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TREY MAYS'S Common Sense

REFLECTIONS ON THE
FOUR PILLARS
OF A
FREE SOCIETY

FAITH ~ LIBERTY
PRUDENCE ~ CONSTITUTIONALISM

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INTRODUCTION

“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 pursuit of Happiness: that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

The U.S. Declaration of Independence - July 4, 1776

Liberty is a foundational and fundamental part of America as a free society. However, it is not the only pillar that America was built on as a flourishing and thriving free society. The foundation that our Founding Fathers built our country on is the pillar that there are absolute moral truths based on a Natural Moral Law. In the Declaration of Independence, the Founders referred to this Natural Moral Law as the Creator, and they believed the Absolute Natural Lawgiver gives all of our individual rights and liberties to us. Grounded on moral truths and a faith in God is the pillar that every individual has the moral right to pursue happiness through free enterprise and economic liberty. Equally important to a free society is

the pillar of American sovereignty and independence in the world, and how strong it is to defend itself from the force of tyranny. The pillar that holds the other three pillars together is the belief in a system of government that puts power in the hands of the people through representatives in a constitutionally limited and separated government.

Absolute moral truths and a faith in God is the foundation of a thriving and flourishing free society. At the center of those moral foundations is the belief that all of human life is sacred and worth protecting, even from the moment of conception. When we start losing sight of the sanctity and dignity of human life is when we start believing that our individual rights and liberties can be taken away. The traditional family is the cornerstone of civil institutions in a free society because it is the family that should do all of the child rearing, and educating of their children. It is the parents, in a marriage of one man and one woman, that is responsible for teaching their children the values and principles of the Christian faith, and educating them on the individual rights that God gave them so that they may grow up to be good Christian citizens.

A free enterprise economic system where Individuals have the economic liberty to make financial and economic decisions as an Individual or as a corporate entity free from government intrusion and control is the pillar of a free society that encourages human flourishing. Taxes are needed to fund the legitimate functions of government, but in the spirit of economic liberty, taxes should be set at the lowest possible rate to fund government, while maximizing the economic liberty and prosperity of the Individual. A free enterprise economic system is not some economic machine that can be controlled and regulated. When governments start to control and regulate the economy, they are controlling and regulating people. We should do what we can to care for the sick and assist the poor when they need our

help. That is the beauty of a free market, Individuals in a truly free society have the freedom to assist people in need and help lift people up so that they may pursue upward mobility and pursue economic opportunity.

American sovereignty and independence is the pillar to maintaining freedom here and around the world. If we forfeit our sovereignty to some international organization we cease to be a truly independent nation, and we lose our moral authority to be the “shining city on a hill” for the cause of liberty throughout the world. Securing our sovereignty and independence requires having a strong military to pursue peace and freedom in the face of tyrants when it is prudent for America to spread liberal democracy worldwide. What is also the key to our national sovereignty and independence as a nation, and what is always forgotten, is the need for an American immigration system that promotes true American citizenship and assimilation into American society. Immigrants that come to America should want to become American in their culture, in their language, and in their beliefs. I’m not saying we indoctrinate and force them to be American, I’m saying let’s be proud of our heritage of faith and freedom and tell everyone that wants to come here about it.

The Constitutional Republican government that the Founding Fathers built for America is the pillar that holds the walls of our free society together. It puts the power into the hands of the people, but keeps the people from just voting themselves special favors, by requiring that they elect representatives. It doesn’t stop there, the Founders also separated power among not only three branches of a central government, but also virtually three levels of civil government. To add yet another check on the federal government, the Founders also originally made the Senate to be the legislative body that gives States representatives in the federal government. The British Crown had documents like the Magna Carta and the rights of man, but the British

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never enshrined those rights into a written Constitution. Therefore, the American Founders wanted to enshrine the rights of man into the rule of law through a written Constitution in an attempt to avoid one day having one ruler suppress the individual rights and liberties of American citizens.

