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Part 1, Section 3
A More Perfect Union--
Americans Divided Against Each Other

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A More Perfect Union **United We Stand, Divided We Fall**

The First Principle in The *Preamble*: To Form a More Perfect Union

Let us start with the *Preamble* to the U.S. Constitution for the orientation of this essay.

We the People of the United States, **in Order to form a more perfect Union**, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the United States of America.

We see that the phrase, “*in Order to form a more perfect Union,*” is first in order of priority. What did the founders put it there? Without national union perfected by a solid legal foundation, all the other basic goals of the Constitution could not be accomplished. Citizens united under their greatest law, guided and ruled under it, cooperate in common purpose for all national purposes.

They understood the wisdom of the ancient on the importance of political unity within nations. Let us take a look at the things they knew.

A More Perfect Union: Grounded in Ancient Wisdom

In the Bible, one of the most infamous incidents of family and national disunity was when King David’s own son, Absalom, sought to take the throne from his father.

Absalom would get up early and stand by the entrance to the gate, and whenever a man had a suit to come before the king for judgment, Absalom would call out to him...”See, your claims are good and right; but you have nobody from the king to hear you.” Absalom would go on to say, “Oh, if only I were set up as judge in the land! Then any man with a case or a judgment could come to me, and I would see that he got justice!” Furthermore, whenever a man approached to prostrate himself before him, he would extend his hand, lift him up, and kiss him. Absalom acted like this for all the Israelites

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who were coming to the king for judgment, and so he stole away the loyalty of the men of Israel.¹

Absalom eventually was slain in a seditious insurrection, one of the most tragic stories in the Hebrew Bible of how one son's ego turned against his father for political power. We can see just from this story a direct parallel with political candidates who rail against existing office-holders, and who point to themselves as the solution for the people's problems. The history of politics is filled with political promises, firm handshakes, looks right in the eye, then treachery.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ was accused of sedition, of an alliance with the Devil giving him powers to cast out demons. He answered with words that have been cited in thousands of circumstances. *"If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot last, and if a household is divided against itself, that household cannot last."*²

His hearers knew precisely what he was saying, based on experience with real military armies, and their own homes. Unity in political realms meant strength. Unity in homes meant mutual protection. Disunity in both pointed to the likelihood of collapse over time.



In ancient Rome, *fasces* were a group of "rods bound in the form of a bundle and containing an axe (*securis*) in the middle, the iron of which projected from them."³ The rods represented the united power of individual Roman citizens. The axe represented

¹ 2 Samuel 15:1-6.

² The Gospel of Mark 3:24-25.

³ See "FASCES," in *Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities*, edited by William Smith (Harper & Brothers: NY, 1843; American edition revised by Charles Anthon), p. 431, Col. A.

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the power of the people, through the State, to carry out justice, and criminals sometimes were beheaded with that axe.⁴

The Roman *fasces* was known to our nation's founders, as is attested by its many appearances in monuments in Washington DC and even on our currency, illustrated by the obverse side of one of our dimes. Union with justice was a Roman principle they wanted enshrined in our national symbols.

Early in its history, the Roman Empire was united in its system of government. It eroded and declined from within through political corruption, loss of discipline through enormous wealth, and separation of the leaders from the interests of the Roman people.



Just before Benjamin Franklin signed the *Declaration of Independence*, he pointed out to others there what they were doing, what its cost might be to them, and what they had to do, as united patriots: "*We must, indeed, all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately.*"⁵

Franklin always had been a witty man, but his quip pointed out what all needed to weigh. Those undertaking the high-risk break with Britain he challenged to make a moral decision to "hang" together, which meant "stick together," regardless of what came. There was some force and a bit more safety in united numbers. Otherwise, Franklin said, the consequence of fragmentation would be *assuredly* death for all, one by one.

We are divided today, and we are hanging individually and as a nation. It's time to realize how serious things are, get out of our individual pain bubbles, grab our neighbors' hands, and begin pulling together. We're running out of time.

⁴ See "fasces," in *A Latin Dictionary*, edited by Charleton T. Lewis (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1980), pp. 726C–727A.

⁵ See this cited at <http://www.ushistory.org/valleyforge/history/franklin.html>.

