



*An interview with
Lee Gottlieb, author
**THE EDUCATION
OF LEE GOTTLIEB,
A Plea For Direct Democracy***

Q: *Can you tell us briefly
what your book is about?*

Gottlieb: It's about humanity and justice, and the way common working Americans—or any people—can establish a society friendlier to working people than the pseudo-democratic societies that have been foisted upon us.

I've often wondered why, on the sole planet in our galaxy capable of producing and sustaining life to so many different species, it is the human species—the life form with the most developed intellect of all—which is the most barbaric and the cruelest of all.

Why, in the 20th century, are billions of good, trusting people still being allowed to live a life of deprivation when western cultures have conclusively proved that humanity can efficiently produce the essentials of survival for humanity? Why, in the United States of America where, presumably, the masses of common people have the power to direct government, does poverty, and ignorance still thrive?

My book addresses questions such as this. It's a primitive attempt to explain my long search for solutions to the troublesome and

continuing problems of humanity, and the solutions which, I believe, are based upon historical truths and common sense.

Q: *That's certainly a heavyweight project. What made you undertake such a venture? Are you a philosopher?*

Gottlieb: I believe we're all philosophers, to one degree or another. I believe each of us is constantly looking for answers to the questions and solutions to the problems life places before us. It's part of what being human is all about.

I began my conscious search for answers at the end of the sixties. The Vietnam war was still raging and one night I suddenly realized that my two sons were no more than a half dozen years away from being eligible for the draft. And I began to wonder why, in a democracy, a minority of Americans in Washington D.C. had the power to send other Americans off to die in a war that few Americans understood, or wanted. So I began to look for answers, and today, thirty years later, I believe I've found them.

It's taken me a long time, because not only haven't I ever gone to college, but I darn near didn't finish high school. So I not only had to conduct the search, but when I realized that a book should be written about what I had learned and that, probably, no one

else was going to write it, I had to teach myself the basics of writing. All on a part time basis, because I still had to earn a living and feed the family.

Q: *What have you learned?*

Gottlieb: I've learned a lot, and I suppose you might say the book is my overview of reality in the year 2000.

It wasn't difficult determining the cause of mass deprivation and suffering. Any thinking person would come to the same conclusions. The history books are full of documented truths and most thinking people of every era have arrived at the very same conclusions as I have. The obvious has always been difficult to conceal—until this past century, that is.

But I've also developed my own unique theory of humanity that explains what people are as opposed to what we'd like to believe we are, part of which offers an answer to the eternal question, "What is the purpose of life?" that I believe unlike any ever suggested.

Q: *Can you give us a brief explanation in this interview?*

Gottlieb: Yes! And no! The obvious part will be simple. But I have yet to work out a simple one with words to explain my *Theory of Humanity*. It will be much easier for your readers to arrive at enlight-

enment by reading my book and following the path of discovery which I have taken.

Even a superficial look into history books reveals a very interesting truth. People problems are caused primarily by people. Not by supernatural gods, or the capriciousness of nature. The unnecessary poverty, starvation, and illiteracy suffered, by the multitudes of common people over the ages is because some people somewhere cause these conditions to exist-or allow them to exist.

The history books tell us all Earth societies of the past, from the ancient kingdoms of Assyria, Babylonia, Chaldea, and Egypt, to the empires of Mesopotamia, Greece and Rome have been divided into the few who aggressively and forcefully took what they wanted and the masses who remained passive and unresponsive. The haves and the have nots. The rich and the poor. The powerful and the powerless. The privileged and the common. And for all those years the rich and powerful have bullied and abused the common masses in the most inhumane ways.

History books tell us the social illnesses of all of those past societies were generated by the self-

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.

serving greed and arrogance of rich, powerful citizens who were never satisfied with what they had, but always sought additional wealth and control over the poor, helpless inhabitants of the realm, and always ruthlessly deprived them of sustenance, and often life itself.

Q: *But wouldn't you say we of the 21st century are more civilized in our relationships with one another and that a war with the weapons of today is unthinkable?*

Gottlieb: You're suffering from too much exposure to the fairy tale illusions of the American media. There have been more deadly brute-force wars on planet Earth since the end of WWII than during the forty years preceding it.

Q: *Really! I didn't know that. Why do you believe this is so?*

Gottlieb: The basic truth of human existence on planet Earth is that bullies will always bully. *The Living Webster Dictionary* says a bully is "a blustering, quarrelsome, overbearing fellow, more distinguished for insolence than for courage; one who bullies or browbeats." Today, we consider anyone who picks on a smaller, less able opponent a bully. But we recognize also that there are people who unite and organize their strengths so that their group may exert greater force to defeat or intimidate smaller or less able groups. It's how there originally came to be kingdoms and empires, kings and emperors, royalty and poverty, rich and poor.