DEFENDING FAITH, MORALITY, & NATURAL RIGHTS

“Religion and good morals are the only solid foundation of public liberty and happiness.”

Samuel Adams – October 16, 1778

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

U.S. President John Adams – October 11, 1798

Liberty and the Constitutional Republic that America's Founding Fathers fought so hard to ensure that they were protected and secured from the evils of tyranny were made possible because of their belief in a Higher Natural Moral Law, a Creator. The Founders understood what true liberty meant, and what it needed to survive. Faith in the Author of the universe and His Moral Law above any human civil law and recognition of sound moral truths is the solid foundation on which they built our free society.

Secular-Progressives love to bring up the so-called “wall of separation between church and state” that Thomas Jefferson wrote in a letter to the Danbury Baptists, but is there really a “wall of separation?” The short answer is yes, there is a wall. However, there were two things that the Founding Fathers feared the most: Pure Democracy and a Tyrannical Government. The Founders believed very strongly in the Individual to make his own decisions and chart his own course in life guided by God. Therefore, the First Amendment did create a “wall of separation” of sorts, but this figurative wall was built to protect religious individuals and the Church from a tyrannical government dictating to them. The Founders were protecting Individuals, not the government, with the First Amendment. They understood first, that everyone has the right to choose his own belief system, and second, that faith and the Church should have a bigger role in shaping and building a civil free society than the government.

What kind of influence can people of faith have on their government? We can promote the ideas that all moral authority comes from God, and that God gave individuals unalienable natural rights that no human government can take away. Regardless of whether an individual believes in God or not, he was still endowed by a Creator with certain individual natural rights. Because all civil authority should be based on the moral authority of God, there are certain moral truths that our government should recognize and promote as true. All human life is precious and worth protecting, and the traditional family is the cornerstone in building the foundation of a free society. I’m not saying the government should legislate morality, *per se*, unless an immoral action encroaches on a person or a person’s property. What we should do is advocate for policies that do not infringe on certain moral truths, and oppose laws that would change the definition of those moral truths. We do not always have to pass laws to define the

moral truths; God in His Word already defines them. We have to advocate for laws that respect individual rights, while not redefining moral truths.

True liberty is not the right to do whatever you please. True liberty comes with a great deal of personal responsibility by freely choosing to do what is right without being dictated to by a government. That is why morality and God's Moral Law is so foundational to a flourishing free society. Without morality and the Church, liberty will fall into chaos, which will ultimately lead to a tyrannical government and zero individual rights. This is exactly why John Adams said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." He, like the rest of the Founders, knew that liberty would never survive without morality. Defending the traditional family and protecting every human life is the key to maintaining sound morals in a free society.

There are four civil institutions in a free society that have their specific purpose. The fourth civil institution is what I have called the Traditional Family. It is the one that is the closest to all of the domestic problems. The Traditional Family has the ultimate control and authority over the education and rearing of their children, with the help of their church. The Traditional Family is based on the religious institution of marriage between one man and one woman. Throughout history the societies that eventually have a big government that tries to take the individual rights away from the citizens tends to be a godless and secular society with the ultimate authority presiding in an all-powerful central government. What is the first thing that communist nations destroy so that they can take control? They first destroy the traditional family, faith, and morality of its citizens. Then that leads to destroying individual rights and a well-educated citizenry.

The sanctity and dignity of human Life is the first of the three rights that the Founding Fathers wrote so eloquently about in the Declaration of Independence because they understood that God based all the other natural rights on the right to Life. When a people stop viewing all of human life with the sanctity and the dignity that it divinely deserves, we become desensitized to evil and we begin to stop believing that we have natural rights that no government can take away. Our lives, and the lives of our unborn children, become meaningless. We start to view government as the author of our rights, and then the government slowly uses that lack of foundation to take our rights and liberties away from us. Faith and morality are the sustaining forces that allow a free society to survive, thrive, and flourish.