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The state seal of the Commonwealth of Kentucky is “United We Stand, Divided We Fall.” This is the same principle Ben Franklin was talking about, the same one Jesus taught two thousand years before. This motto reflects the same truth we see in biology. Many animals stay together in packs or herds. Alone, they are vulnerable. Together, they pose a formidable force for each other and against enemies.

Divided We Fall:
Divisive Tactics By Media Personalities and Programs



Americans are divided by media personalities and programs. Everyone has their viewpoint, and mutual accusation, recrimination, blaming, are the norm in the United States of America. If all persons were obliged to stay with the facts, all of them, many people would be without employment. However, Americans always have loved to listen to people who feed their prejudices, and who support their favorite political parties.

The reality is that many of these media personalities are surrogates of political parties. They are close friends with politicians in either national political party. They themselves often are in communication with people in Washington, and sometimes actively are involved in plans as to “what ought to be said” about certain topics or issues.

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Is there anything really wrong with this? Apparently not, since this is a fairly universal phenomenon in all free nations. Everyone uses their “bully pulpit” for their own purposes, and to advance their own cause. Everyone uses just about any public outlet to get their message across. Using every means of influence is standard behavior and to be expected. American history is full of political fights, abuse, half-truths, and lies, so why should our age be any different?

America is unraveling. There are fewer and fewer things gluing us together now. When times are financially great, we tend to fight and go home to a good meal. Now the United States is in great peril, real danger, and what used to be entertainment now adds fuel to some really nasty fires. Media personalities and programs slinging hate, distrust, suspicion, are cancerous when an entire nation needs to be united.

Facing economic collapse means potential political collapse. Dictatorships—like that of Adolf Hitler—sometimes arise to unite people with promises of complete solutions, “if you only give us the legal power we need.” Millions of people living in fear will be open to people with smiling faces, great rhetoric, and simplistic solutions. No dictator ever is called a dictator prior to full political power being given. They always are called “saviors of the people” and populations believe them.

To even mention Hitler’s name seems extreme, reactionary, and completely unnecessary. Yet every revolution in history always has been seeded by extreme poverty, political injustice, and a tsunami of public unrest, fear, and hatred of the existing regimes. This is why the vitriolic language of our very worst media personalities and programs is so bad. They fuel the fires of public wrath, rather than public thinking, unity, and positive solutions to complex problems.

The old strategy “divide and conquer” is at work in some of these personalities and programs. Some politicians and political parties really do want more of the power they have, and they do not intend good for the American people. So while they all may quote the *Declaration of Independence* and other patriotic slogans, the moral corruption of our worst leaders must be feared when it combines with our deep national divisions against each other.

What can be done?

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In many areas of American life, there are federal laws to protect consumers. Marketing and advertising⁶ are regulated. The Federal Trade Commission prohibits dissemination of false advertisements,⁷ has injunctions and restraining orders against them,⁸ and penalties.⁹ Civil actions and civil investigative demands can be brought for violations of rules.¹⁰ The FTC has a “Policy Statement on Deception.”¹¹ There are claims available for weight loss¹² and for false representations in warranties.¹³ If readers will investigate every area where federal laws exist to protect against harm, this will require months to collect all the evidence.

The Federal Communications Commission issues licenses to use the public airwaves. If all media companies—including internet sites—were required to support all statements with fact-based, non-partisan data, *or else face civil actions in court for damages*, this would be one good step in the right direction.

We know that lies and half-truths harm people buying products. Lies and half-truths to put corrupt people into public office have harmed our nation, once they gained political power to pass laws. Americans should demand higher standards for political speech than they do for food, drugs, and even banking and financial contract disclosures. Moral corruption in Congress, the White House, and the federal judiciary, ultimately may kill our constitutional democracy.

⁶ See “Legal Resources,” Bureau of Consumer Protection, found at <http://business.ftc.gov/legal-resources/1/33>.

⁷ See U.S. Code, Title 15, Ch. 2, Subchapter 1, Section 52, “Dissemination of False Advertisements,” found at http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/15/usc_sec_15_0000052----000-.html.

⁸ See U.S. Code, Title 15, Ch. 2, Subchapter 1, Section 53, “False Advertisements; Injunctions and Restraining Orders,” found at http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/15/usc_sec_15_0000053----000-.html.

⁹ See U.S. Code, Title 15, Ch. 2, Subchapter 1, Section 54, “False Advertisements; Penalties,” found at http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/15/usc_sec_15_0000054----000-.html.