Since the death of the feudal system and the advent of "money," and the necessity of working people to sell their labor in exchange for money, rather than for

the right to work the land for sustenance, the people who have controlled a nation's money supply have proven to be the bullies of all societies. It's no different today. It is still rich, privileged people who control the power of all Earth governments. It is still the rich and privileged citizens of a nation who cause its common citizens to suffer unnecessary deprivation and misery.

Q: *Are you saying what I think you're saying: that today, as we enter the 21st century, our nation's social ills are still caused by primitive class conflict?*

Gottlieb: Let's get realistic, shall we? Our war for independence more than 200 years ago wasn't fought—as the history books imply—to free ourselves from a cruel, oppressive king, which is the usual reason for a "people's" revolution. The American Revolution was initiated by privileged Americans who were tired of sharing the wealth of the North American continent with the British king and his associates. The Constitution of the United States was written by these same privileged Americans. And as far as we know, the records tell us there were no common citizens at the meeting in Philadelphia; few even knew it was being held.

Can any thinking person really believe that those men who sat behind closed doors (and withheld James Madison's records of the meeting from public view for forty years) wanted to share their wealth and wealth-making opportunities with the common farmers and craftsmen of the country any more than they did with the King of England? If so, it would be the very first time in recorded history.

Q: *Aren't you being a little too*

cynical? How can you take an opposite view of all the history books concerning the well-meaning benevolence and wisdom of those honorable gentlemen?

Gottlieb: Because I've read many unsterilized histories and biographies and I know what the records really say. Besides, it's been many years since I believed in fairy tales. You see, a true working democracy would have forced those men to share their wealth-making opportunities with common American citizens, for a democracy follows the wishes and needs of the majority, not the minority. In the late 18th century, however, the privileged of the United States, as everywhere else on the planet, were in the minority. As they are today, still.

So rather than create a true democracy, the privileged used their greater command of words to produce a document which seemed to provide a democratic form of governance, but really entrenched the privileged American class more deeply in control of the American political system. Most modern history books don't tell us this truth. A knowledge of true history and a little common sense does.

Why do you think that today, more than 200 years after the "birth of democracy" in this republic the American society is still hostile to common working families? Why do you think common workers are still fighting to get a fair return for their day's labor? Why do you think it is even more urgent for the women of common working families to work today than it was at the beginning of the last century? Why do you think the rich are getting richer and the poor poorer?

Q: *I've never thought of our*

economic inequities in terms of class conflict. Is this really what we're witnessing?

Gottlieb: From the ratification of the constitution to the market crash of 1929, wealthy, privileged Americans abused their economic and political power by denying common working Americans the right to unite and form labor unions; denied them the right to try bettering their lives. By law, economic intimidation, and brute force, rich citizens of the United States fought off the demands of working Americans for a fair wage, for better working conditions, for a shorter work week. History books tell us these truths.

They also tell us that as early as the ending of the 19th century, the oppressive "capitalist" system was in deep trouble, for despite the increased efficiency of the factory and its production line methods, the masses of American citizens couldn't afford to buy the products rolling off the assembly lines, because they weren't being paid much more than starvation wages.

The market crash of 1929 brought the conflict to a head. Even before Franklin Roosevelt won the presidency and initiated his New Deal Administration, almost all of the leading economists of the country had publicly acknowledged it was time to change the capitalist system; that an economic system designed for the welfare of private groups was bad for the welfare of the general population. Some economists acknowledged it was time to regulate the capitalist system, and that only government was capable of doing the regulating.

The massive amounts of public money poured into the economy during the last half of the 1930s by

the New Deal Administration eased the public pains caused by an inequitable capitalist system, but didn't cure them. It was World War II that saved the capitalist system here in the United States. It was World War II that gave the American super-rich the time they needed to form postwar strategies to save their selfish economic system.

Q: *But since the end of WWII, wages and salaries have exploded dramatically, as have working conditions and worker benefits. Doesn't that indicate that the rich have changed their attitudes?*

Gottlieb: More illusions! Salaries and wages may have risen, but so have prices and taxes. The reality is that without the proliferation of credit cards, American workers would realize how poor and underpaid they really are. If the current generations of American workers had learned their American history, they would recognize that easy credit to the working class is nothing more than an extension of the old factory-store strategy to keep workers fed, but constantly in debt.

The reality is that common American workers still end up with proportionately little after the necessities of life and all the useless garbage they're programmed to want are paid for. Why do you think there are so many mothers in the work force? Or such a great need for child-care centers?

What has changed today is that American industrialists have made an end run around the American labor movement by shifting their factories overseas where they can get the near slave-like labor that American workers refused to provide. And they've eliminated the public hullabaloo of hungry

American workers and insistent labor unions. Little else has changed.

Let's never forget that the primary symbol of evil for 19th and early 20th century Americans was the American industrialist. It was the factory owner who underpaid and took advantage of workers. It was the dangerous and unhealthy working conditions of American factories which dismayed the American public.