PROTECTING FREE ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC LIBERTY

“Where liberty dwells, there is my country.”
Benjamin Franklin – March 14, 1783

“Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth.”
George Washington – March 2, 1788

Free enterprise and economic liberty are rooted in the God-endowed unalienable individual rights to Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness (Property). Liberty from government edicts and liberty to pursue our own economic destinies is the key to human flourishing and growing an economy. What is an economy? An economy is people living their lives and making everyday decisions. When the government decides that it needs to act, usually to supposedly prevent an economic catastrophe from happening, it regulates the economy. However, when the government regulates the economy it is regulating and controlling people.

An economy is not some machine that can be controlled. That is why a free economy with a solid foundation of faith and morality in a free society is fundamental to human flourishing and economic growth. The three major areas of government policy that have been used to destroy free market capitalism and economic liberty are taxes, government spending, and regulation.

Although in a Constitutional Republic the government's primary responsibility is to provide for the common defense and protect its citizens from enemies foreign and domestic, it does have a small and very limited role to play in the economy. The government does have a responsibility to protect individual liberty and property rights, and enforce contracts. There is a place for taxation to fund the proper limited roles of government. However, the citizens of a free society should not be overtaxed to pay for an Administrative State and an entitlement society. Income should not be taxed because income is the property of people making it. An income tax violates the unalienable natural right to Property. We need to understand that taxes are not the government's money to take back from the people so that they can pay for their government special-interest programs. Therefore, tax relief and tax reform is not the action of the government giving a country's citizens money so that the people can spend more money. We need to understand that the money and wealth of a nation is the Property of the people. Taxation is the act of government confiscation of the people's money. Real tax relief and tax reform is the policy of government reducing what it confiscates from its citizens, so that the people can keep more of their hard-earned money.

Government spending has morphed into welfare and entitlement spending. When the Secular-Progressives succeeded in destroying the institutions of the family and religion, they succeeded in turning the nation into an entitlement society and the government into a nanny-state. We are becoming a Collective dependent on a central government. Americans should

return to the idea of seeking economic opportunity and upward mobility without the help of the government. The federal government should focus its spending on only those specifically defined roles and responsibilities outlined in the Federal Constitution, and leave infrastructure spending to the states, communities, and the free market. The people should want to take personal responsibility and we should want the government to spend less of our money. The more government spends our money, the more reasons we give them to intervene in more areas of our lives. It is not just higher taxes that decrease America's economic growth; excessive government spending in excess of our receipts also keeps our economy from growing. More government does not stifle an economic machine; it stifles the people from growing, thriving, and flourishing.

Regulation is third, and probably the most dangerous, policy that the Secular-Progressives use to destroy America's historical free enterprise economic system. I view it as probably the most dangerous because regulations have become government edicts created and implemented by an unelected administrative state that is accountable to no one. Government regulations, with the help of over taxation and excessive spending, have almost single-handedly dismantled the Constitutional Republican system of government that America's Founding Fathers set up for us. Over regulation by the administrative state is the prime example of the Secular-Progressives' ultimate goal: CONTROL.

Free enterprise and economic liberty put the power in the hands of the Individual, which is a big threat to the Secular-Progressives' master plan to create a godless collective utopia that puts power in either one leader or a few leaders. In this statist utopia, the government elites control its citizens. They coerce and force their citizens to do the central government's bidding. The Founding Fathers feared a pure democracy because they

understood that man would eventually vote themselves special favors, which will lead to the very statist utopia that the Secular-Progressives are trying to build. They wanted to build a free society where moral authority was derived from God and with civil power residing in the people over civil government. Free enterprise and economic liberty on the sound foundation of faith and morality gave the governed the power over the government.

SECURING AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY & INDEPENDENCE

“Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none.”

U.S. President Thomas Jefferson – March 4, 1801

Securing our national sovereignty and independence in world affairs is vitally important in remaining the world’s economic and military superpower, and maintaining peace, freedom, and liberty throughout the world. We live in a fallen and sinful world that is filled with pure evil. If we want to maintain “peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none,” as Thomas Jefferson said, then that will require us to remain vigilant to our manifest destiny to be a shining city on a hill for the cause of freedom and liberty worldwide. To seek peace, we must build and maintain a position of strength with

a strong military and prudently spread liberal democracy throughout the world without entangling ourselves in unnecessary alliances.

