The Only Cure for a Corrupted Republic

(1)

The **only** cure for a corrupted republic?

As the man the founders called "the celebrated Montesquieu" told us: "by removing the corruption and restoring its lost principles." Everything else is doomed to fail. "Every other correction," he warned, "is either useless or a new evil."

In order to get from where things are today to a real "land of the free," it's essential to restore the following top-6 principles that built American Independence. They've been forgotten and ignored for generations, but they're only truly lost if "We the People" refuse to bring them back.

CORRUPTED

The first step is to understand what's meant by a "corrupted republic."

Today, politicians and "experts" across the political spectrum act like we've been given a "living, breathing constitution" that changes with the times. Of course, they don't ever mean amending it as spelled out in the text of the document. They mean letting politicians, bureaucrats and judges re-write the rules as they go.

Montesquieu warned us: that is the very definition of a corrupted system.

"A state may alter two different ways; either by the amendment, or by the corruption, of the constitution. If it has preserved its principles, and the constitution changes, this is owing to its amendment; if, upon changing the constitution, its principles are lost, this is because it has been corrupted."

One of the telltale signs of a system being corrupted from within? It's littered with special privileges, political favors – an insider class.

"It is a general rule, that great rewards, in monarchies and republics, are a sign of their decline, because they are a proof of their principles being corrupted, and that the idea of honour has no longer the same force in monarchy, nor the title of citizen the same weight in a republic."

The best way to keep the people from revolting over all that corruption? Follow the money, because the government will gladly hand out loads of it.

Montesquieu exposed this as the political scam that it is. Politicians buy your vote with government programs, "free stuff," even promises of direct cash payments if you support them. But that's the ultimate self-own because they're picking your pocket to buy your vote with your own money.

By: Michael Boldin|Published on: Sep 23, 2026|Categories: Featured, Founding Principles

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(2)

"We must not be surprised to see their suffrages given for money. It is impossible to give a great deal to the people without squeezing much more out of them."

If all this sounds familiar, it should. Because you've lived under a corrupt system your entire life. And as Montesquieu made clear, the only way out is to remove the corruption – which we can accomplish by restoring the foundational principles of the American Revolution.

NATURAL RIGHTS

First in our top 6 is natural rights, because all the founders understood that rights aren't gifts from government. They don't come from documents, either. As John Dickinson wrote, they are part of our humanity, and they exist as rights whether government agrees or not.

"We claim them from a higher source—from the King of kings, and Lord of all the earth. They are not annexed to us by parchments and seals. They are created in us by the decrees of Providence, which establish the laws of our nature. They are born with us; exist with us; and cannot be taken from us by any human power, without taking our lives."

So what exactly qualifies as a natural right? Notice what's missing in this list from Samuel Adams – it doesn't include government programs like free housing, education, healthcare, income or anything remotely close to what many people consider a "right" today.

"Among the natural rights of the Colonists are these: First, a right to life; Secondly, to liberty; Thirdly, to property; together with the right to support and defend them in the best manner they can."

This principle was already deeply woven into America's DNA long before independence was won, or even declared. So the Second Continental Congress could state in the Declaration of Independence what the people already understood.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

VOID

The Declaration is clear. Government exists to secure those natural rights. That's why the Founders drafted constitutions to serve as a strict rulebook for the various governments. Which brings us to principle number two.

Any "law" that goes beyond the limits of the constitution isn't law at all.

It's void.

This was the core argument from day one – the very beginning of the American Revolution. That's James Otis Jr's fiery 5 hour speech against the writs of assistance in 1761, where he forcefully asserted that *"an act against the constitution is void."*

This wasn't just rhetoric from the Revolution. As third chief justice Oliver Ellsworth put it, this is the exact same standard under the constitution.

"If they make a law which the Constitution does not authorize, it is void."

Thomas Jefferson reiterated this same view another decade later, in 1798: every federal act beyond the limits of the constitution hold no legal force.

"Whensoever the General Government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force."

SOVEREIGNTY

You can't get far talking about natural rights and constitutional limits without addressing the core issue of power. That brings us to lost principle number three: sovereignty, or final authority.

Thomas Paine understood exactly what makes a total tyranny: when government itself holds sovereignty. Because that means it gets to do what it wants.

"In despotic monarchies (such as the British government) power is lodged in a single person, or sovereign. His will is law; which he declares, alters or revokes as he pleases, without being accountable to any power for so doing."

But the founders rejected that entire framework. They held that this ultimate power stays right where it started: with the people themselves.

"In republics, such as those established in America, the sovereign power, or the power over which there is no control, and which controls all others, remains where nature placed it-in the people; for the people in America are the fountain of power."

The ultimate expression of this American view of sovereignty arrived in the summer of 1776 when the Declaration of Independence made it clear that government isn't a master – it's the servant. And it can be changed or ended as the people see fit.

"That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, –That whenever any Form of

Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

It's hard to overstate how important this lost principle of the people holding sovereignty truly is, but James Madison may have summed it up best. More than two decades later, he made the case that it was the bedrock foundation of everything else, calling it *"the fundamental principle on which our independence itself was declared."*

WHO DECIDES

That leads right to our fourth principle: the people have the final say.

In a despotism, the government determines the extent of its own power. But as John Dickinson wrote, in a free society where the people hold sovereignty, they decide when the government goes beyond the rules given to the government.

"They will always have the same rights, that all free states have, of judging when their privileges are invaded, and of using all prudent measures for preserving them."

Two years **before** the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson put that same principle into practice. People exercise their sovereignty by **telling** government when it's out of line, not by asking it to review its own actions

"The true ground on which we declare these acts void is, that the British parliament has no right to exercise authority over us."

This principle didn't end with the Treaty of Paris in 1783. In 1798, Jefferson applied that same rule under the constitution. The federal government was created by the people of the several states. And the hired help doesn't get the final say over their own power.

"The Government created by this compact was not made the exclusive or final judge of the extent of the powers delegated to itself; since that would have made its discretion, and not the constitution, the measure of its powers."

PRECEDENT

Principle number five is precedent, especially the smallest of steps, because this is how a free republic quietly and slowly transforms into a despotism.

When government gets away with any unconstitutional act, no matter how small, it doesn't just disappear into history. It becomes a building block for tomorrow's tyranny.

For generations, Americans have almost totally ignored the small precedents, but the founders understood the nature of power. As Jefferson put it, the longer you wait, the more small steps you ignore, the more difficult, dangerous and even deadly it gets to deal with later.

