



## **Life, Flight and Liberty Part VIII**

**An essay by Henry Nicolle**

*Liberty Lost and Wyoming Pride for the Future*

At the very beginning of our Great American Experiment, two competing philosophies were envisioned to guide the emerging conditions for governance across our new country. Should governing sovereignty be the sole domain of the People of the new States? Or, should sovereignty devolve to the institutions that the People may create? Among the influential personalities of the late 18th century, Jefferson was an advocate of the former, while Hamilton promoted the latter.

Hamilton's view of America was eventual rule by an elite class at home and an independent central government which would create an imperial American State which would be esteemed and equal in the world community of governments. Hamilton's preferred governance was by an elite class who would rule and exploit the People.

The contrary view of Jefferson saw the future of America in the world's view as the sum of the character and achievements of all the individuals of America. Jefferson believed the People should rule themselves, guide, and control their governments.

The Hamiltonian ideal for America has been achieved beyond the imagination of any 18th century advocate for a powerful central government. Lincoln's betrayal terminated our voluntary union of independent States and imposed, by conquest, a new central government unencumbered by the demands and strictures of the obsolete Declaration of Independence or the irrelevant Constitution. The words are the same, but the music is different.

We have been born into this *fait accompli*. It is our "normal", and we have adopted the imaginary condition as irrevocable, "You can't fight city hall." We are wrong to accept that erroneous concept.

For example, our Boom and Bust economic roller coaster is not an unavoidable or inevitable economic condition, unless we continue to surrender our fate to exploitation by Federal honey-traps and external interests.

Our People in Rawlins and our sister communities of Carbon County possess the talent, skills, ambition and sense of self-determination required to build prosperity and security from within. We can break the Bust aspect at home and sever our dependence upon external "stakeholder" influences. We can create for ourselves a more level, continuing state of prosperity.

The processes and methods we could adopt will come from the energies and innovations already existing within our communities. We have the genius and the will. I think we need to start talking with each other. This is not a condition where we simply say, "Let George and Mary take care of this." It is for all of us to bring ideas forward and to consider those among our options.

It is important to remember and act on the fact that our elected representatives and the institutions we have created and support are administrative in nature and function. The folks we appoint to lead our administrations need us to provide their marching orders. We are the ones who decide our future. Our

elected, appointed and employed neighbors in government can then provide the ways and means to accomplish our instructions and goals. They develop plans and recommend funding. We then permit the routine details and retain our authority to approve or deny major elements of plans and financing by our voices and votes.

This is the way our representative government with limited democratic processes is supposed to work. However, it does not work to our benefit if we hesitate to engage in private conversations for community direction or when we neglect our duty to instruct our representatives. If we are silent, our votes lose their value

Far too often, we stay submerged in our own individual endeavors. We, rightfully, are more concerned with our own time, resources, family, and futures than in managing the conduct of our representatives and public servants. If we neglect our duty to instruct and discipline our representatives and institutions, we are irresponsible when we criticize their failures or fault the differences between what we think we expect of them and what they do.

Let me be not so hard in my observations! Much of this problem is the evolution of Hamilton's preference for governance by an elite class. We all understand that inactivity dulls the senses, slows the intellect, and weakens the body. Federal (central) government policies deliberately inculcate and promote our tendencies to avoid rational debate and personal participation in political affairs. The process begins before we enter the kindergarten phase of government schooling and continues relentlessly throughout our lives. The processes encourage habits of convenience and ignorance. We are forced to engage in conduct which is destructive of Liberty, but empowering for government. We accept this condition as "normal". We embrace our dissolution without examination or introspection.

Who can blame our error? It is our "normal". It is our modern heritage. It will consume our children and grandchildren unless we examine our opportunities and puzzle our way out of the velvet chains of indoctrination and habit.

"Government is a necessary evil." "Taxes are the cost of Liberty." "Forever war sustains our economy and preserves our democracy." Consider the source of these homilies. Governments, in particular the U.S. Federal Government, lie. They lie all the time. They lie even when the truth would serve them better. We believe them because that is the easy way, the convenient way. If we called the lies out, as a moral and practical People, we would be forced by conscience and practicality to do something about the Federal policies and practice of lies.

Doing something is inconvenient, difficult, time-consuming and often very dangerous. It is our modern habit to be passive, obedient, and submissive. We don't seek to make waves. We go along to get along.

What will we do today and tomorrow to secure our communities and restore a justifiable pride in our accomplishments? You have the answers. We have the opportunities. Let us talk!

Write! Your responses, our conversations and your contributions are the keys to our future. Please join the conversation. Agree, disagree, criticize, offer factual corrections, but Write! If you can write, compose thoughts, poetry, describe items of interest to you or your neighbors, please join me. We need writers and conversations if we are to guide our future. It is not formal. All I am asking is that you offer your thoughts on any subject that you choose. A dozen words, a paragraph, an essay, a poem, an observation, or a book. If you are better with verbal ideas, we can find a writer to partner with you for

transcription. Email or letters are fine. Join the conversation, Please!

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