Maintaining peace from a position of strength with a strong military should be our number one priority to provide for the common defense of ourselves and our friends and allies of the cause for freedom and liberty. We should cut all the waste, fraud, and abuse from our military and defense budget so that we can focus and prioritize our military spending on the necessary functions and tools that we need to secure our sovereignty, independence, and liberty. We should re-start President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative and fully fund a space-based, water-based, and land-based missile defense system to defeat the enemies of liberty. Enforcing the rule of law and securing our country's borders and ports of entry is the key to protecting our sovereignty and independence as a nation.

Prudence in our foreign policy with the international community and avoiding unnecessary alliances that only entangle us in other nation's domestic problems that do not advance the cause of liberty is also required to maintain our independence and respect as an independent nation. We should prudently seek ways to promote and spread liberal democracy worldwide when there is a sincere and organic liberal democratic movement, but we should not try to create and fabricate a liberal democratic movement when a people in a country don't want a liberal democracy. In the age of nuclear and chemical weapons, and the possibility of those weapons reaching America in a matter of minutes, if there is an imminent threat against America and her interests, we should do what is necessary to protect our sovereign and independent interests and the cause of liberty. There will be times when we will be able to ally with other liberal democratic countries to fight the forces of tyranny, but there also may be times when we may need to ally with an authoritarian to defeat a totalitarian if the liberal

democrats are too weak to defeat the totalitarians. However, we should always first seek allies that have common values of liberty to defeat totalitarians.

We should engage in an economic foreign policy to promote freedom, liberty, and prosperity for all. Economic foreign policy, as I define it, primarily focuses on the expansion of free trade. Free trade is the leveling of the playing field by eliminating all barriers to trade between all participating honest nations. Yes, it is true that the Congress has the power to impose tariffs, but having the power to do something does not mean you should seek to use that power. A tariff is a tax; all participating nations should seek to reduce taxes on the citizens of each country. Free trade opens markets and opens the door to more freedom and liberty to the citizens of all the participating countries. When the prosperity and wealth increase due in part because of free trade, more countries will seek freedom and turn away from tyranny.

RESTORING OUR LIMITED CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC

“A lady asked Dr. Franklin, ‘Well Doctor, what have we got a republic or a monarchy?’ – ‘A republic,’ replied the Doctor, ‘if you can keep it.’”
Benjamin Franklin - 1787

“A Constitution is not the act of a Government, but of a people constituting a government, and a government without a constitution is a power without right.”
Thomas Paine – 1791

The Founding Fathers' understanding of human nature reflects the Christian view that without God, a Natural Moral Law, man is easily corrupted. The famous words of Lord Acton, “Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely,” best summarizes the Founding Fathers' fear of power concentrating too much in too few hands. They also lived

under a British Crown who used his centralized power too often to suppress the rights of man that were outlined in the Magna Carta. The Founding Fathers knew that if they were serious about declaring their independence to become their own independent nation, they were going to need to build a government that recognized, respected, and protected the People's natural individual rights given to them by God Almighty and no human institution could take those rights away. They understood that to achieve such a government they needed to separate and divide government, so that power could not be concentrated in one central location.

After the natural rights given to all men by God were recognized in the Declaration of Independence and we won the Revolution, the first idea the Founding Fathers realized they needed was a written Constitution. They understood that for them to build a government that recognized, respected, and protected the natural rights of men, they needed to somehow enshrine the duties and responsibilities that would protect the rights of men into law written down. The British Crown had written documents like the Magna Carta, but they were not the law of the land, and the Crown had the authority to ignore the natural rights of men. By enshrining the natural rights, the duties, and the responsibilities into a written Constitution as the law of the land, the Founding Fathers were attempting to make no one man above a Higher Natural Moral Law.