"The time to guard again?t corruption and tyranny, is before they ?hall have gotten hold on us. It is better to keep the wolf out of the fold, than to tru?t to drawing his teeth and talons after he ?hall have entered."

John Dickinson understood that it's **fatal** to ignore a usurpation of power because it seems small today.

"Some persons may think this act of no consequence, because the duties are so small. ***A fatal error.***"

He warned that this is actually the most dangerous situation of them all. The goal isn't the tiny slice of power they take today. It's to establish the precedent to take whatever they want in the future.

"That is the very circumstance most alarming to me. For I am convinced, that the authors of this law would never have obtained an act to raise so trifling a sum as it must do, had they not intended by it to establish a precedent for future use."

Even one tiny unconstitutional precedent today is a trap. If you tolerate it, it's like cheering for the patriot act because they said it's "just for the terrorists" and will never be used against you.

"To console ourselves with the smallness of the duties, is to walk deliberately into the snare that is set for us, praising the neatness of the workmanship."

As James Madison later wrote, recognizing and understanding the danger in even the smallest precedent is the reason Americans were able to win their freedom and independence.

"The people of the U. S. owe their Independence & their liberty, to the wisdom of descrying in the minute tax of 3 pence on tea, the magnitude of the evil comprized in the precedent."

That's why George Washington warned us against falling for the trap, the preferred weapon of tyrants – even if we like the short term results.

"If, in the opinion of the people, the distribution or modification of the constitutional powers be in any particular wrong, let it be corrected by an amendment in the way which the Constitution designates. But let there be no change by usurpation; for though this, in one instance, may be the instrument of good, it is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed. The precedent must always greatly

overbalance in permanent evil any partial or transient benefit, which the use can at any time yield."

ZERO TOLERANCE

You can understand things like precedent, natural rights, constitutional limits, and sovereignty all day long. But **talking** about it won't save you. Because power hungry politicians don't care what you say.

They care what you will **tolerate**.

Which brings us to the final principle, the one that guards the rest: Zero tolerance for arbitrary power.

Power beyond the Constitution is usurpation, stolen power. As even Alexander Hamilton understood in 1775, you have **zero** moral or legal obligation to obey a thief.

"To grasp at a more extensive power than they are willing to entrust, is to violate that law of nature, which gives every man a right to his personal liberty; and can, therefore, confer no obligation to obedience."

Today, people assume you're supposed to comply first, and then try to convince the government to stop doing what the government was never authorized to do in the first place. But for the American Revolutionaries, noncompliance **first** was the default position. As the First Continental Congress put it, obedience to arbitrary power wasn't even on the table.

"To these grievous acts and measures Americans cannot submit."

The founders knew that the most dangerous idea in any society is the belief that compliance with unconstitutional power buys you peace – and somehow gets you to freedom.

It doesn't.

James Otis, Jr. warned us – it just invites more power grabs, and liberty destroyed – guaranteed.

"There is nothing however will in the end more surely work the destruction of liberty, than a prevailing opinion that it is better tamely to submit than nobly assert and vindicate our priviledges."

Almost a century later, Lysander Spooner gave us the unvarnished truth: talk is cheap. Politicians don't care what you know or what you say – as long as you keep bending the knee and complying with all their unconstitutional acts "laws," rules, regulations and orders.

"Tyrants care nothing for discussions that are to end only in discussion. Discussions, which do not interfere with the enforcement of their laws, are but idle wind to them."

THE ONLY WAY OUT

The so-called "solutions" that modern politicians and their supporters give us always seem to revolve around the absurd notion that the problem with this corrupted republic, the largest government in history, is just a personnel issue. So if you just support their side, things will get better.

But as Montesquieu so clearly warned us – their approach is just adding to the core problem.

"When once a republic is corrupted, there is no possibility of remedying any of the rising evils, but by removing the corruption and restoring its lost principles: every other correction is either useless or a new evil."

Although things are far more corrupt than what any of those people would have you believe, St. George Tucker reminded us that no matter how bad it gets, it's never truly game over.

"The acquiescence of the people of a state under any usurped authority for any length of time, can never deprive them of the right of resuming the sovereign power into their own hands, whenever they think fit, or are able to do so, since that right is perfectly unalienable."

Scroll down to see these Halloween treats!



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New American

Written by Joe Wolverton, II, J.D. on October 16, 2026

The Oracle on First Street

Before he marched on Persia in 547 B.C., Croesus of Lydia sent gold to Delphi and asked the oracle whether he should make war on Persia. The answer came back as a riddle: If he crossed the river Halys, he would destroy a great empire. He crossed. He destroyed one. It was his own.

> Americans have their own Delphi. It sits at 1 First Street in Washington, D.C. Its priests wear black. And every October, a nation that once threw off a king gathers on the temple steps to learn which of its liberties it will be permitted to keep.

This December, the Supreme Court will hear *Viramontes v. Cook County* and *Grant v. Higgins*, two challenges to state bans on the most popular rifle in America. Read that sentence again. Tens of millions of free citizens are waiting for nine lawyers to tell them whether "shall not be infringed" means what it says.

It does. It did in 1791. No oracle was consulted then, and none is needed now.

Founders' Plan for the Judiciary

The men who wrote the Constitution never made the federal judiciary the final word on the liberty of the people. Alexander Hamilton, no friend of feeble government, sold the courts to New York as the harmless branch:

> The judiciary ... has no influence over either the sword or the purse.... It may truly be said to have neither FORCE nor WILL, but merely judgment.

Merely judgment. Not supremacy. Not revelation.

Thomas Jefferson saw where the road ran. In the Kentucky Resolutions of 1798, he declared that the government created by the Constitution

> was not made the exclusive or final judge of the extent of the powers delegated to itself; since that would have made its discretion, and not the Constitution, the measure of its powers.

The states, as parties to the compact, kept the right to judge for themselves. James Madison said the same for Virginia. Two decades later, Jefferson put it more bluntly still: Making judges the ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions was a very dangerous doctrine, one that would place Americans under the despotism of an oligarchy.

Justices Legislating

We did not listen. Today a right exists when five justices say it exists and vanishes when five say otherwise. Legislators who swore their own oaths to the Constitution shrug and say, "Let the courts decide." Governors wait. Sheriffs wait. Citizens wait.

That is not a republic. That is a petitioning class kneeling before precisely the oligarchy Jefferson named two centuries ago.

