



excerpt

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Observations

By Lee Gottlieb

THE TWO DIVINE CURSES

I have often been asked to give a simple explanation of my book *The Education of Lee Gottlieb: A Plea For Direct Democracy*. I've also been asked to name what I believe the single, most important problem facing common, working Americans in their quest to create a better country. I can't.

Our problems are complex, interrelated, and not quickly explainable. They are, however, quickly solvable. That is, if all of us had the same life experiences and believed in the same truths. Which we don't.

Perhaps, the best way to explain the real problems confronting American commoners, is not to name or define them, but to give the two reasons why I believe we common Americans haven't solved them for the past two hundred years, and why we probably never will. I call these reasons the "Two Divine Curses," for if a supernatural God has created us, then it is he-she-it who has bestowed upon us these two debilitating curses.

The first reason we haven't solved our problems is because we haven't tried to solve them; we are too timid. We lack confidence in self.

We expect other people to solve

them for us. Most of us refrain from political office, seeking "leaders" to do the thinking and the hard work for us. Therefore, we don't participate in making laws or setting government policy affecting our lives. We merely vote in popularity contests to see who will make the laws and policies. Nor do we discuss our problems in public forums. We watch and listen to other people discuss them on TV and radio programs. People who, for the most part, aren't commoners possessing our problems and our frustrations.

What I'm talking about is the lack of true participation in the political process by the masses of Americans, most of whom are common working citizens. What I'm talking about is the absence of true public discussion concerning the true social problems of our country, such as the acquisition of the nation's natural and productive resources by so few American families and the ways this power is abused.

What I'm talking about is the fatalistic resignation of so many Americans that things will never change, because human nature is as it is, and the ridiculous notion that all the "other" commoners are too stupid to be allowed to participate in government. Despite these "other" people creating and maintaining hundreds of thousands—if not millions—of social organizations.

What I'm talking about is the foolish attitude that "politics" is a

waste of time because it has nothing to do with real life, when it has everything to do with real life. It has to do with how little an employer can pay you for an hour's labor; how much a producer or seller can overcharge you for shoddy wares; how much politicians can take away from you by taxation, and whether or not some Americans can send you off to die in unwanted and unnecessary wars.

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social groups that we don't join and actively support nonconformist groups which actively express our unspoken thoughts and feelings; so we have thrown in the towel, quit the political system, and make no attempt to improve the ills of our society.

What I'm talking about is how some political representatives—those few who really care—have stopped trying to help us because we don't support them when they attempt to buck the System and badly need our support.

As a consequence, unregulated political power combined with unregulated economic greed has

corrupted the entire American System to favor *special* interests, as opposed to the *public* interest. So the public treasury—which is nothing more than the taxed earnings of hard-working commoners—is regularly siphoned into the pockets of private interests, and unavailable for underfunded *social* needs.

I'm not saying that some of us don't actively protest one or another social problem. And I don't mean that improvements haven't been made because of such protests. But the harsh reality is that if the country belongs to the people—all of the people—why are 40 million Americans poor and deprived of the good things this country has to offer?

Why is this great prosperity our politicians boast about not available to them? Why are they deprived of the good things the country has to offer? Why is it we commoners have to beg our political leaders to correct our social ills? And why is our begging usually ignored?

The sad fact, however, is most American children don't seem to want to know about the past. Why not?

Is it because the privileged people who rule this country feel that common people are truly stupid and can be ignored, as the privileged classes have done throughout human history? Is it truly because we commoners aren't smart enough to understand that prejudice, poverty, and war are created by people, not by nature, and therefore people can eradicate them?

Is it truly because we can't understand that the social problems

we face this year were created yesteryear, and that learning how and why these conditions were created might point us in the right direction to eliminate them?

I don't believe stupidity plays a part in this, despite what the historical records imply, and what privileged people believe. I believe it is human timidity *plus* a lack of self-confidence that is responsible for the so-called apathy of the masses. I believe that, more than any other causes, it is the misinformation and pseudo "education" provided by our major social institutions which are responsible for the horrendous ignorance of the American people.

We common working Americans are not stupid, but *unknowing*. We don't know the things we should know, partially because our rulers don't want us to know what they know and have always told us lies and half truths, and partially because we accept *their* system of education for our children without an understanding what an "essential" education for all children should be.

Most common Americans know little of our country's history, other what was learned from high school history books, and film and television presentations. All of which are biased, boring, and censored of information essential to the education of children?

The sad fact, however, is most American children don't seem to want to know about the past. Why not? What has happened to the inborn curiosity of the human animal?