Let's dig for a few more historical truths.

From the exploration and development of the North American continent to the beginning of World War II, the American rich and powerful (who were the English rich and powerful in the beginning) have been no different than any rich and powerful people of any past Earth society. They have been arrogant, selfish, cruel, ruthless, and uncaring of the health or welfare of common, working people, whether farmer, craftsman, or laborer. This is an undeniable truth of history.

Traditionally, wealth in the United States has been restricted to private wealth which, until the end of World War II was restricted to a small group of American families; the American elite. Their wealth was normally channeled through personally owned companies or "corporations."

At the end of the 19th century, however, many wealthy Americans realized that by pooling some of their resources, they could wield a greater economic force in the marketplace and exert more influence within state and federal legislatures in their battles against working Americans. So their awayers created a device called a "trust," by which these men could legally join forces.

Throughout the late 19th century and the first half of the twentieth—

until the end of World War II—there were many efforts to restrict the unregulated acquisition of wealth and economic power by so few Americans. During the late 1800s, public pressure forced the political powers of the republic to pass antitrust laws. These laws, however, were merely to pacify the public. Little was actually accomplished by them, as can be seen by the phenomenal size and unrestricted behavior of today's "international conglomerates."

The euphoric aftermath of a victorious World War II, along with an economy bloated by the infusion of massive savings, which working Americans couldn't spend during the war because there were few products to spend it on, drove all thoughts of regulating capitalism from the public mind. However, nothing had changed; the capitalist economic system still dominated the nation.

Rich Americans were still rich Americans, but with an increased political power. For during the war years, business executives - rich men - not only had automatically become officers of our military forces, as the rich of every nation had always done, but they had assumed positions in government and established allocations of materials and production schedules, and professional politicians had grown accustomed to their presence.

After the war, rich, business executives remained in government and, today, the federal government and many of its agencies are headed by businessmen, temporarily turned politician.

There is one other major reason why we common American workers should consider changing our political system from a "representative" democracy to one in which

we all actively participate.

We have all heard the corporate swan song that the function of a corporate executive is to guarantee the welfare of the corporation, not the welfare of the nation. It's to guarantee a profit for corporate shareholders—mostly the big ones—and not the nation, which is not expected to make a profit.

It should be no surprise, therefore, to see the laws passed by Franklin Roosevelt and his New Deal Administration to protect working families from the ruthless oppression of American wealth slowly, but surely, weakened or eliminated by political opportunists, who truly represent only the rich.

Why should common working Americans be surprised when the Republican politicians pass laws giving big tax breaks to rich Americans and laws removing the economic "safety net" from millions of working families. What else should be expected? The Republican party has traditionally been, first and foremost, despite what so many of the younger generations believe, the political representative of very rich Americans, and historically has never concerned itself with the needs of common working families. Never!

So, why should anyone believe that the party has changed its ways now that big business has such a firm grip on the American political process? Can a leopard change its spots?

Such overwhelming corporate power in the republic has had debilitating consequences. It's allowed large corporations to acquire or "merge" with other large corporations to become even larger and more economically and politically powerful. It's why the American corporate community, through its

World Trade Organization (WTO), demands “unrestricted globalized trade” giving their corporately-owned overseas units unfair advantage built upon brute-force and one built with money, when the rulers of each are contemptuous of common people and uncaring of their health or quality of their lives?

The motivation of brute-force conquerors and economic conquerors are precisely the same - unrestricted greed and the craving for more power over more people. The consequences are always the same, too—a terrible abuse of the common masses resulting in poverty, hunger, illiteracy, and death.

Just look at what’s happened when we “privatize” services once controlled by a government, presumably, the representative of the “people.” The assumption of our nation’s healthcare industry by the corporate world and its profit motives has resulted in a debase-ment of services and millions of ordinary working families unable to afford healthcare.

The assumption of prisons by the corporate world has made a “prisoner” a profitable commodity with an accompanying increase in the numbers of “criminals” being sent to prison and a rapid increase in the building of new prisons. As expected by some, prison services have begun to deteriorate and, if possible, have become more inhumane in the treatment of prisoners. In Florida, one prison corporate “manager” has walked away from its contractual obligations and responsibilities to the state. In addition, many prisons have begun to farm out “prison labor” to corporations. Talk about slave-labor!

Corporate America has now begun “privatizing” the nation’s public schools. How can we

common Americans allow this to happen? If a profitable school becomes the priority of public education, as it must, if the executives of the managing corporation adhere to their prime obligation to corporate shareholders, as they must, how well will the children of our lower middle-class and poorer families fare compared to the children of wealthier families?