Mark this: The Court opens its new term with its public approval at a record low. Americans sense something is rotten; they simply have not been told what. The problem is not that the oracle gives bad answers — the problem is that we keep asking it the questions.

Every officer in the Union swears an oath to the Constitution, not to the latest opinion interpreting it. State legislators may refuse to lend their machinery to federal usurpation. Sheriffs may refuse to confiscate what the Second Amendment protects. Citizens may read Article I, the 10th Amendment, and the Bill of Rights for themselves in a single afternoon, no law degree required.

The Framers wrote the Constitution in plain English so that free men would never need an oracle to translate it.

Croesus trusted the riddle and lost his kingdom. We are standing on the banks of the Halys now. We can linger on the temple steps awaiting the next pronouncement, or we can remember that the people of the states made this government, numbered its powers, and never surrendered the right to judge when it overstepped them.

The oracle does not hold our liberty. We do. Act like it.

Al-Aqsa Flood "Most Successful Military Raid of the Century" - Ritter Was Right

My interview with Quds News Agency published on 10/7 anniversary

KEVIN BARRETT • OCTOBER 7, 2026 •

(9)

What is your opinion on Operation Al-Aqsa Flood?

I agree with the American former weapons inspector Scott Ritter that Al-Aqsa Flood was "**the most successful military raid of this century**." Ritter points out that the Palestinian Resistance, led by Hamas, "effectively neutralized Israel's vaunted intelligence services blinding them to the possibility of an attack of this scope and scale.* When the attack occurred Hamas was able to strike with precision the very surveillance and communication nodes the IDF relied upon to mobilize a response in case of an attack. Hamas defeated those Israeli soldiers stationed along the barrier wall in a stand-up fight. Two battalions of the Golani Brigade were routed as were elements of other vaunted IDF units."

Many prominent voices both inside and outside the Zionist entity have accused Netanyahu and/or other elements of the Israeli security apparatus with deliberately standing down and allowing Al-Aqsa Flood to succeed. **Col. Douglas MacGregor**, former MI6 officer Alastair Crooke, former CIA officers Larry Johnson and Ray McGovern, and even Scott Ritter have stated or insinuated that elements of Israel's government may have "let it happen on purpose" (LIHOP) in pursuit of political objectives. Within Israel, the newspaper **Haaretz** and Knesset Member **Naama Lazimi** have all but accused Netanyahu of complicity, whereas Netanyahu's family members (**including son Yair** and wife **Sara**) and pro-Netanyahu Knesset members **Tali Gottlieb and Almog Cohen** have accused anti-Netanyahu elements of the security services with allowing the October 7 attack to happen.

Such accusations are among the most serious fault lines dividing the various Zionist parties amongst themselves. That kind of internecine strife is likely to be a major factor in the coming collapse of the Zionist regime.

If indeed a few well-placed Israelis really were complicit in hindering the Zionist response to Al-Aqsa Flood, as many suspect, their actions were extremely counterproductive from an Israeli strategic standpoint. Presumably they hoped to unleash a wave of Zionist expansion that would expel Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank, annex southern Lebanon to the Litani River, and set the stage for further expansion in pursuit of a "Greater Israel" stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates.

But thanks to the steadfast resistance of the Palestinians and their supporters, no such strategic gains appear likely to be realized. On the contrary, the Zionist entity has completely failed in all of its strategic objectives. Its only "success" has been the mass murder of civilians in what the whole world now agrees is the first-ever live-streamed genocide. That genocide has turned the whole world, including Americans and younger Western Jews, against Zionism.

What achievements has this operation yielded for the Palestinians?

With their stunningly successful Al-Aqsa Flood military raid, the Palestinian Resistance has given the world a lesson in heroism that will never be forgotten. The **video of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar** sitting in a chair with one arm blown off, throwing a stick with his remaining arm at the drone that killed him, may be the single most powerful image of courageous, steadfast heroism that humanity has ever produced during its long sojourn on this planet.

With their brave resistance to the Zionist genocide that accelerated in the wake of Al-Aqsa Flood, Palestinians have not only exhibited their own heroism, but also led the Zionists to rip off their "civilized" mask and reveal their bestial, barbaric nature to the world. People from every continent and civilization have been gazing helplessly in horror at the ongoing Zionist slaughter of tens of thousands of helpless Palestinian children for three years. They have felt nausea learning that Zionist prison guards who **rape prisoners to death with batons are Israeli national heroes**. They have been horrified to learn that **Israeli snipers have routinely hunted Palestinian children for sport over the course of many decades**.

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Meanwhile, Western politicians and leaders have done nothing, and in most cases said nothing, demonstrating that the criminal Zionist oligarchs have achieved a stranglehold over Western civilization.

The US government's inability to stop the genocide, which threatens US interests, has conclusively demonstrated to Americans that their government is "Epsteined." A growing majority of Americans, whether Republican, Democrat, or Independent, now know or suspect that Israel has blackmailed American leaders by filming them raping children, giving the Zionists de facto control over the US government. So by waging resistance against the accelerated genocide triggered by Al-Aqsa Flood, the Palestinians have awakened Americans to their own subservience to genocidal Zionist monsters.

By defeating the Zionists on October 7, 2023, the Palestinian Resistance has provoked the Zionists into completely undermining not only their own legitimacy, but also their strategic viability. The Zionist entity has long depended on US power in West Asia. But the Zionists' foolish, irrational response to Al-Aqsa Flood, including forcing their Epsteined asset Trump to attack Iran last February 28, has provoked a crushing US defeat in West Asia. US bases in the region have been decimated and will never be rebuilt, and Iran and its allies have arisen as the new dominant regional power, as even neocons like **Robert Kagan** are admitting.

Had Al-Aqsa Flood not occurred, the Palestinian cause would likely have continued to be ignored as the Zionists and their American vassals continued to "abnormalize" with treasonous Arab elites. Instead, thanks to the courageous Palestinian raid of October 7, the whole region is leaving the Zio-American orbit, spelling doom for the genocidal Zionist entity.

Some analysts believe that Operation Al-Aqsa Storm dealt a massive crushing blow to the Zionist regime—one from which it will never fully recover. What is your opinion?

I agree. As mentioned above, the Zionist regime has seen both its international legitimacy and its strategic viability completely annihilated by the aftermath of the Al-Aqsa Flood raid.

