the Declarations of Rights in the separate States are no Security." And for me personally, I take his reasons one further and say the whole Constitution was doomed to failure from the outset because it failed to secure the right of private property.

[2]

Anyone who has built their own survival retreat or self-reliant homestead from scratch: house, shop, barns, pastures, outbuildings, etc., without exception realizes five years later they should have done a million things differently. There are 14,913 variables and it's just impossible to consider them all at the outset. If we could back the clock up after the first five years, we could build it nearly perfectly with what we now know. The same thing happened when the Founding Fathers were trying to figure out how to set up a new government which, for the first time in history, was supposed to be Of the People, By the People, and For the People. There was no way they were going to get it right, or even close. And that was 230+ years ago. The obstacles are much bigger now, We the People are not the same people, and for reasons maybe I'll outline in another post, there's no way to "fix" this or even make it any better. As I mused in my own article a week ago on propaganda, there's no way to reach a critical mass, we're so far outnumbered, with so many disparate views on what freedom should look like, that

even on a blog like SurvivalBlog, we couldn't reach any sort of a consensus or reach a critical mass, let alone in the general population.

From the last paragraph of George Mason's objections to the Constitution: "This Government will commence in a moderate Aristocracy; it is at prese[nt] impossible to foresee whether it will, in it's operation, produce a Monarchy, or a corrupt oppressive Aristocracy..." While we don't have exactly what people would define as an aristocracy, I still believe that definition fits most of the time. When you look at the last Democratic primaries, and this year's, the outsider Bernie Sander's never had a chance, the Democratic leadership was going to see to that. And seriously, how can an OWG (old white guy) represent your average working class Democrat? Since 1992 we went from Bush to Clinton to another Bush to another Clinton running but lost to Obama. 24 years of Bush/Clinton choices. The Powers that Be decide who's going to be in the primaries and We the People think we are actively participating in choosing our leaders? Really? We get to choose between this family or that, or this billionaire or that one, and that's a choice? We are definitely Boobus Americanus IMO. George Mason was correct, we have arrived at the kind of aristocracy as defined at Britannica.com:

From Britannica.com Aristocracy: government by a relatively small privileged class or by a minority consisting of those felt to be best qualified to rule.

**#17 Comment** By [OldParatrooper](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 5:31 pm

Twenty-two States or Territories have a State Guard or Defense Force to act as an organized core around which the Unorganized Militia can coalesce in times of need. Most have between 250-500 members and are organized along the lines of Army units. Most wear Army uniforms with State patches and follow Army Regulations.

Most State Guard units train for and deploy on Disaster Response missions such as Strategic (HF) Communications, Search and Rescue, Security and Medical Screening.

Texas, Georgia and California seem to be the most active, with hurricanes, earthquakes and wildfires.

The State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS) web site has more information and links to the various state units.

**#18 Comment** By [Once a Marine...](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 6:17 pm

Sean, you have been paying attention. Good on ya.

Back to Matt. CHANGE REQUIRES DISCOMFORT. If any of us wants to be free we must embrace that mantra.

A great deal of my training fifty years ago was all about CHANGE REQUIRES DISCOMFORT. Our instructors were very clear. To survive the incredible discomfort and challenges of combat you must develop a tolerance for pain now. I think one of them actually said, "Train for pain."

The more I press myself to those places inside my being, as well as in the outer world, that I dread the more I expand my comfort zone. The stronger I become.

I offer a few quotes that call me forward:

"I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than to those attending too small a degree of it." – Thomas Jefferson

"Instead of looking for hope, look for action" – @GretaThunberg

"The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; it is dearness only that gives everything its value. I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress and grow." – Thomas Paine

Voluntary Discomfort is the secret cornerstone of strength. We build our whole lives around increasing comfort and avoiding discomfort, and yet by doing so we are drinking a can of Weakness Tonic with every morning's breakfast. –anon

Carry on in grace

**#19 Comment** By St. Funogas On May 17, 2020 @ 7:54 pm  
Hey Marine, lots of great quotes.

I'm in full agreement with Matt in Oklahoma. I've been trying all day to come up with an example of when Americans actually inconvenienced themselves in my lifetime to make something happen. I can only come up with one and I don't honestly think most Americans are willing to inconvenience themselves for anything these days. We've really become a nation of softies with very few principles.

The recent Virginia gun rally was just a fun day in the park for the guys, parading around with their guns. Even the big demonstrations in the Sixties were probably more fun than inconvenience.

The only thing I can come up with were the Montgomery bus boycotts in 1955-56. But that was 65 years ago. They lasted for 55 weeks so that was some major inconvenience but look what they accomplished. That really falls into Matt's Change Requires Discomfort category.