¹⁰ See U.S. Code, Title 15, Ch. 2, Subchapter 1, Section 57b, “Civil Actions for Violations of Rules and Cease and Desist Orders Respecting Unfair or Deceptive Acts or Practices,” and Section 57b-1, “Civil Investigative Demands,” found at http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/15/usc_sup_01_15_10_2_20_1.html.

¹¹ See the official policy letter from James C. Miller III to John D. Dingell (14 Oct 1983), “FTC Policy Statement on Deception,” found at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/policystmt/ad-decept.htm>.

¹² See “A Reference Guide for Media on Bogus Weight Loss Claim Detection,” Bureau of Consumer Protection, found at <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/redflag/>

¹³ See “A Businessperson’s Guide to Federal Warranty Law,” Bureau of Consumer Protection, found at <http://business.ftc.gov/documents/bus01-businesspersons-guide-federal-warranty-law>.

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Outrageous and bold lies used on the media clearly are intended to create public unrest and disturbance, and they do. So there also is a seditious aspect to the very worst in our public media.

Divided We Fall:
Divorce As Behavioral Conditioning For Division

Quite literally, and no one will question this, tens, hundreds of millions of Americans are divided against each other *among themselves in their homes*. For the ones with good jobs, they still are divided against each other with competing careers, deciding on the latest thing to buy, and seeing if they have openings in their schedules for “quality time.” Then there are the many more millions now jobless, on unemployment, or now on their own with it exhausted, who are turning against each other like rats. Some spouses, parents, children, and grandchildren, are behaving in ways they never thought they would back when things were great.

One of the greatest causes of a divided political America today is that we are a nation of divided families. If our personal lives are fragmented and shattered, how can we cooperate with neighbors and nation to unite to solve problems—even if they threaten to destroy our families even more?

This section will discuss two aspects of our family fragmentation: (1) how we are crippled as individuals by behavioral modification on how we see the sources of happiness and (2) how our divorce rate affects our children’s emotional development, which additionally cripples them as members of our society.

Divided We Fall:
Divorce and Damaged Citizens



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One website reports that the American divorce rate for the first marriage is 40%; the second, 60%; and, the third, 73%.¹⁴ Divorce now is as normal a phenomenon as marriage in American life. Some younger couples entering marriage for the first time sometimes joke in marriage announcements, or during marriage toasts, regarding questions as to how long the marriage will last. Prenuptial agreements are common for first-time marriages, and automatic conversation for second or later serial marriages.

Several generations ago, divorce was discouraged by the teachings of all religious communities that marriage was a divinely-instituted covenant between two people. In early America, when husbands and wives depended heavily on each other as they cut out lives together from forests, mountains, and prairies; helping feed each other; uniting in common defense against dangers and disease; marriage also represented an official contract and commitment between couples working together their common life goals.

When children came along, spouses, even ones very unhappy with their choices (sometimes made from necessity) for mates, typically remained together to love their offspring. There is a biological aspect to this. Attachment to children often has led to many personal sacrifices, including giving up dreams of personal happiness, to provide the children a home with two parents.

Divorce has grown over the past forty years for many reasons, but here are two. (1) Affluence gave “options to leave at will if things did not work out.” (2) Divorce began to be seen as one more exercise of “personal freedom” when needed, for any personal reason given by those who filed for it.

For a long time, we have had “no fault” divorce, and marriages “irretrievably broken.” Married persons surely find comfort in these words when they consider divorce, and when they hear their attorneys say them to family court judges. Yet both universal phrases simply are complete lies. There always are two people at fault. Nothing ever is irretrievably broken, so long as the parties are alive to resolve to do something else.

American adults cry foul against their politicians for making campaign promises, then breaking them once in office. What utter absurdity, when these same adult citizens

¹⁴ See <http://www.divorcerate.org/>. This data was downloaded on September 4, 2011, and may be different at a later time.

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sometimes have not hesitated, or not long, to break their vow of marital fidelity to their wife or husband, the mother or father to precious little ones. Political candidates make promises to *strangers*, not spouses, yet we hold them to some higher standard than we do ourselves on the most precious commitment of all. Such hypocrites we are, to accept an invitation to harm our children, for whatever pleasures we gain, or whatever pains we imagine we save with infidelity.