Q: *If all of this is true, you’re painting an unpleasant picture of our country and its future. what can we do to change things for the better?*

Gottlieb: It’s true, alright! However, remember. This is only one man’s overview of the economic and political situation of our republic today as gleaned from the history books - plus a lot of thought and a little common sense. The Establishment’s journalist whores will argue against it with their marvelous abilities to twist words, but they can twist only words, not historical truth. At least, not the truths of those old, unrevised books.

Which now brings us back to a question asked at the beginning of this interview. “Why does it seem as if the fate of so many billions of people is to suffer a lifetime of misery?” Obviously, in a society ruled by a unified, organized, military force, individuals and smaller organized or disorganized groups are helpless. This is the way it’s always been all over planet Earth—until the birth of the United States of America.

But in a nation, such as ours, presumably governed by law, in which the masses of common working people hold the political power to make any laws they want, why are the rich still in control? Why aren’t

the masses of common workers wielding their power?

The answer is a complex one, and it’s in my book which reveals my perceptions of what humans truly are, as opposed to what we believe we are. And if your viewers want to know what we humans really are, and how we’re supposed to function in life, and what we must do to create a country friendlier to working people, they can download the book. It’s free.

Read Chapter II, *The Malfunctioning Animal*, it will explain things clearly in a way that, hopefully, makes a lot of sense.

And if your viewers want to know how the elite rulers of this country have abused their wealth and power over the past 200 years, read Chapters IV through VII.

We common working Americans have much to fear about the future for, whether we understand it or not, we and our children have been deliberately programmed with many negative, destructive values by the ruling elite during the past fifty years. It’s why such bad things have been happening to our country. It’s the reason our society remains hostile to common citizens, despite 200 years of effort by commoners to make it friendlier and more representative of our needs.

I can only tell your viewers to read Chapter X of the book for an example of how a carefully structured, direct democracy can create a friendly society beneficial to all citizens, not merely rich citizens, white citizens, or male citizens.

Q: *Thank you for your time, Mr. Gottlieb. You’ve given us a lot to think about. I will read your book, and I’m sure many of our concerned viewers will also.*

Gottlieb: Ask them to read the

book and then join with the Active Humanists of America to redirect the country towards the better world Americans of the past two centuries have only dreamed of.

IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE AMERICAN SYSTEM!

This website was born too late to influence the outcome of the presidential elections this year, but it's never too late for a people to begin the fight against repression and evil.

The man for whom working Americans should cast their vote belongs to neither major political party. Nor, until recently, when he accepted the nomination as its presidential candidate, was he a member of the Green political party.

Ralph Nader is a name which most older Americans recognize. He has been working for almost a half century to safeguard working Americans from the uncaring greed of wealthy Americans and their corporate monsters.

He has fought for worker rights, safer cars, and a cleaner environment for more than 40 years. He has been the inspiration for thousands of Americans who got actively involved in the fight against the abuses of Corporate America.

Activist teams, nicknamed "Naders Raiders" by the press, have been more responsible for bringing public attention to corporate and governmental abuse than any other single source in the nation.

In the mid-'60s, Nader argued that American automobiles were unsafe and made suggestions to make them safer. In the late '60s his

Raiders investigated the Federal Trade Commission and focused attention on the corruption within the agency, and its collusion with big corporations. In 1970, the Raiders exposed the failure of the National Air Pollution Control Administration to effectively regulate cars and factories; the cowardice of the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the pharmaceutical companies, and the corruption at the Interstate Commerce Commission.

In addition, Nader and his groups advised the public over the years about the problems at nursing homes and the dangers to elderly citizens; what to do when stuck with a lemon automobile; corporate abuse of water resources at a Georgia community, the ways corporate lobbyists corrupt lawmakers and influence laws; the retaliation and dangers faced by citizens who "blew the whistle" on employers involved in illegal activities; the abuses of the insurance industry; how collusion between the Federal Aviation Administration and the airlines placed lives in unnecessary danger, and how the corporate-dominated legal system influences laws and abuses individual rights.

Ralph Nader isn't the typical concerned citizen, he's the *ideal* concerned American citizen. He should be the role-model for all American activists, regardless of their particular interests. Because of his sincerity and long record of fighting for our rights, he's a man whom every working American should be proud and confident to have as their President.

A Nader win would guarantee working Americans a fairer shake than they can expect from either of the two main-line candidates who are

nothing more than Establishment puppets; two peas in a pod posing as opposites; twin bearers of bad tidings for common working Americans.

Working Americans. The two-party political system is stacked against you. As long as you legitimize it by voting for either of their candidates, you will have an uphill fight to gain the economic and social benefits you want and deserve.

Unite! Unite as common working Americans understanding that your real enemy is the super-rich, privileged sector of this country. Unite, vote for Ralph Nader, and take a giant step towards removing the power of government away from these wealthy citizens and their corporate machines.

Join the
**Active Humanists
of America**
and help to make this
a better country
in which to live.

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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 tax money.