



Life, Flight and Liberty - Part IV

An Essay by Henry Nicolle

Liberty, Responsibility and Government

Under central government, how are our debts made?

How are our bills paid?

Life in our moment of time, includes "government". We have been taught to surrender the responsibilities of individual choice and to commit our welfare to "government" expertise and expense.

Using medical care as a working example, what are our individual responsibilities in the absence of "government"? Biological processes dump some of us into life without survivability; others with unique levels of viability. It is a Bell Curve profile outlining preparedness for life.

While we live, we seek remedies and cures for our ailments and injuries. Left to our own resources, we will prevent what we can and self-repair and self-medicate as well as we are capable. When self-relief is inadvisable or not effective, we seek assistance from other humans with presumed experience and skill.

Voluntary assistance has value, whether successful as a remedy or not. We may receive assistance as humane, charitable gifts or we may expect to pay for professional services. There are few alternatives:

- We can pay for services as they are needed;
- We can accumulate the ability to pay for future services; or
- We can subscribe to insurance services which will provide payment for potential catastrophic medical care.

With this knowledge, we are then confronted with human "Should, Could and Would". Most of us should be aware of these payment prospects. Many, (but not all) could provide for actual and prospective payments. Most people opt for "pay as is needed", small amounts, usually. We do not anticipate major medical events and therefor, we do not make cash preparations for "potential" needs.

I am one of those last mentioned. My entire life has been free from conventional institutional medicine. Except for my Marine Corps induction physical, flight physical and two or three dental visits, I have not been inside a medical facility for treatment, ever! I had been very fortunate . . . until, that is, my recent \$90,000 heart attack.

That billing has provided this opportunity to explore with you, my readers, a half-century of effective Federal diversion of our Liberty, self-direction, and life product to resources for Federal central government ambition.

- Our governing principles have been abandoned and we have mostly not noticed, nor do we seem to care what we have become.
- Our technology has advanced logarithmically in many critical disciplines.
- The value of our common money (currency) has been deliberately and systematically destroyed.
- Our Federal legislative bodies have ceded our authority and powers to the Executive, Courts and regulatory institutions.
- Our military forces have been converted from contingency resources for defense of our land,

population, and commerce to abusive tools for empire.

- "Stakeholder" interests have become the primary drivers of internal Federal policies and social controls.

Each of those and many others affected the level of care I received; the circumstances of provision of care and the \$90,000 billing for those services. In our modern institutions, "Voluntary" is not a consideration.

People generally seek Liberty and convenience. Flexibility and voluntary cooperation in life are key elements for a flourishing community.

Governments on the other hand, in every instance seek to exclusively rule. Their demand, "Do as we say and give us your stuff." is non-negotiable. They claim that our submission and obedience are in the "Public Interest". The claim may be valid. It may not be. Whether or not the claim is valid, if people refuse to yield to those demands, our rulers' only tool for persuasion is coercion by violence, extending ultimately to lethal violence, when convenient.

For people and governments, life is not simple. Peace and prosperity in society for both demand cooperation. Governments cannot cooperate, they command.

As I proceed to comment further on the principles and failures of "The Great American Experiment", please understand that I appreciate the conveniences of organization. I like clean, always available water, electricity, effective and invisible sewer services, plentiful access to foods and consumables, entertainment, and accurate weather reports. I also appreciate contingency services that supplement prudent planning, such as fire response, security, emergency medical, dispute resolution, animal control, and dozens of other useful and convenient urban services.

My first observation is "Which of these conveniences are "need" (critically necessary) and which are "want" (convenient or useful)?" Second, "When is coercion and enforcement by violent methods justified in a free and self-governed society?"

We can provide all these benefits and conveniences successfully and efficiently with our own voluntary and cooperative resources. We have unwittingly abandoned any thought of that capability. We are dumped into life circumstances of the moment of our birth. The powers of our time dictate our individual life options.

If the moment provides the relative peace, security and prosperity of a free and cooperative society, we are fortunate. Merchant, farmer, doctor, lawyer, teacher, father, aunt, artist or lazy bum as we please and are capable of achievement. We have a mostly free choice.

If the moment provides an autocratic social structure featuring subjects, peonage or slavery, that will establish our individual life environment as master, slave, ruler, subject, merchant, worker, servant, all of our options are limited allowing only forced choices.

We, in America, are in an intermediate stage, well disposed to the latter. Every government ultimately succumbs to hubris and attempts to become the absolute ruler in every aspect of life within the community that it controls. It always ventures out to expand its power to influence other peoples and to dominate their governments.

Fortunately, whether by one person or by government, central control of a population always fails and people return to self direction and self-organizing life arrangements. This partially explains the adage, "All politics is local."

My following essays will delve into controversial history and perspectives. All of which aid in small, often indirect ways to explain the core elements that lead to prosperity and security or inevitable oblivion. Please add your thoughts and opinions to our conversation. We need conversation, not unilateral polemic.

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