A fulfilled curiosity of the past reveals many unexpected truths. For instance: some common Americans blithely speak of taking

back the country from the special interests. But the records of the past reveal it has never been *ours* to take back. The country has *always* belonged to the special interests. From passage of the constitution until this very day, it's belonged to *privileged* Americans, not *common* Americans.

The records reveal that to avoid the possibility of having to share their wealth or power with less affluent and less knowledgeable common Americans, privileged Americans of 1787 used their command of words to draw up a document which seemed to offer democracy to the common masses, but which entrenched the existing power groups more securely.

Devices were built into the Constitution of the United States which have not only made it difficult for common Americans to participate in government throughout the years, but have made it almost impossible for them to gain political power.

Which is why most commoners have not helped to administer government, nor taken steps to guarantee that it is honestly administered, nor served in Congress or state legislatures, nor made efforts to guarantee that all laws are fair to all.

This lack of social responsibility could never exist in a true, working democracy.

Most commoners of today don't know that until the advent of World War II, the history of our republic had been nothing more than an open book of class oppression. A story of privileged citizens utilizing their superior education and command of words to deceive common citizens. A textbook example of a pseudo-democratic

society in which privileged citizens used the legal and military forces of their government to suppress and deny the needs and wants of common citizens. Just like in totalitarian countries.

For more than 150 years the Republican party has been the unabashed representative of this privileged class. Anti-commoner. Anti justice. Anti-welfare. Other than black Americans, who mistakenly believed the Civil War was fought to free them from the oppressiveness of southern slavery, most common American workers and farmers joined the Democratic party or, recognizing its deficiencies, formed third parties. Never did they consider supporting the Republican party, which they recognized as the enemy.

However, since end of World War II, in 1945, many young working Americans have not only joined the Republican party, but actively support and promote it. Why? Because they are ignorant of history. Because they wish to be members of the winning groups of our society, and not the losing groups. Because they have been taken in by the unusually long postwar economic prosperity without questioning its validity or honesty; believing Establishment propaganda that debt equals prosperity; ignoring the occasional glimpse of poverty and desperation peeking through the opaque curtain created by the mass media.

It's going to take drastic measures to solve our problems quickly, and we *must* do it quickly because our freedoms are slowly but surely being removed from us. We must change our political system from pseudo-democracy to a true democracy; from a *representative* democ-

racy to a *participatory*, or *direct*, democracy. Today we have the technologies that makes such a change feasible and workable. We should give it serious consideration.

Such are the *Two Divine Curses* of humanity; the two reasons common Americans can not solve their problems. It's why most of us cannot clearly see that it's good old fashioned class oppression that lies at the heart of our social problems.

If you want to understand the possible benefits of a theoretical participatory democracy, download the book *The Education of Lee Gottlieb* and read Chapter X, "Gottlieb's World."

If you want to know more about what we humans really are, as opposed to what we believe we are, read Chapter II, "The Malfunctioning Animal." Go ahead, download it now. Who knows, once you start you might want to read the entire book.

WELCOME, BIG BROTHER

He's finally arrived. No fanfare. No press interviews. No gathering of friends and family. And although he's been travelling for many years to get here, and many knowledgeable people have alerted us of his coming in their novels and movies, we haven't believed he would ever visit us. Not us!

We're the freest, friendliest, most peaceful, democracy-loving people on planet Earth. He couldn't possibly visit us, no less

set up operations here. He knows he's not welcome. Or at least, until recently, it was taken for granted he wasn't welcome.

But we have been naively mistaken. Big Brother is here; embedded in the very fabric of the American System. He's everywhere, and knows almost every

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thing there is to know about us. Each and every one of us. He knows where we live and how much we owe on the mortgage. He knows what we drive and how much into debt we're willing to go to drive it. He knows what we eat, what we drink, and what we wear. He knows if we're healthy or sick, and what our illnesses are. And thanks to the miracle of electronics and the marvel called the "Internet," he now knows many of our most intimate and personal secrets, for we innocently and foolishly give them to him.

His spys are everywhere. He has government spy agencies, military spy agencies, private spy agencies, and spy agencies within spy agencies. All spying upon us; detailing our individual strengths and weaknesses, determining the level of threat we might make to his reign. And now that he has established control of the American System, he and his cohorts are in the process of creating a global surveillance network to spy upon all citizens of planet Earth.

In 1949, British author, George Orwell in his book titled, *1984*,

warned working commoners of the dangerous consequences of electronic surveillance. He warned of the oppressive society that would follow. Working American commoners naively chuckled at the thought, and went on their merry

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way.