The Zionist entity always only had one road to strategic viability: Convincing its neighbors that it was on the path to becoming a normal country, a country they could live with. The Zionist reaction to Al-Aqsa Storm has permanently ended that possibility. All regional actors now see the true nature of the Zionist entity: genocidal, expansionist, and inherently demonic. (Those who think "demonic" is an exaggeration should study **the history of Sabbatean-Frankist Satanism**, the cult that founded the so-called state of "Israel.")

As the US pulls out of West Asia under fire, demonstrating to its regional vassals that it is an unreliable protector, those US vassal states—threatened as they are by the Greater Israel project—will have no choice but to join the regional anti-Zionist consensus. That has always been the position of more than 90% of the people of West Asia and the MENA region. Now their leaders will be forced to join them.

As the genocidal Zionist entity gradually understands that it has turned the region, and indeed the whole world, decisively against it, and that an international consensus for the full and complete liberation of Palestine takes shape, it may lash out in a few more death spasms, but the end result is entirely predictable. When the history books are written, they will likely agree that the Palestinians did not merely defeat local IDF units in their "most successful military raid of the century"; they defeated the entire Zionist movement, and sounded the death knell of the genocidal Zionist entity that has been defacing the region, and the planet, since 1948.

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*Sinwar's "neutralization of Israeli intelligence" included taking advantage of **Netanyahu's foolish decision to stand down defenses and then slaughter hundreds of Israeli civilians with tanks and helicopter gunships** and blame Hamas, in hopes of provoking a regional war allowing Israel to depopulate, occupy, and colonize Gaza, the West Bank, southern Lebanon, and southern Syria.

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A Culture of Death

(117)

by Andrew P. Napolitano | Oct 15, 2026 | 0 Comments

"It is forbidden to kill; therefore all murderers are punished unless they kill in large numbers and to the sound of trumpets." — Voltaire (1694-1778)

A government that claims the authority to kill persons after they have been subdued, disarmed, tried, convicted and confined in prison has made a startling claim about the nature of political power. It claims not merely the authority to protect the innocent from violence, but the authority to inflict violence when no immediate threat exists.

It claims that the taking of human life, which it rightly condemns when committed by private individuals, somehow becomes morally permissible when committed by government agents. This is the fundamental contradiction of the death penalty: Government killing the helpless protects the living.

The Declaration of Independence offers a radically different understanding of government. All human beings possess natural rights, and governments are instituted to protect those rights. Government's just powers derive solely from the consent of the governed. Government is not the owner of our lives. It is our creature, established to protect rights that precede its existence. Its authority is limited, and it cannot legitimately claim powers that the people whom it governs do not themselves possess.

Individuals possess a natural right to defend themselves against an unlawful attack. They may use necessary and proportionate force to repel an aggressor. Because the people possess that right, they can delegate it to the government, including to a military for defensive purposes. Government's legitimate authority to wage defensive war is a moral and legal derivation of the people's preexisting right of self-preservation.

But what right does an individual possess to kill a defeated enemy who has surrendered, is disarmed and locked in a jail cell? What right does a private person possess to execute a prisoner who no longer presents an immediate threat? None. The right of self-defense does not include the right to kill a helpless captive as retribution for a past offense.

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And if the people do not possess that right, how can they delegate it to government? The principle is straightforward: Government cannot legitimately acquire, through the consent of the governed, a power that the governed themselves do not possess.

Confinement protects society. Execution reveals the state's claim to omnipotence.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's plans to have a convicted defendant executed publicly and livestream the killing represent a particularly repulsive vision of state power. If implemented, such a spectacle would not demonstrate the strength of American civilization. It would advertise its moral depravity. It would turn the deliberate destruction of a human being into political entertainment, with the machinery of government serving as producer and promoter.

There is something profoundly disturbing about officials who would turn a human death into a public performance. What lesson would such a livestream teach? That the state is entitled to kill, that its violence deserves an audience, and that adults and children should watch with approval as the life of a powerless, wheelchair-bound prisoner is extinguished by military sharpshooters? That the proper response to wrongdoing is not the restraint of power but the celebration of its most lethal expression?

This is a cruel and unusual descent into barbarism, a glorification of government killing and an invitation to cultivate a culture of fear and death. Civilization advances when it restrains violence, even in response to terrible crimes. Barbarism advances when violence becomes an instrument of public spectacle and collective gratification.

The military's involvement makes the proposal still more grotesque. The Department of Defense exists to defend the country against external threats, not to transform the execution of prisoners into a propaganda production. The armed forces should not be reduced to stagehands for a political morality play in which the government celebrates its power over a captive's life.

A free society should be especially suspicious when government seeks to dramatize its capacity to kill. The Framers understood that all government power must be confined and limited, not worshiped. Publicly celebrated executions would encourage the opposite attitude: Reverence for the state's ability to destroy rather than respect for its obligation to protect.

A government that wishes to demonstrate moral seriousness should protect the innocent, prosecute crime fairly, provide due process and confine dangerous offenders securely. Life imprisonment incapacitates a murderer without requiring society to pretend that killing is an act of healing. It also leaves open the possibility of correcting a wrongful conviction.

None of this diminishes the suffering of murder victims or their families. Their losses are profound, and their endless grief deserves compassion rather than political exploitation. But the state does not honor victims by imitating the violence that destroyed them. It honors them by establishing a system of justice that refuses to confuse vengeance with virtue.

The values underlying both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution reject a government with unlimited authority. The Framers established a limited government whose legitimacy depends on what was actually consented to by the governed. Consent is not a blank check, and a democratic majority cannot make every exercise of government power morally legitimate simply by funding it.

The death penalty transforms the government from the protector of life into its deliberate destroyer, then asks the public to call the destruction justice. A publicly streamed execution would take that contradiction to its obscene extreme, turning death into spectacle and state violence into pornographic entertainment.

A free people should reject this culture of death.

The measure of a civilized government is not how efficiently it kills a helpless prisoner, or how many spectators it can gather to watch. It is how faithfully it restrains its own power, even when anger, fear and the demand for vengeance make restraint politically inconvenient.

Government exists to protect our natural rights, not to become the final and unquestionable arbiter of who deserves to live. When the state claims that its right to kill is inherent and righteous, it demands a submission that no free people should grant.