Next to having a written Constitution, the separation of powers between three co-equal branches of the federal government was so influential and so fundamental to the American experiment in government. However, the Founding Fathers did not stop at dividing the powers of the federal government. The Bill of Rights not only enshrined Constitutional individual rights in the Constitution, it also gave the States rights and authorities not explicitly given to the federal government. They did not create one legislative body to give the People a voice in

their government; they created a second legislative body that would give the States a voice too. The People had the power to check the government in the House of Representatives, and the States had the power to check the government in the Senate. The Founding Fathers are rolling in their graves over the fact that we made the Senate a useless legislative body when we passed the 17th Amendment to elect the Senators directly by the people.

The protection of individual property rights that every person has the right to own and control his own property was a foundational idea in the operation of this new nation called these United States of America. The right to own land and property would no longer be with the government, it would preside with the people. Based on the God-given natural rights to the Individual, the People would hold the ultimate human authority over the civil government. It would be the landowner that would decide what he would do with his land, not the government. The protection of property rights for the Individual was one of the ways the Founding Fathers gave the People a stake in their society and in their government. Protection of property rights was a reason why landowners were originally the only people who could vote in America because they were the only true stakeholders in the survival of this new nation. Now we have a government that if they do not own everything, they control everything, and We the People are no longer stakeholders, we are dependents on a central planning nanny-state.

The Founding Fathers did not want to create a government that would govern the people. They wanted a government that would protect the rights and liberties of the people, foreign and domestic. The American experiment was about building a nation where the people would self-govern themselves, while sending their own neighbors to a Constitutional Republican government to protect themselves against enemies of liberty and freedom foreign

and domestic. The United States of America, being an American, was about self-government. Limiting power by building a small government where power was divided and separated throughout different levels of government was the Founding Fathers way of building a civil society that tried to allow citizens to self-govern themselves. They did not want Americans to become dependent on a government or a king. They wanted us to be independent and if we had to be dependent for a temporary length of time, they wanted us to depend on each other through our neighbors and churches.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Trey Mays is the CEO and Publisher of *The Truth Dispatch* (truthdispatch.com). He is a young thoughtful but avid political analyst and commentator. His passion for everything politics and public policy produces politically incorrect opinions and analysis. Trey's strong and growing Christian faith gives him a biblical way of viewing the world. His down-to-earth, conversational writing style and knowledgeable Christian views on current events allow him to research, inform, and promote the principles of Truth and Liberty.

As a young boy, even then, having a propensity towards business, Trey began with his brother and a friend, a summer business of a lemonade stand. They progressed a few years later to a pet-sitting and lawn service business.

As Trey entered high school, he worked during the summers as an Administrative Assistant for a small oil and gas company. In later summers, between his semesters as a business/political science student at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas, Trey continued working for the same petroleum company as a Land Assistant.

In the summer of 2010, Trey had the privilege of interning at Liberty Institute, a non-profit legal firm with grassroots advocacy and policy research, located in Plano, Texas. He worked with the grassroots and policy side of Liberty Institute. He was tasked with gathering candidates' contact information and candidate surveys so that the organization could contact candidates to get their positions on key issues for Liberty Institute's Statewide Voter Guide. Trey also did policy research regarding the failures of socialism for a book that the President of Liberty Institute, Kelly Shackelford, is writing.

Since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Trey's passion for politics has only grown. He takes every chance he gets to read and study political issues in news articles, political books, or policy books to expand his knowledge and understanding of domestic and world problems that America is facing. The 2009 rise of the new Tea Party movement and the 2010 Tea Party political victories have continued to fuel Trey's passion for politics.

He is interested in politics, current events, Austrian economics, business, investing, political philosophy, public policy, international affairs, news, American history, entrepreneurship, Coolidge Republicanism, and Reagan Conservatism. Trey is a big-picture person, always integrating the above interests in his big picture ideas and analysis. At the same time, he is deliberate and organized, working hard at applying his interests and his passion for politics as he defends the Christian worldview from Secular-Progressive attacks.