Divided We Fall:
Divided Inside Ourselves

Quite literally, millions of American individuals are divided *within themselves*. As mammals, as members of our species, they were born to be loved as babies, children and, in fact, all the way through life. Yet millions of Americans, for whatever reasons are part and parcel of living in the United States of America, never were loved well, loved in healthy ways, and some, never were loved at all.

There are American citizens who stay in conflict with others—who identify with a combative political party--because their emotional development was arrested. They cannot love others any better than they love themselves. They cannot trust any better than the fundamental betrayals and distrust they have experienced. They cannot tell the whole truth about anything, if they never learned what the truth was, or how to be accountable to it.

Let us think more about the children of divorce. From the same internet source, <http://www.divorcerate.org/>, here are reports by children of their ages when divorces occurred in their families.

Age	Women	Men
Under 20 years old	27.6%	11.7%
20 to 24 years old	36.6%	38.8%
25 to 29 years old	16.4%	22.3%
30 to 34 years old	8.5%	11.6%
35 to 39 years old	5.1%	6.5%

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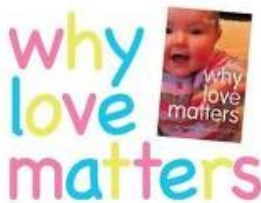
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Regardless of age, what do children learn from divorce? If they were being beaten each week, then divorce meant safety. Yet most “no fault” divorces are based on one or both parents choosing a quicker solution to quit and divide, rather than a longer solution to work and stay united. American children learn from these life traumas what they will carry into their citizenship for life.

- Blame, not self-examination
- Distortion of others’ acts, not fair statements
- Putting their acts in the best light
- Grudges, not forgiveness
- Unwillingness to cooperate or collaborate
- Inflicting punishment and harm
- Lying
- Creating long-term narratives of excuse
- Refusal to admit responsibility
- Manipulating alliances with others for support
- Ends justify the means

There is, however, a far deeper problem to divorce than *behavioral learning*. Nearly all Americans do not know that babies and young children need love *in order for their brains to grow and mature into healthy adults*.



In 2004, Sue Gerhardt, a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in England, wrote the book pictured above, *Why Love Matters: How Affection Shapes a Baby's Brain*. This wonderful author, who is a bona fide expert in psychiatry, made clear and accessible to average readers the *biological and neurological facts* many of us know by instinct. Let us think a little about what we know already, without reading a psychiatrist.

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We have our own memories. If we grew up in a healthy and united home, most of us still have some memories of feelings of worry and uncertainty as children. You know your life experience. Some of us did not do well in school, did not or do not get along well with others, because of our family experiences, and memories of parental betrayals.

Gerhardt's fine book goes deeper and tells the story, in understandable language, of how babies' brains are permanently affected by love, its sufficiency, its insufficiency, or its absence. The facts are fearful, indeed, for people who see domestic instability or conflicts, or "no fault" divorce, as merely adult problems to be resolved in whatever ways adults see fit. The following quote is near the end of Gerhardt's book, as she points out the social consequences of children who did not experience natural biologically needed love, and who grow up to be adolescents and finally adults.

If we continue to insist on the primacy of production, drawing all adults including the parents of young children relentlessly into the pursuit of material goals and careers, then we have to bear the emotional fall-out. Without sensitive adults to protect their developing nervous systems, enabling children to develop into emotionally robust adults capable of meeting challenges and sustaining relationships, there is a price to pay. These problems have huge social impacts and generate huge costs.

The bill for antidepressants alone is over £239 million in England. But politicians, like doctors, tend to respond to symptoms. When faced with the antisocial activities of young men or the depression of young women, it is understandable to look for ways of stopping these behaviors and alleviating distress....

As well as looking into the future, we must also consider the legacy of inadequate care that tends to repeat itself down the generations..... Those who have grown up with difficulties in managing stress because of their own early experiences are not necessarily going to treat their own children very differently even if they do feel more supported by the wider community....

The evidence I have presented in this book makes it imperative, I believe, that we do something. The babies who are born now and in the years to come will be the adults who nurse us in old age, who manage our industry, who entertain us, who live next door. What kind of adults will they be? Will they be emotionally balanced enough to contribute their talents, or will they be disabled by hidden sensitivities? Their early start, and the

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degree to which they felt loved and valued, will surely play an important part in determining that.¹⁵

Surely to Gehrhardt's list of questions we Americans must add this, "What kinds of adults will babies unloved grow up to be who become our highest politicians?"