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Why Iran Didn't Walk Away

LARRY C. JOHNSON • OCTOBER 16, 2026 •

(13)

I've had this article sitting in storage waiting for the right moment to publish it. Tonight, Mario Nawfal hosted a debate on Iran that featured Robert Barnes and Matt Tardio. Matt put out so much disinformation and falsities that I believe now is the time to set the record straight about what happened to the JCPOA. I was tempted to attach the prefix, "RE" to Matt's last name but decided not to go down the ad hominem path. Instead, let's just deal with the facts.

On May 8, 2018, Donald Trump announced that the United States was withdrawing from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the nuclear agreement that Iran had signed with the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China three years earlier. He reimposed every sanction the deal had lifted and then piled on more under a policy he called "maximum pressure." Iran had not violated the agreement. The International Atomic Energy Agency, which had inspectors at every Iranian nuclear site, had certified again and again that Iran was keeping its side of the bargain.

Most people in Washington expected Tehran to respond in kind: throw out the inspectors, restart the centrifuges and race for the bomb. Some in the administration hoped it would, because that would have justified the next step. Iran did the opposite. For a full year it continued to abide by every limit in the agreement, keeping its enrichment at 3.67%, its stockpile under 300 kilograms and its doors open to the IAEA. Understanding why tells you a great deal about how Iran's leaders actually think, and it undercuts the caricature of a reckless regime that dominates American commentary.

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It put the United States in the wrong

The first reason was legitimacy. By staying in the deal, Iran turned the dispute from "Iran versus the world" into "the United States versus everyone else." Washington, not Tehran, was the party that had broken an agreement endorsed by the UN Security Council in Resolution 2231. Europe, Russia and China all said so. For the first time in decades Iran held the diplomatic high ground, and its leaders understood that giving it up would reunite the coalition that had sanctioned them before 2015.

That calculation paid off in a way few predicted. In August 2020 the Trump administration tried to invoke the deal's "snapback" clause to restore all UN sanctions on Iran. Thirteen of the fifteen members of the Security Council rejected the move, on the grounds that the United States had left the agreement and could not use its provisions. Had Iran walked out in 2018, the snapback would have been automatic and unanimous. Patience bought Iran protection at the United Nations.

It gave Europe a chance to deliver

The second reason was economic hope. The deal's value to Iran was sanctions relief, and the Europeans promised to preserve some of it. They created a special trade channel, INSTEX, designed to let European companies do business with Iran without exposure to American sanctions. Tehran gave Europe time to make it work. It never did. INSTEX completed its first transaction, a shipment of medical supplies, only in March 2020, and European companies fled Iran rather than risk being cut off from the American market and the dollar. Iran's oil exports collapsed from about 2.5 million barrels a day to a few hundred thousand. But Iran's leaders had to test the European promise before they could declare it worthless, and they did.

It denied Washington and Israel a pretext

The third reason was security. Iran's leaders knew that any visible move toward a bomb would be used to justify military strikes. Hawks in Washington and Jerusalem had argued for years that the deal only delayed the inevitable; an Iranian walkout would have proved their case. By staying inside the agreement, with inspectors on the ground, Iran made it far harder to sell a war. The IAEA's reports were Iran's best defense.

This was consistent with the position Iran's leadership has held publicly for two decades. Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei issued a religious ruling forbidding nuclear weapons, and Iran remained a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty throughout. Whatever one thinks of the sincerity of that position, Iran's conduct after May 2018 matched it.

It bet on outlasting Trump

The fourth reason was time. Iran's leaders had watched American politics closely, and they knew presidents come and go. The deal had been negotiated by one administration and abandoned by the next; it could be restored by a third. Staying in the agreement kept that door open. President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Javad Zarif had staked their political careers on the deal, and they argued that Iran should wait out Trump rather than burn the bridge. Khamenei, who had always been skeptical of American promises, allowed them to make that case. It was a wager that the United States would return to its word.

Why the patience ran out

Iran's patience was not unlimited, and it was never unconditional. On May 8, 2019, exactly one year after Trump's announcement, Rouhani said Iran would begin to scale back its commitments in stages. Iran invoked paragraph 36 of the deal itself, which allows a party to stop performing its obligations if another party is in significant non-compliance. Each step was announced in advance, carried out under IAEA observation and described as reversible the moment the United States returned and lifted sanctions. In July 2019 Iran exceeded the stockpile limit and enriched to 4.5%. In November it resumed enrichment at Fordow.

Then came the events that hardened Tehran. The United States killed General Qassem Soleimani in January 2020. Iran's top nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, was assassinated in November 2020. The Natanz enrichment plant was sabotaged in April 2021. Each attack was answered with another step: 20% enrichment, the end of expanded inspections, and finally 60%. The Biden administration had a chance to restore the deal in Vienna in 2021 and 2022, and those talks collapsed too.

Sixty percent as leverage

The most alarming of Iran's steps, the decision in April 2021 to enrich uranium to 60%, is usually cited as proof that Tehran was racing for a bomb. Look at the timing and the terms and it reads very differently. Talks to restore the deal opened in Vienna on April 6, 2021. Five days later the enrichment hall at Natanz was sabotaged in an attack widely attributed to Israel. Iran announced 60% enrichment two days after that.

The move was a message aimed at the negotiating table. Iran was telling the remaining parties, and the United States, that every month they failed to honor their commitments would cost them, and that the cost would rise. Iran's government spokesman, Ali Rabiei, said publicly on April 20 that the step "can quickly be reversed" if the other parties returned to their obligations, and that enrichment would then go back to the level set in the 2015 accord. The parliament's law of December 2020, which ordered higher enrichment and fewer inspections, was written the same way: it tied every escalation to the absence of sanctions relief.

That is leverage, not a breakout. Iran had watched Europe fail to deliver for three years and the United States refuse to return without new concessions. Staying at 3.67% had won it praise and nothing else. Raising the stakes was the only tool it had left to make the other signatories take their own commitments seriously. Iran enriched to 60% so that it would have something to give back.

What the critics will say

Critics make three arguments that challenge my thesis. The first is that Iran was provoking the United States all along through its missile program and its support for allies across the region. But neither was covered by the JCPOA. The deal was deliberately limited to the nuclear program because that was the only issue on which agreement was possible. Holding Iran responsible for breaking terms that were never in the agreement is not a fair test.

The second is that 60% enrichment has no civilian purpose. That is largely true, and it is the point. A bargaining chip has to be valuable to the other side, and 60% was valuable precisely because it worried Washington, Europe and Israel. Iran never enriched to 90%, never left the Non-Proliferation Treaty and never expelled inspectors during this period.