Today, not only do we have “official” surveillance cameras in banks and government buildings, but they’re on key traffic intersections; in sports arenas, and in public schools spying upon our children. Soon our political leaders will give us their reasons for putting these electronic spies everywhere else. And we will docilely allow it.

With the easy availability of surveillance gadgets in local “spy stores,” we private citizens are being enticed into spying on our neighbors. And when that neighbor commits an act Big Brother has labeled a “crime,” which one of us righteous citizens will turn our neighbor in to the authorities? Which one of us would dare not?

How pervasive is spying?

Once upon a time, within the Los Angeles Police Department, there was a secret agency called the “Organized Crime Intelligence Committee” (OCID). The agency used high tech electronics to illegally spy on movie stars and political figures. Were these public figures suspected of criminal activity? No. The law enforcement people merely wanted to know about the private, sexual lives of important people.

In 1994, after three years of fear tactics and political pressure, the FBI was successful in having a bill passed requiring all future telephone hardware to be designed with “wiretap ready” features allowing law enforcement agents to eavesdrop on any phone in the country—without the subject’s awareness.

Newspapers recently reported Big Brother’s new surveillance system called “Echelon.” It’s a system with the capability of intercepting 3 billion messages every day. *3 billion!* This includes phone calls, fax messages, satellite transmissions, e-mail and other internet transmissions. Presumably, the Echelon Network is administered by the spy agencies of the United States, England, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. *But who regulates and controls these spy agencies and why must they spy?*

These examples are direct assaults upon the First Amendment to our constitution which guarantee common Americans that there will be no law abridging freedom of speech or the press. How many of us will say the things we normally say to friends by phone or fax, if we know conversations are no longer private?

Historically, spy agencies have been the mark of totalitarian governments: dictatorships and monarchies, not free and open social systems claiming to be democratic. They’ve been the defensive techniques of people afraid of losing their power; people who wish to know what their enemies, or potential enemies, are planning.

The most important question we common working Americans

should be asking is, “can we really be a free people if some Americans possess the power and legal authority to spy upon the rest of us?”

Add that to the other questions we should have been asking ourselves for many years, “can we truly be a free people, if only some Americans have the power to say what is, or what isn’t, a crime?” “Can we really be a free people, if only some Americans have the power to send the rest of us off to die in wars which they start—and which we believe wrong—and to which we don’t want to go?”

If you don’t believe there’s anything wrong with these sneaky intrusions into your private life, that they are merely additional necessary steps the government is taking to “protect the safety of American citizens,” then think about these facts also. There’s a greater proportion of American citizens labeled “criminals” than citizens of any other nation on Earth. There are more American citizens behind bars than are citizens of all European countries combined. There are more prisons being built in the United States—at a more frantic pace—than in all other countries of Earth combined.

The term “metamorphose” as used by Active Humanists has two meanings. It first refers to the transformation of a human child from an ignorant infant to an educated, mature, caring adult.

It also refers to the evolution of a society from one governed and driven by the selfish desires of its powerful citizens, and biased against the common working masses, to a more caring society governed by all citizens, and sensitive to the needs of all.

Put these truths together, and what kind of picture of the great American System do you see? Can you really believe that *Americans* are more prone to criminal activity than any other Earth people? Can you really believe that what we need in this country is more prisons? More executions? Greater police authority? Perhaps more weapons out on the street?

Doesn't it make you wonder what the people who control the country are really like? What their goals and objectives really are? It should!

The time for common working Americans, to rethink their relationship with the American System is long overdue. It's time to break the Establishment's grip on our political process by electing a man to the presidency who isn't hog tied to the Establishment. And the only one of the three candidates who isn't is the Green party's candidate, Ralph Nader.

Let's all of us working class citizens unite to elect Mr. Nader, president. And then let's give him our active support against the two political machines to guarantee his vision of a fairer country be given a fair chance to become reality. Let's see if we can drive Big Brother out of our lives!

IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH!

It seems like a clear enough statement. It's not difficult to understand the concept that a group of people working together towards the same objective gives them a greater force than if they tried to accomplish the same goal individually and uncoordinated.

Yet, why can't we common

American workers understand it?

If our political system is dependent upon the vote—and it is. And if we common working Americans have the vote—and we still do.

And if there are so many more of us than there are of the privileged Americans who deprive us of our needs and wants—and there are. Then why don't we unite to change the American system to one more receptive to our needs and wants?