In August, 2011, thousands of British youth, and adults, began rioting, burning, robbing, and destroying, not just in one location where a single young man was killed by police, but all over the nation. Americans who listened to British Broadcasting Corporation newscasts and discussion programs heard police, youth, and sociologists, trying to piece together why such widespread, wild behaviors were occurring.

They came to the conclusion that British society is at a crossroads, with all former traditions of self-control and civility either at high risk, or gone in current generations. Surely there were millions of Americans listening and thinking the same thing as this writer. *We already are where Britain is, but the match has not been struck.*

Concerning the harms of divorce in America on children, the damage already has been done now for generations. We have adults of all ages who are under many prescription drugs for depression and other emotional disorders. Some persons with these conditions had bad experiences in their homes as children. Some never had experiences they were unconditionally loved by both parents. Some never had a youth where betrayal and manipulation were not present.

We have millions of adults of all ages who bring their childhood experiences into their marriages, parenting, workplaces and, yes, right into the highest offices in America. Let

¹⁵ Sue Gerhardt, *Why Love Matters: How Affection Shapes a Baby's Brain* (Brunner-Routledge: Hove, England), pp. 217-218.

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us look now at our political candidates, incumbents, and all those who help them get into office. Some use methods they learned as children. Some use methods they learned simply for power and greed.

**Divided We Fall:
Divisive Actions By Congresses, Supreme Court Majorities, and Presidents**

Millions of Americans are divided by some actions of past and present Congresses, U.S. Supreme Court majorities, and Presidents. Tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy, deregulation of banking and finance, the interruption of a presidential election (Gore-Bush), and the pardon of a resigned President under impeachment, and likely, developing criminal charges (Nixon), have divided Americans today and in the past.

It is appropriate to put these hotly contested actions within a legal, not political, context. It is believed that the following exercise—observing the laws against *sedition* and *seditionous conspiracy* appearing in the U.S. Code of federal law, then asking some hypothetical questions—is healthy.

Critical words and phrases are put in *italics* and ***bold italics*** in these laws, to draw attention for the following discussion. There also are provided some *legal definitions* of critical words, since attorneys arguing in federal court use these, and case law.

SEDITION

- (1) intent to usurp or override lawful military authority, refuses, in concert with any other person, to obey orders or otherwise do his duty or creates any violence or disturbance is guilty of mutiny;
- (2) ***intent to cause the overthrow or destruction of lawful civil authority, creates, in concert with any other person, revolt, violence, or other disturbance against that authority is guilty of sedition;***
- (3) fails to do his utmost to prevent and suppress a mutiny or sedition being committed in his presence, or fails to take all reasonable means to inform his superior commissioned officer or commanding officer of a mutiny or sedition which he knows or has reason to believe is taking place, is guilty of a failure to suppress or report a mutiny or sedition.¹⁶

¹⁶ U.S. Code, Title 10, Subtitle A, Part 2, Chapter 47, Subchapter 10, Section 894, Article 94, "Mutiny or sedition," found at http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/10/usc_sec_10_0000894----000-.html

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COMMENTARY

Let us consider this felony, and include legal definitions of the terms. Attorneys do not use popular, common sense definitions in court. They follow legal definitions and case law.

(1) **Sedition includes “intent to cause destruction of civil authority.”** One of the major *legal* definitions of destruction is “generally in connection with *waste*.”¹⁷ Therefore, the law states that sedition intent to cause waste of civil authority.

Is there any reader doubting that political parties have demonstrated for decades they have destroyed—wasted—the original Constitutional purposes of their precious civil authority granted to them by American voters? Their intent is revealed by their actions.

(2) **Sedition includes “creating in concert with others...violence.”** Now quite oThe *legal* definition of violence includes “unjust or unwarranted exercise of force, usually with the accompaniment of vehemence, outrage or fury...abuse of force...force which is employed against common right, against the laws, and against public liberty.”¹⁸ The *legal* definition of force is important—if we are to understand its “unjust, unwarranted, abuse.”

