

January 11, 2023

America's Animal Farm

By J.B. Shurk

Ordinary people have extraordinary power. Don't believe me? Watch what happens if tens of millions ever decide to close their bank accounts all at once. Or critical sectors of the workforce decide to stay home for weeks. Or a sizable percentage of the population refuses to obey arbitrary and capricious government orders. When citizens become fed up enough to take matters into their own hands, those with government-bestowed titles learn quickly how little power those vaunted titles actually have.

If you were to ask a collection of random people what governments do, you would hear a multitude of answers: they make and enforce laws, collect taxes, regulate industry, police citizens, and mobilize militaries. In actuality, what governments do, first and foremost, is prevent citizens from ever understanding the above paragraph. Their first order of business is to convince the vast majority of people not in positions of authority to obey the cumulative will of the small minority in charge of the government. For most of human history, this magic act, in which so few control so many, has been accomplished through intimidation, violence, and other forms of coercion.

"Nothing is so certain as death and taxes," the old proverb goes, but it might just as accurately be said of almost all governments throughout history that those in charge will extract from those under their thumb either death or taxes — and often both. Force is the only language most governments know, although that force is often disguised as being performed for the people's "own good." As it turns out, force is generally sufficient for corralling humans into their government-controlled pens, especially if there are carrots or other treats inside to keep them content, if not particularly happy. When those pens have nothing attractive to offer and become overrun with filth, however, then those doing the corralling must resort to more and more force in order to make their captives obey.

The rejection of this coercive paradigm formed the intellectual backbone of American independence. Aside from some notable Greek city-states and a few mostly forgotten tribes, America's Enlightenment experiment in self-determination set itself apart from all other past forms of governance precisely because its guiding principles sought to level the playing field between the governing and governed and replace the confines of the government's animal pen with a shared freedom to roam. "We the people," the U.S. Constitution begins, before articulating common ideals uniting all Americans, including a determination to "secure the blessings of liberty" for "ourselves and our posterity." *The people*, as the architects of the American system of government, alone control the limits of their liberty and perpetually hold the keys to any artificial pen constricting their free will.

Now, depending upon your level of cynicism, this revolutionary articulation of human self-government either never truly succeeded or has achieved periods of relative success while enduring its share of failures, as all human institutions invariably do. Putting America's scorecard to the side, however, by far its most powerful contribution to human liberty has been the passing down from one generation to the next both a shared understanding of what freedom means and a shared commitment to pursuing American freedom doggedly, however incomplete.

America's civic bonds have prevailed through challenging times by sustaining a common determination to preserve individual rights and to protect those rights from the treacherous dilutions of government decree. The inviolable sanctity of the individual — the acknowledgment that each human has special worth that cannot be indiscriminately erased for some utopian and misguided "greater good" — provides the foundations for American equality.

In America, no person's life, liberty, or property can be said to be more important than any other's. This has been the shared truth, even when Americans have failed to live up to the standard, keeping the people in charge of their own pen and government force in check, if not at bay. Although President Truman will always be remembered for embracing the notion that "the buck stops here," ultimately, the buck stops at all times with the American people. They are, as William Ernest Henley would attest, alone the *masters of their fates* and the *captains of their souls*. That's the American way.



It is *not* the American way, however, for citizens to live higgledy-piggledy under the ambiguous reign of one government dictate to the next. It is *not* American for an unelected bureaucracy to create rules out of thin air and enforce them upon the people through agency prerogative and regulation. It is *not* American for presidents to legislate through executive order.

It is *not* American for congresses to conduct show trials against American citizens or to demand that tech companies censor points of view. It is *not* American for courts to scribble over the Constitution whenever expedient. It is *not* American for the Department of (in)Justice to persecute citizens for their political beliefs or for the FBI to act as a lethal enforcer against the regime's political enemies.

It is *not* American for there to be so many criminal statutes that no American could possibly know them all, let alone confidently act without fear of sanction. It is *not* American for there to be so many government agencies and divisions that no American could capably draw a diagram listing their roles and functions.

It is *not* American for the government to champion its secular religion over the moral tenets of Americans' spiritual faiths. It is *not* American for the government to ignore the will of its citizens and subvert immigration law by leaving its borders unprotected and wide open. It is *not* American for an amorphous Intelligence Community to spy on American citizens with neither warrant nor probable cause. It is *not* American for the news media to be so co-opted by the State that they almost universally support the government's talking points — no matter how ludicrous and unsupported — while taking aim at dissenting citizens' debate.