The third is that in early 2023 the IAEA found uranium particles enriched to 83.7% at Fordow. Iran said they were the result of unintended fluctuations in the enrichment process, and the agency did not report any stockpile at that level. Particles are not a stockpile, and a stockpile is not a weapon. Iran's accumulated 60% material did grow, to about 87.5 kilograms by that report and far more later, and that growth was dangerous. But it was the predictable price of a policy of pressure that gave Iran no reason to stop.

The lesson

The record shows a government that responded to the breach of an international agreement with restraint, then with measured and reversible pressure, and only escalated after its economy had been strangled and its officers and scientists killed. That is not the behavior of a regime determined to build a bomb at the first opportunity. It is the behavior of a government that wanted the deal to survive and concluded, slowly, that the United States would not let it.

There is a lesson here for Washington. When the United States walked away from an agreement that was working, it did not get a better deal. It got an Iran with near-weapons-grade uranium, fewer inspectors and every reason to doubt American promises. Iran kept the JCPOA alive for a year after Trump abandoned it. The question we should be asking is not why Iran eventually stepped back, but why the United States walked away from a deal that was keeping Iran a year away from a bomb.

ONE DAY, EVERYONE WILL HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AGAINST THIS

CHAPTER FIVE

RESISTANCE

To preserve the values of the civilized world, it is necessary to set fire to a library. To blow up a mosque. To incinerate olive trees. To dress up in the lingerie of women who fled and then take pictures. To level universities. To loot jewelry, art, banks, food. To arrest children for picking vegetables. To shoot children for throwing stones. To parade the captured in their underwear. To break a man's teeth and shove a toilet brush in his mouth. To let combat dogs loose on a man with Down syndrome and then leave him to die. Otherwise, the uncivilized world might win.

Omar El Akkad

Alfred A. Knopf New York 2025

Champion Of The Nicene Creed ...

(16)

The Life And Legacy Of St. Athanasius

(*EWTN News*) — The Catholic Church on May 2 honors St. Athanasius of Alexandria, a fourth-century bishop known as "the father of orthodoxy" for his dedication to the doctrine of Christ's divinity. St. Athanasius played a key role at the First Council of Nicaea in AD 325 and defended the Nicene Creed throughout his life.

Last year marked the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, which was convened during the pontificate of Pope Sylvester I in 325.

St. Athanasius was born to Christian parents living in the Egyptian city of Alexandria in 296. His parents took great care to have their son educated, and his talents came to the attention of a local priest who was later canonized as St. Alexander of Alexandria. The priest and future saint tutored Athanasius in theology and eventually appointed him an assistant.

Around the age of 19, Athanasius spent a formative period in the Egyptian desert as a disciple of St. Anthony in his monastic community. Returning to Alexandria, he was ordained a deacon in 319 and resumed his assistance to Alexander, who had become a bishop.

The Catholic Church, newly recognized by the Roman Empire, was already encountering an emerging series of dangers from within.

The most serious threat to the fourth-century Church came from a priest named Arius, who taught that Jesus could not have existed eternally as God prior to His historical incarnation as a man. According to Arius, Jesus was the highest of created beings and could be considered "divine" only by analogy. Arians professed a belief in Jesus' "divinity" but meant only that He was God's greatest creature.

Opponents of Arianism brought forth numerous Scripture citations that taught Christ's eternal preexistence and His identity as God. Nonetheless, many Greek-speaking Christians found it intellectually easier to believe in Jesus as a created demigod than to accept the mystery of a Father-Son relationship within the Godhead.

By 325, the controversy was dividing the Church and unsettling the Roman Empire.

Nicaea

In that year, Athanasius attended the First Ecumenical Council, held at Nicaea to examine and judge Arius' doctrine in light of apostolic Tradition. It reaffirmed the Church's perennial teaching on Christ's full deity and established the Nicene Creed as an authoritative statement of faith. The remainder of Athanasius' life was a constant struggle to uphold the council's teaching about Christ.

Near the end of St. Alexander's life, he insisted that Athanasius succeed him as the bishop of Alexandria. Athanasius took on the position just as Emperor Constantine, despite having convoked the Council of Nicaea, decided to relax its condemnation of Arius and his supporters. Athanasius continually refused to admit Arius to Communion, however, despite the urgings of the emperor.

Over the next several decades, a number of Arians attempted to manipulate bishops, emperors, and popes to move against Athanasius — particularly through the use of false accusations. Athanasius was accused of theft, murder, assault, and even of causing a famine by interfering with food shipments.

Arius became ill and died in 336, but his heresy persisted. Under the rule of the three emperors that followed Constantine, and particularly under the rule of the strongly Arian Constantius, Athanasius was driven into exile at least five times for insisting on the Nicene Creed as the Church's authoritative rule of faith.

Athanasius received the support of several popes and spent a portion of his exile in Rome. Nevertheless, the Emperor Constantius succeeded in coercing one pope, Liberius, into condemning Athanasius by having him kidnapped, threatened with death, and sent away from Rome for two years. The pope eventually managed to return to Rome, where he again proclaimed Athanasius' orthodoxy.

Constantius went so far as to send troops to attack his clergy and congregations. Neither these measures nor direct attempts to assassinate the bishop succeeded in silencing him. They frequently made it difficult, however, for him to remain in his diocese.

He enjoyed some respite after Constantius' death in 361 but was later persecuted by Emperor Julian the Apostate, who sought to revive paganism.

In 369, Athanasius managed to convene an assembly of 90 bishops in Alexandria to warn the Church in Africa against the continuing threat of Arianism. He died in 373 and was vindicated by a more comprehensive rejection of Arianism at the Second Ecumenical Council, held in 381 at Constantinople.

St. Gregory Nazianzen, who presided over part of that council, described St. Athanasius as "the true pillar of the Church" whose "life and conduct were the rule of bishops and his doctrine the rule of the orthodox faith."

THE WANDERER June 13, 2024



October 7, 2023 Was Revelatory: And So Will Be Its Abiding Significance in History

October 9, 2026 AbdulBaseer al-Buhairi

by Salim Mansur

Auden's lines, "Those to whom evil is done / Do evil in return", recall the oldest counsel of the wise elders – the shamans, oracles, avatars, priests. In Vedantic scripture Auden's lines is akin to the meaning of "karma", the moral principle of consequence of consequence. Or inversely, as Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount, "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Or in like manner the Qur'an prohibits killing, for "if anyone kills a person it is as if he kills all mankind."