...power dynamically considered, that is, in motion or action; constraining power, compulsion; **strength directed to an end**...usually the word occurs in such connections as to show that unlawful or wrongful action is meant....power statically considered; that is at rest, or latent, but **capable of being called into activity upon occasion for its exercise**....¹⁹

Political parties create violence, legally defined, through the unjust use of their force—their delegated legal offices of authority—which is, again legally defined, their “strength directed” to their own ends, and the ends of their corporate sponsors. They use their force, their power, whenever it suits their political ends. We know they create violence because the public is outraged and furious.

¹⁷ See “Destruction,” p. 535, Cols. A-B.

¹⁸ See “Violence,” p. 1742, Col. A.

¹⁹ See “Force,” pp. 773B-774A.

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(3) **Sedition includes “creating in concert with others...disturbance against civil authority.”** The civil authority includes duly elected members of Congress, Presidents, members of the federal judiciary, and all branches of the military. The *legal* definition of disturbance is important also to quote.

...**any act causing** annoyance, disquiet, agitation, or derangement to another, or interrupting his peace, **or interfering with** him in the pursuit of a lawful and appropriate occupation **or contrary to** the usages of a sort of meeting and class of persons **assembled that interferes with its due progress or irritates the assembly in whole or in part...**²⁰

Our worst, most corrupt politicians and their political parties create disturbances against sitting civil authorities in the other political party. They annoy, disquiet, agitate, interrupt the peace, and interfere with members of the opposite political party in the pursuit of their lawful and appropriate occupation. We call this “gridlock,” but it is direct interference with members of Congress, and many others in federal offices, in the course of serving the American people. Notice that this disturbance “irritates the assembly in whole and in part.”

Though this felony appears in the federal code for military persons, its principles apply to what we see in the operations of Congress with some members opposing others for seditious purposes. Those using these principles are trying—and succeeding—in destroying civil authority, in the strict legal sense, which is *waste*.

SEDITIONOUS CONSPIRACY

If two or more persons in any State or Territory, or in any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, **conspire** to overthrow, put down, or to destroy by force the Government of the United States, or to levy war against them, *or to oppose by force the authority thereof, or by force to prevent, hinder, or delay the execution of any law of the United States*, or by force to seize, take, or possess any property of the United States contrary to the authority thereof, they shall each be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.²¹

COMMENTARY

²⁰ See “Disturbance,” p. 563, Col. B.

²¹ U.S. Code, Title 18, Chapter 115, Section 2384, “Seditious conspiracy,” found at http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/html/uscode18/usc_sec_18_00002384----000-.html.

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First we need to consider the *legal* definition of conspiracy. Everything else hinges on this concept.

“combination or confederacy between two or persons formed for the purpose of committing, by their joint efforts, some unlawful or criminal act, **or some act which is innocent in itself**, but becomes unlawful when done by the concerted action of the conspirators, **or for the purpose of using criminal or unlawful means to the commission of an act not in itself unlawful**”²²

Notice that conspiracy can be an act “innocent in itself” or an act “not in itself unlawful.” Yet what make these innocent or lawful acts illegal and conspiratorial are (1) when done in concert, or in a group, and (2) when criminal or illegal means are used to commit the act. What would be examples of conspiracy?

If a group in Congress conspired and passed a statute that makes conviction of bribery more difficult, that would appear to be conspiracy. If a group in Congress conspired and passed a statute that legally, but practically defrauded, the U.S. Treasury of taxes due, that would appear to be conspiracy. Now let us look only at the **emboldened** part of the law against seditious conspiracy.

Seditious conspiracy includes “conspiring...by force to prevent, hinder, or delay the execution of any law of the United States.”

Readers first should consult the *legal* definition of the use of “force” discussed above under sedition. To “destroy by force” the government of the United States can be to use “strength directed to an end...to interfere with progress...irritating the assembly.” Now let us look at examples of how seditious conspiracy could have been at work in some major events in U.S. history.

Tax Breaks for Corporations and Wealthy Americans. If members of one or more political parties, members of Congress, privately planned to give preferential tax breaks to corporations, or themselves as wealthy persons benefitted by those breaks, then used their force (votes) to pass laws, effectively threatening the collapse of the U.S.

²² See “Conspiracy,” p. 382, Col. B.

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A More Perfect Union--
Americans Divided Against Each Other

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Treasury they already knew factually was in deep deficit status, would this be seditious conspiracy?