It is *not* normal for a "government of the people" to regularly denigrate its citizens as racists, extremists, deplorables, terrorists, misogynists, bigots, and rubes. It is *not* normal for any government claiming to be "for the people" to declare half the nation "enemies of the State."



These are the acts of a government committed to using intimidation, violence, and other forms of coercion in order to get its way. In short, they are everything the American system revolted against when American independence rejected top-down force for equality, individual liberty, unassailable rights, and freedom of thought beyond the reach of the government's say.

That so many Americans still fail to see how distorted their acting government has become from what their Constitution affords is proof that those who corral humans into pens for a living have done their jobs exceptionally well. Like too many generations before them, Americans have allowed themselves to be rounded up with a little prodding, some tasty carrots, and reassuring words along the way. Too many look at the barbed wire surrounding them and assume that life must always be endured behind the government's enclosure. Obedience in exchange for the government's promises of safety, welfare, and happiness has created a narcotic bliss.

What happens, though, if enough Americans decide they are not safe, comfortable, or happy? What happens when the American government runs out of carrots, and those in cages realize they are surrounded by nothing but filth and decay? Perhaps then ordinary people will realize what extraordinary power they actually possess. Perhaps then sleeping Americans will

reawaken. Perhaps the descendants of those who once turned the world upside-down will remember how to reject government tyranny and demand a return to the American way.



Image via [Public Domain Pictures](#).

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William Klemm 2 days ago

AMEN

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Fred Kremer 2 days ago

It is not American: to limit a person's ability to provide for themselves, to seize money because of suspicion, to punish people economically for choosing where to spend their money, establish barriers to prevent labor, make it criminal to trade freely, to give advantage through rules, regulations and laws to one over another, in short it is not American for a government to direct a people on how to live their lives. The minority, like in the slave cultures, divide intent, rule by fear, speak lies as truth and violently crush organized opposition. Well, it may not have been American, but it is American today. Who won the Civil War?

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David Thomas 2 days ago

I read once that if the US ever becomes a tyranny, it will be the most oppressive and tyrannical government ever seen. Wish I could remember who wrote that?

It's true. The democrats will eventually make Nazi German look tame.

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Susan Cook 1 day ago

Perhaps this one?

"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience." ~ C. S. Lewis

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Matthew B Rowe 1 day ago

James Madison once said, "If tyranny and oppression come to this country, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy."

I guess he wasn't expecting home grown communism.

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donald b welch 2 days ago

winston churchill?

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Alan Stevens 2 days ago

You have made the case for why the current regime needs to be removed from office.

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Randi Pinkerton 2 days ago

Thank you for the reminder of Henley's *Invictus* Italic Text

"It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate.
I am the captain of my soul."

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Joe Strader 2 days ago

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I think each used to say that democracy was the wolf and a sheep young for what to have for dinner. When the Democrats demand that we protect our democracy, it is the two wolves, one sheep democracy they have created in which they cannot lose.

Even here in middle Tennessee, we have a Democrat governor because the previous Republican governor tried to disband the state's judicial branch. He was forced to form a coalition including sympathy from friends and many squishy Republicans as there are in even Tennessee.

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These Twins Were Named "Fred Kramer" in the World's Largest Book of Names. You See What Don't You? By [popcornnews.com](#)

South Carolina Seniors with No Life Insurance And a \$250,000 Payout. Look for \$90 Million More from the people, select your leaders, the more I ask myself from whom do they want it? If from themselves, then what? If from someone else, then what? My answer keeps coming back to: they want what others have that they cannot get on their own. And they are willing to be beholden to anyone who gets them what they are un-willing or unable to get for themselves. The Republic is gone and welcome to democracy.

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hey joe....the VAST majority of medicaid recipients in kentucky are female. heck, the majority of VOTERS in kentucky are female and none of that is changing anytime soon. look it up if you don't believe me.

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that wasn't the case when our constitution was written and the country was founded. embrace the suck my friend. the dye was cast long ago.

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...what a moment that is. I am right about 2/3 of my wife sounds like she was a well grounded lady. I'll be right with you.

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...what a moment that is. I am right about 2/3 of my wife sounds like she was a well grounded lady. I'll be right with you.

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Stephen Maio 21 hours ago

That the large majority of teachers, voters, and Medicaid recipients being woman. Not arguing just hadn't looked it up myself.

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donald b welch 20 hours ago

ell.... women make up 51% of the population and vote 52-48 as a rule so that's close but here's another math
m...women vote donk almost 60/40. here's another one...women make up 62% of college students but carry
er 70% of student debt.