The exception to this most ancient counsel of wisdom is that of the Talmudic Jews and their modern descendants, the Zionists. For them, as Auden points out, their psychopathic god,time and again,counselled his "chosen" people to engage in murder, mayhem, and genocide as their scribes noted in their scrolls. Here, for instance, is the gist of this repeated command from Deuteronomy 20: 16-17:

"However, in the cities of the nations the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, do not leave alive anything that breathes. Completely destroy them – the Hittites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites – as the Lord your God has commanded you."

Note how contrary is the command of Yahweh, the God that speaks from a burning bush or marches ahead of the "chosen" people as a pillar of fire, from that of the God of Abraham mentioned in the Qur'an, that nations and tribes were made so that they learn from each other to live together.

October 7, 2023, was when the progeny of those ancient people the psychopathic god ordered his "chosen" ones to massacre, revolted by launching "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" against their tormentors doing evil to them for defending their heritage from being erased since the early decades of the last century.

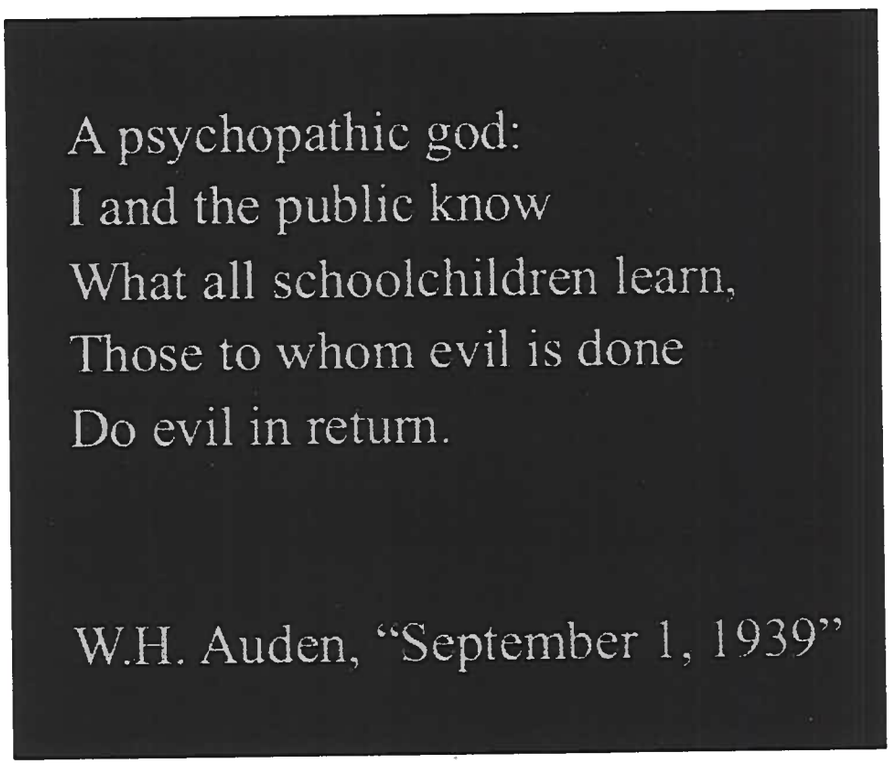
October 7, 2023, was the day that will go into the annals of history as that momentous day in our time when the occupied rose up against their occupiers and when the resistance of the oppressed against their oppressors manifested itself by shaking the grounds underneath the oppressor's feet, as when the captive "Hebrew" in the ancient land of the Pharaohs broke their chains to escape from captivity led by Moses, their hero-prophet; as when the slaves of Rome shook the Empire with their bare hands with the cry for freedom raised by Spartacus, their

slave-leader; as when the 300 Spartans led by Leonidas stood against the invading Persians at Thermopylae and saved their land from conquest; as when a small band of believers in One True God (or "Allah" in Arabic) scattered an army of pagan Arab idol-worshippers in the battle of Badr and laid the foundation of Islam under the command of Muhammad, their hero-messenger of God (or "rasul Allah" in Arabic). And similarly, so did the handful of Palestinians when roused by Yahya Sinwar, their hero-warrior, arose against the might of the occupation forces of the colonial-settler state of Israel and made their fight for freedom one more the moral issue in the contemporary world that had become increasingly indifferent to principles of morality.

October 7, 2023, was not a bolt from the blue. It was long time brewing under the cruel weight of the occupiers. Netanyahu, the leader of the colonial-settler state of Israel, in taking October 7 as a pretext ordered the soldiers of occupation to conduct a genocide of the men, women, and children of Gaza as Amalekites in keeping with the command given by their psychopathic god against Hittites and Amorites and Canaanites narrated in the Hebrew scrolls written centuries before the birth of Jesus.

The colonial-settler Jews of Eastern Europe with fake ownership from three millennia ago arrived in Palestine at the turn of the last century and set upon with the assistance of Western powers to steal lands from Palestinians, forcefully drive them from their homes and farms and orchards, engage in ethnic cleansing of those from whom lands were stolen, all done in keeping with the directives of their psychopathic god and the complicity of those Christians as crypto-Jews behaving like the Pharisees whom Jesus condemned for belonging to their "father, the devil," who was "a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him."

October 7, 2023, ripped aside the mask that hid the true diabolical face of those who preach good while plotting and doing evil



.But more than that. On October 7, 2023, in choosing death over occupation and oppression, those Palestinians who stormed over the fenced gates of occupied Gaza turned into their concentration camp sent an earthquake across the Middle East where fellow Arabs and Turks had stood aside, while watching the cruel fate of Palestinians unfolding under occupation without lending a hand to reprieve them from their occupiers and roll back the unlawful colonial-settler state imposed by external powers in the region.

This earthquake has sent shock waves through the region and beyond so that those who may discern the consequence of evil done to Palestinians who did no wrong to Jews arriving in their midst from the genocidal wars of Europe, have awakened to the unseemly depth of evil done by those very same people who were victims of the European holocaust and then doing even worse openly and remorselessly to others among whom they sought refuge.

The consequence of more than a century long wrongs done by Jews to Palestinians, Christians and Muslims, has therefore let loose the whirlwind of October 7, 2023. Into the fourth year of the Gaza genocide the pillars holding aloft yet the post-World War One architecture of the Middle East – conceived in accordance with the Sykes-Picot agreement between Britain and France, and the Balfour Declaration by Britain, supported by the United States as the preeminent imperial Western power – has been greatly weakened.