Deregulation of Banking and Finance Laws. If members of one or more political parties, members of Congress, privately planned to remove or liberalize laws that prevented financial harms to the American electorate, in order to benefit corporate sponsors aiding their election, or in order to profit from shares they held in corporations affected by their revised legislation, passed the deregulations, harmed the electorate, created domestic unrest and disturbances, and also profited—publicly or unknown to the public—would this be seditious conspiracy?

Election of a President. If a Supreme Court majority, all members of one political party, privately planned to stop a constitutional process in progress, the election of a President, a process with regulated checks and balances, such as recounts—to award a presidency to a member of their own political party responsible for their life appointments—then issued a legal majority opinion that achieved those purposes, effectively overthrowing the will of the people in process, yet still using their legal force to disenfranchise the Constitution, would this be seditious conspiracy against the constitutional provisions for how legally valid U.S. government was instituted?

Pardon of a President. If a President, Gerald R. Ford, privately planned with others to stop a constitutional process in progress--an impeachment--and ongoing investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other agencies, *which had evidence of conspiracy and other felonies against a presidential predecessor of the same political party*, and then that President used his force, his constitutional presidential pardon authority, to grant a blanket pardon for “any and all crimes that *may have been* committed” by his predecessor, would this be seditious conspiracy against the constitutional provisions and ongoing processes in the U.S. Constitution and its duly instituted, sitting members of Congress, and officials in the DOJ, FBI, and other federal agencies?

CONCLUSIONS

Most Americans do not even know what the word, “sedition,” means. They do believe that their politicians and political parties plot for power. They do know what they have experienced in their lifetimes. They know the frustration and anger they feel at the

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growing sense of separation from their government. And we have some citizens so frustrated and alienated surely feel seditious, though they do now know the legal definition.

So what is to be done? Can anything be done? Without any doubt, one thing could be done.

There needs to be a Constitutional Amendment giving the U.S. Department of Justice complete surveillance authority of all government officials spaces, all public and private phones, all emails, and all communications while they are in office. All federal employees swear allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, so should have no problem with all their communications while in office, if all are legal.

The Patriot Act gives complete surveillance authority against terrorism, and requires no subpoena, for all U.S. citizens. Why should our highest authorities—who hold the highest legal power in the land, who regularly associate with the most powerful people in the world, who have the greatest temptations to abuse power affecting millions and millions, not only in the U.S. but around the world—*not also allow themselves to have the highest levels of DOJ and FBI surveillance?*

The reader should see the document, “Suggested Amendments to the U.S. Constitution for Members of Congress” and also “Suggested Amendments for Federal Employees.”

United We Stand:
Make Your Decision Today

We are divided. We are falling. No one questions this. The question is, what will you do? What will you do as a member of your family? Will you continue to just listen to the news and all the confusion and running in so many aimless directions others are doing, or work today to make things better?

Stop feeding on the divisions in our nation. Start today to work by pulling yourself together. Everything you say and do today can be constructive. Start with the members of your own family. Say a word of goodness to your neighbors and strangers you meet. Start today to form a discussion group in your home, apartment, or your

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homeless shelter, if that's where you live. You're the only one who can start *living united* today.

Are you satisfied with living divided against yourself, your family, your community, and your nation? It's difficult to believe you are. Stop falling, and start rising.



You have looked at hot coals in a cooking grill. So long as those coals are close together, they burn hot. Yet if you pull one of those coals from the fire, it will lose its ability to keep burning, and will die.

When people live separate lives without depending on each other, they do the same. If your family is falling apart, it is because the members are living as if they are not family. You can correct that, if you start today and address it. Beg them all to sit down and have a family meeting. Bring the coals together and talk about how you need them, and they need you. It might be a good thing to pray before you do this and bring God in on the process.

You might consider becoming a *magnetic coal*. We have plenty of politicians, corporations, and others, who are dividing us against each other. We need American who see their purpose in pulling people together to add fuel to the fire for change. In order to be a "magnetic coal," you need more love in you to be attractive to others. Pull other into your life. When you see someone discouraged and down, extend some love to them. Only you know what to do, and you can do it.

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Our founders knew the fires of patriotism only would burn brightly and hot when American citizens united together under their constitutional democracy. United we stand, divided we fall.

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If you wish to make a financial contribution to get this and other essays published before the American people, please send me an email. We will make that happen. Regardless of that, may God bless you and your family, and our faltering nation, which has so many millions of good, honorable, and honest people.