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Human Stupidity Has No Limit

Fred Kremer 2 days ago

The Constitution was written in secrecy. Who or what requires secrecy to reveal power placed in the hands of the citizens? There were many states suspicious of the real intent and power that the Constitution was placing in whom. In hindsight we know that their suspicions were grounded in the reality of human nature. The Bill of Rights, the hoped-for guarantee, is running out of political will to be defended and or promoted. In hindsight the rise to overthrow tyranny, the sacrifices of lives, futures, and property to overthrow tyranny and the expansion of individual opportunities were in play while the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union governed the land. Why the Constitution?

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donald b welch 20 hours ago

makes sense to me. i see where pfizer just donated a million bucks to a kentucky medical building in mccoconnell's name.

now sweet it is.

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John Iarneth 1 day ago

You can blame Medicaid expansion on one Big Lying Conman, BHO. His Obamacare destroyed any pretense of competition in the health insurance market. In 1990 I purchased a Mutual of Omaha policy for \$99 mo. with a \$1250 deductible. Even in 2001 the premium was under \$150. In 2012 when I was cancelled it was around \$180. After BHO and his lies, > \$600 with a much higher deductible.

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donald b welch 1 day ago

you mean that guy with three islamic names? that guy?

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donald b welch 2 days ago

dreamer of dreams. nothing good is coming. america is dying because americans are brain dead. the slide is irreversible.

the zombies have breached and william wallace is dead as dirt.

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HAL 8999 2 days ago

The American electorate has been rendered so resoundingly bamboozled that even if it eventually rebels, it'll be for the wrong reason.

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donald b welch 2 days ago

it won't. buyer beware. fat and lazy is contagious hal.

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Stephen Maio 2 days ago

I say the well fed don't rebelbut tomato tomoto

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Fasb32 2 days ago

Once again, a great essay. Nailed it. I remember when the government bureaucrats and politicians worked within the confines of constitutional law. Willingly. They have now crossed the line and should be put back in their place. And not only Law, but also, Order, be returned to our land.

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River Song 1 day ago

I want the America I have known and loved so very, VERY, MUCH, BACK, DAMN IT!! I am no fantasy-believing, unrealistic, young, chickadee, just poking my head out of the nest. I'm older and much, much wiser than I was in the 60's and 70's growing up, and even now, I would be more than willing to proudly STAND UP and FIGHT for my children, and grandchildren, in fierce battle if need be, to prevent the Communist/Marxist/Soros/Schwab/MEF/Global Reset that is creeping, not just into OUR Country, but into the MINDS of our Government officials, our woke Boardrooms, our Colleges, our First and Secondary Schools, and our precious children, and grandchildren!!

Sign me up!! I'll answer that calling. In a heartbeat!!

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Stephen Maio 2 days ago

At 65 years old I love my Country I loath my Government, and I pity our children.

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William H McClure 2 days ago

Another great post!

Unfortunately, there is no one on this forum, or in our current business or education leadership, or in our political think tanks or MSM both left and right, or in the state, local, or federal government that will make any meaningful change to return us to the 6000 words contained in the COTUS.

It will come down to American individuals with a strong moral and religious ethos...

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Susan Cook 1 day ago

"Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." ~ John Adams

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William H McClure 1 day ago

That's exactly who I was thinking of! Thank you...

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Robert Cunningham 2 days ago

Didn't the village idiot say he has F-15s and nuclear weapons? It is no longer OUR America.

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Susan Cook 1 day ago

I wouldn't worry too much! After all, the F15s and Nukes won't fly/launch because they're too busy watching "Drag Queen" on AFTN and haven't been keeping up with scheduled maintenance.

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Ken Pelkey 1 day ago

Americans don't have the fight in them any longer. Instead, they wait for "Someone" else to take the risks and possible slings and arrows. They do however grumble and talk a lot, but that is about it. They seem amazingly relaxed about the disappearance of their Freedoms and Rights by elected and unelected bureaucrats and blithely accept what is happening with a shrug and often a chuckle. Americans are no longer serious and absolutely refuse to work together to end this tyranny. The young as a whole are the most brainwashed and egregious, believing whatever they are told by supposed authorities without question. While they may know a somewhat useless skill like how to program a cell phone, they know next to nothing about things that are truly important. Worse, they don't want to know. If it isn't about "Them" they aren't interested. Their futures aren't looking all that bright because they are so easily duped. America's best days are behind it, not because of the Politicians so much, but because the American people have no will to stop the tyranny that they all know is happening.

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Kirk McDonald II 2 days ago

What happens? Blood.

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donald b welch 2 days ago

nope.

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