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American Innovation

The first settlements in America had socialist governments because the financiers for them required it. It didn't work in Jamestown in 1607 and wasn't working well in the Plymouth Colony in 1620 either. It was soon found that letting individuals be responsible for themselves and also able to keep the fruits of their labor led to a more prosperous life in the new colonies. It seemed the rewards for working hard and working smarter appealed to the hardy settlers in the new world as it does to most reasonable men.

The reason socialism wasn't working was because it was a new land with no prior development, cities or population centers to harbor and nurture settlers during hard times. On top of that there was no incentive to work hard since in this shared society the lazy received as much as the industrious. Quick growth, hard work, ingenuity and the potential for greater reward were needed to get a foothold in the new world and to make it prosperous. It had taken thousands of years to develop the cities in the Middle East, Europe and Western Asia. No governmental system to date had provided for quick growth or innovation in the history of humanity.

Our founding fathers realized through their studies of previous societies and civilizations that a quick growing society with innovation and motivation for the people to be hard working and industrious was needed for our fledgling nation. The founders also noted that the political spectrum ran from 100% ruler's law (tyranny) on one end to no laws (anarchy) on the other. They realized that a stable nation should be balanced in the middle of this spectrum with enough government power to protect the people's ample rights and not enough to take these same rights away. These rights were viewed as being ingrained in all humanity by their creator for simply being born in his image and must be protected fiercely by the citizens and government alike. They decided that to hold us in the middle of this political spectrum we would need an anchor and that we must firmly chain our young nation to it to keep us grounded, steadfast and beyond the political whims of leaders to come later.

The Constitution and the Constitutional Republic that they created became that anchor and the bill of rights provided the chains to hold us there as long as the people and government alike worked to keep the chains bound in place. With this new system of government, which was unlike any other before, individuals could own private property of both physical and intellectual nature. Soon the innovation and growth began as the natural bounty of the new world combined with the industrious and highly motivated nature of the settlers. Americans wanted to exercise their new found rights, responsibilities and especially their ability to create wealth and retain it for their own uses. What happened next was remarkable. Remember that at the beginning of our nation the settlers had all come to the new world in wooden ships, rode horses and oxen and plowed fields with wooden plows. This is just as it had been for the last 5000 years of humanity. But our new government led to the greatest expansion of human knowledge in technology ever. Soon American inventors had created new farming and harvesting systems, interchangeable parts in manufacturing and led the world into the industrial revolution. We continued to lead the way and introduced the assembly line, the mass-produced automobile and the airplane. What really happened can be summarized as this: from 1789 until 1969 (less than 200 years) man went from riding horses to walking on the moon. This was a 5000-year leap for mankind, courtesy of the good old U.S.A.



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All the while we had a stable government with the exception of the Civil War and the standard of living for Americans increased from generation to generation. This great system has been faltering as we have burdened it with an ever-increasing amount of socialism and redistribution of wealth starting with Social Security. Our once purring economy, quick growth and can do attitude as a leader in the world is dying on the vine, courtesy of the many social programs we have adopted. There is still so much knowledge and growth remaining for humanity to discover and unlock and the way I see it, the only known system that will spawn that growth was provided by our founding fathers. We must get back to our Constitutional Republic's roots; throw off this handicap caused by socialism and push forward.

I want to leave a nation in place that will have man colonizing Mars in 200 years and not struggling to return to the moon! So I say to our president and our congress, stop pulling our anchor off the balance point and stop attacking the chains that bind us there. Honor your oaths to uphold the Constitution and unfetter once again the industrious, innovative and hard working American citizens. We will then be able to grow out of our problems, pay off our debts and advance humanity for another 5000-year leap forward.

Eric Deaton



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