**#20 Comment** By Once a Marine... On May 18, 2020 @ 3:38 pm  
Thanks for the quote compliment, brother.

I would include the men in the military who resisted the War in Vietnam from the inside. Many went from gung ho idealists to challenging the war. I would also include whistleblowers like Karen Silkwood and Chelsea Manning. As far as I know, Manning is still incarcerated. And, I know some consider Manning a traitor. We differ on that. Perhaps we can agree that Chelsea Manning has endured some discomfort (being held in solitary confinement without charges) in service to living an ideal.

Carry on in grace

**#21 Comment** By St. Funogas On May 18, 2020 @ 8:12 pm  
Hey Marine, I was actually referring to masses of Americans inconveniencing themselves, but when you start talking about individuals, then yes, you're right, we can come up with a lengthy list.

I have a problem with the whole idea of "state secrets" since 98% of the time it's about hiding the truth from We the People, so when people like Chelsea Manning and Edward Snowden let us know what Uncle Sam is keeping from us, they're heroes to me, not traitors.

Don't know if you read Snowden's book or not but it was very entertaining. Nobody talks about it anywhere, pro or con, so I guess nobody can quite decide who he was, or which side he is/was on! lol.

**#22 Comment** By [SaraSue](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 7:52 pm

I read Part 1 this morning when it dawned on me it wasn't about fixing old tractors. HAHA! I really enjoyed this two part article. I wish you good luck. I came to the conclusion myself, that turning the country around must come from each and every individual (who values freedom and wants the Republic to live, roughly more than half the country) to simply "live freedom" every single day. I know that sounds Pollyanish, but really I am calling for civil disobedience en masse. There ARE more of us than them, we were "born free", and now we need to act like it. Starting with the simple stuff like not being sheep and following the little arrows taped on the floors in grocery stores, etc.

I read through Revelation this morning. I don't know how many times I've read it. Then, started on Daniel. I'm praying for the safety and protection of my family. I'm asking the Lord to lead me because my gut tells me the American experiment is over and it's depressing. My hope is in the Lord and shall remain.

**#23 Comment** By [CORD7](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 8:58 pm

Whether the hard work comes before or after the death of a nation isn't the question. Just like our personal lives, there is no hope without a plan.

Instituting a framework of ideas and people of common interest is a commendable endeavor ~ whether before, during or after; and better if all of the above takes place. In the beginning, the title, "Starting An Old Engine" caught us all by surprise.

Deceptively getting our interest with a perfect analogy.

A country doesn't die unless you allow it to die. It's not a living organism with a finite life span.

Our country is not dying. Our country has been highjacked.

How many of you out there have taken the broken, tossed out and left for dead trash of others and repaired it to full function? And yet you believe the lie that our freedom and our children's freedom isn't worth the effort. Sounds an awful lot like - when this one's trash, we'll just buy the new improved, faster, updated model - excuse.

Shame on you and shame one me.

**#24 Comment** By [Mray](#) On May 17, 2020 @ 9:50 pm

Let me give you readers a contemporary example of plain old American citizens joining together and backing down evil government forces, at least for a short time. It was called THE BUNDY RANCH episode. There were a lot of patriots that were outraged by the government's treatment of a Nevada rancher and showed up from all over the country to support him and his family. Many were armed. The government knew that these people meant business and they backed down. They (LE) said they were backing down out of concern that citizens might get hurt. That was BS! They we're scared of getting shot plain and simple. After that event patriots comprised of militia members from all over stayed on to protect the Bundy family. Cliven Bundy had had threats on

his and his family's life and good everyday working people were there to see to his safety. The spirit of patriotism and unity there was like a breath of fresh air. There was a feeling of "we can do anything if we stick together". So I believe that freedom loving patriots can unite again in like manner and implement the plans that John has outlined in his excellent article. I believe in order to put John's plans in to action it will require patriots in "outstanding numbers" to get the attention of politicians and some LE. And I'm not talking about violence against government officials of any kind, I'm talking about there being an incredible show of people who are in like mind and ready to see a change for the better in this country. If you think John's idea's won't work and that there's no way you could ever get a lot of people together to stand up against government intrusions in our lives, just ask someone who was there at the Bundy ranch if it can be done. They'll probably tell you yes.

**#25 Comment** By Matt in Oklahoma On May 18, 2020 @ 12:56 am

I always enjoy the "you work for me". Yeah but can't that really be said about everybody? Don't matter if you're a stripper or Bill Gates your working for someone one way or the other.

**#26 Comment** By Patti On May 18, 2020 @ 6:33 pm

Thanks Roadkill, I'm with you. Only a few of us with any courage left. Let's show them how it's done. Those who complain the most are sitting on the couch with a beer and Fritos irritated cause the NFL or NBA aren't on. Check out Tactical Civics. It's a primer for "gittin it done".

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[1] Tactical Civics: <https://americaagain.net/about/>

[2] : <https://edu.lva.virginia.gov/docs/MasonsObjections.pdf>

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