Why do we continue to allow these people to restrict the value of our lives to a handful of dollars per hour while their lives are sometimes valued at hundreds of dollars per minute? Do they work harder than we do? Do they put in more hours per day on the job? Do they deserve a better life-style than we do? Are they truly superior people? Are we truly inferior?

I'll answer the last question for you. In a very real sense we, working-class Americans, *are* inferior to those Americans who cheat us and take advantage of us.

We are too afraid of life. We are too dependent upon others to do many of the social chores which we, ourselves, should do. We are too trusting, and we are often less educated; less knowledgeable of essential truths of life. Truths without which we cannot see the whole truth. And because the whole truth is the only truth, it is our ignorance of the whole truth, and our lack of curiosity about the whole truth, which makes it easy for these Americans to deceive and conquer us.

“Divide and Conquer” is an ancient military strategy. Create distrust, anger, hatred, or doubt within the ranks of your enemy and conquest will become easier.

Privileged Americans have been

utilizing the strategy for more than two hundred years to keep common working Americans from marshalling their greater forces. They play upon human fears and

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prejudices. Turn white commoners against black commoners; black commoners against Jewish commoners; Jewish commoners against Christian commoners; Christian commoners against Muslim commoners; Latino commoners against Asian commoners; young commoners against older commoners; working commoners against retired commoners; male commoners against female commoners; uneducated commoners against educated commoners, and any group possible against any other group possible.

An additional part of their strategy is to prevent all of these common Americans from discovering the whole truth, or to find the time to think about the whole truth. Feed commoners trivial information. Keep them busy with unimportant, self-indulgent activities. Provide entertainment twenty-four hours a day. Make history books boring so there can be no accidental discovery of the depths and degradation of class oppression. Don't let commoners understand that the greatest enemy of the common working people of *all* societies—past and present—is their own ruling class, not some foreign dictator.

Don't let working Americans of today even begin to think that their social problems may be the conse-

quences of economic class conflict and that their true enemy—the rich powerful American families and groups who control the American System—has been waging an undeclared war against them since the writing of the constitution. Don't allow working Americans to understand that the two-party political system is a device which prevents their unity and weakens their political strength.

The two-party system evolved because Thomas Jefferson was disgusted with the way the privileged citizens of his time were using the new political system to take advantage of trusting American commoners. He knew the constitution of the United States had been created by privileged people to benefit privileged people. He knew the constitution had not been a product of individual *citizens* seeking a better way to secure liberty and justice, but a document created by power groups (Establishments) within each state seeking to suppress the political demands and wealthmaking opportunities of their common citizens.

The Republican party of today was birthed more than 150 years ago. It evolved out of the Whig party which preceded it ...which evolved out of Alexander Hamilton's original Federalist party. Unquestionably, both have been political representatives of the country's privileged citizens.

The Democratic party, which presumably represents the country's common working citizens, rests upon the accomplishments of the New Deal president of more than 50 years ago rather than anything it has accomplished recently.

Which brings up the question:

why do most intelligent American commoners of today still restrict their votes to the candidates put forth by the Republican and Democratic parties knowing that the Republicans enthusiastically and unequivocally represent the interests of wealth and the Democrats, although not as enthusiastically, also caters to the interests of wealth?

Why are we limited to rich candidates, or people who have access (and obligations) to wealth?

If this is a democracy, why are we witnessing the emergence of political family dynasties? In 1998, the New York Times Almanac listed almost 70 million families in this country. So why are so few family names popping up again and again in important political contests? Is the country so impoverished of educated, concerned citizens that we must rely on so few to administer our government?

Why can't we working commoners recognize, once and for all time, that the American System is biased *against* us? Why don't we, once and for all time, throw out our representative democracy and install a direct democracy—a true democracy? One which we can be assured will take care of *our* needs and make every effort to curtail the excess accumulation of wealth and the abuse of power.

If you would like to know just how such a direct democracy would function and the benefits to it would offer its working citizens, download Chapter X of the *Education of Lee Gottlieb, A Plea for Direct Democracy*. Then tell all your friends and relatives about it and all of you unite with the Active Humanists of America to change our country for the better.

But until you're ready to do this, *don't* vote for either the Republican or the Democratic candidate for president this November. Vote for Ralph Nader, he's the only candidate who has proven himself a friend to the common people, and the only one who is not an Establishment puppet.

Download Lee Gottlieb's
FREE 500 page book
and read about the benefits of a
true democracy; a participatory
democracy in which all citizens
decide what to do with their lives,
their country's natural and
productive resources,
and their tax money



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