How long the weakened pillars of the Middle Eastern vassal states along with the colonial-settler state of Israel will bear the weight since their making before crumbling might be a matter of conjecture. But the run of history is that empires invariably and with no exception arrive at a terminal point before they disintegrate. And so it will be, sooner or later as expected, with the neo-colonial and neo-imperial architecture of the post-Ottoman Empire hoisted upon the Middle East by the perfidious Albion in collusion with France and the United States.

And when that inevitable hour arrives and thereafter, most people and nations of the world will remember October 7, 2023, when a band of freedom fighters took up arms for their people's liberty from among the occupied and oppressed Palestinians of Gaza. And whoever among those complicit in support of the occupiers and oppressors of Palestinians go about denouncing them for doing evil, will need reminding of W.H. Auden's memorable lines "Those to whom evil is done / Do evil in return" to erase the slate of wrongs they were made to suffer. This is the law of "karma", and the reckoning comes in kind for them who purposely remain heedless of this law while conniving plots to harm others for wrongful gains for themselves.

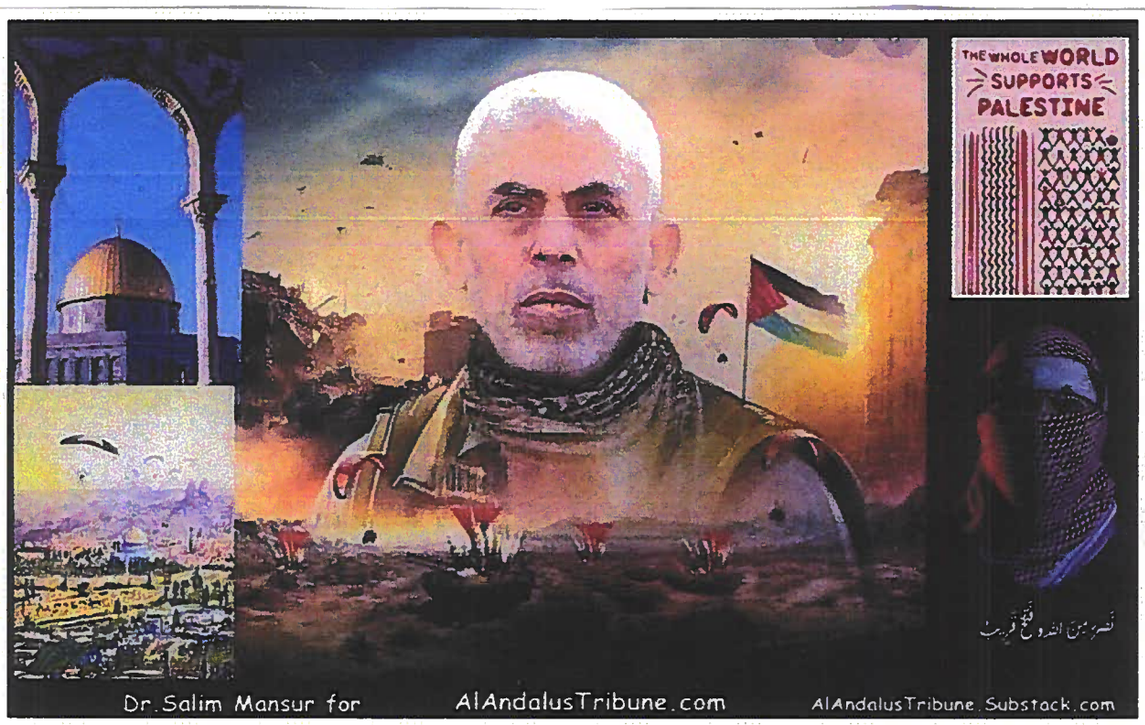
AAT Authors, Featured, History Auden, interfaith, October 7, Salim Mansur, Zionism



Posted by AbdulBaseer al-Buhairi

AbdulBasser al-Buhairi is an editor

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The Only Way to Fight Government Corruption

RON PAUL • OCTOBER 12, 2026 • 500 WORDS • 1 COMMENT

This past week we have seen several serious Administration corruption scandals. Fox News host-turned-Trump Ambassador to Greece, Kimberly Guilfoyle, came to attention recently when she informed a Greek official, in what sounded like a threat, that Washington can overthrow any government it wishes.

While hardly breaking news, such an admission is not normally considered part of diplomatic dialogue. But for Guilfoyle, that was only the beginning. She is reported to have strong-armed a donor into paying off her $100,000 American Express bill before she took office. Most recently, she is in even hotter water for reportedly using her ties to the Trump family – she was once engaged to Donald Trump, Jr. – to set up business deals for a wealthy Greek businessman who was coincidentally funding her supposedly lavish lifestyle in Greece.

Similarly, last week the media reported that US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee's right hand man David Millstein was abusing his post to further his own political biases. Millstein, who first came under scrutiny for sending a request to Israeli citizens for "monetary wedding gift[s]," has also reportedly been suppressing or even falsifying Embassy reporting that is critical of Israel. In a supposedly "America first" Administration, it is shocking that officials are abusing their power for the benefit of a foreign country over their own.

The corruption taint goes even deeper. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick is reported to have doubled his net worth while in office. Likewise, the Trump family itself is said to have earned billions from sketchy business deals – including military deals while a war is on – while Donald Trump has been in office. President Trump himself, who has made a show of refusing his salary as President, is said to have made over two billion dollars in the first year of his second term. That is a far cry above the $400,000 US Presidential salary!

While there is much noise on the Right about the danger of socialism – and it should not be discounted – what is not discussed enough is the "socialism" for the rich and well-connected. One word for this is "corporatism." It is the merger – even if temporary – of state power with "private" interests.

Rich Greek businessmen are not lavishing gifts on Ambassador Guilfoyle because she is a nice person. They are looking for favors that only those holding the levers of political power can grant.

Ideally, elected and appointed government officials would be more like Rep. Thomas Massie, who was already a successful businessman before winning office and therefore did not view his "public service" as a kind of piggy bank. However, we live in the real world and such standards are probably too high to expect.

So, what is the solution? Corrupt officials abuse their positions because the government is so enormous and invasive that there are endless opportunities for graft and grift. If we are really seeking to end or reduce government corruption, we must return government to the size it was when this country was founded. Rather than waiting for a government of saints to lead the country, we must remove the incentives that tempt mere men and women to view elected and appointed office as an opportunity for personal and financial gain.

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