

2012: A New Year and New Beginnings

By Bob Bowman

As custom at *Freedom Matters*, we review our past, and then look ahead. First, we note that we miss our co-founder and friend, Bill Hitzemann, who died Oct. 21, 2005; he inspired us in so many ways. Up to his death, we averaged over 2.5 issues of *Freedom Matters* per month. After it, we have averaged less than one-third of that.

From 2006 through 2008, our focus continued to be on property rights. Then, our board members in local political office left that calling, at which our efforts turned to more general political topics. In 2009, we reviewed books on Franklin Roosevelt and the Great Depression, on monetary topics, and on the saga of alleged "human-caused" global warming (AGW), the latter showing violations of the Rule of Reason by government scientists. In 2010, we moved to the saga of the abandonment of the Rule of Law by the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2011, we segued into the coming disaster of the U.S. government debt.

Thus, our personal travails of getting old, our changed careers, and emerging political challenges have altered our all-volunteer outlook and output at *Freedom Matters*. That brings us to 2012, with a president in the White House who is more dangerous than any prior president, and who is going full tilt for re-election against a fractured majority who oppose him. President Obama embraces the breakdown of the Rule of Reason and of the Rule of Law, and his policies are plunging the U.S. into a black hole of debt that will destroy our nation. At the state level, we gained a Republican governor and legislature, who solved the state's structural budget deficit of some \$3.65 billion dollars annually—without raising taxes—by the simple act of curtailing the power of public unions so it was no more than that of private sector unions; for that, the union-dominated Democrats seek recall elections, to turn the clock back to the bad old times of public-union greed. Finally, our local Dane County government is a socialist fantasyland. We invite any readers who dispute our above wording to reply.

So, as we asked last year (Vol.11, No.2), *quo vadis?*, where do we go now? Then, as now, our answer is that we keep on seeking and supporting truth. Of course, the devil is in the details, like the smile of Alice's Cheshire cat.

Four upcoming reports are all but ready to publish, covering public unions, the legal tender power of the states, a review of *How Civilizations Die*, and a summary of a movement to repeal the 17th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In all of those, *Freedom Matters* acts as an observer of the political scene, not as an initiator or disciple of the particular political efforts.

As pending topics, we plan to review a book on the law operated as a private enterprise; review an active email publication that advances free market thinking; and acquaint our readers with other long-running free-market publications, including a little gem called the *St. Croix Review*. For yet another topic, we look to review social-networking groups that use the internet as comprising new political tools now available.

Besides reviewing new events, we need to buttress that which is essential in our heritage. Most critical is to strengthen our U.S. Constitution, and free market capitalism, the cornerstones of our prosperity and sustainability. Both of these are under mortal attack by the Obama administration, in the false name of "social justice." There will be no social justice if our nation's prosperity is destroyed. That is the crux of our national elections in this presidential year.

One general area of rational thought in which too many of our citizens are not informed, or are misinformed, is economics. We will fail disastrously if we voters continue to defy well-known economic forces. Our love of minimum-wage laws, monopolies, and various forms of price-fixing is our modern equivalent of worshiping false gods, and will do us in. Please observe that unions, be they public or private, are organized and legally enforced as monopolies. That is a fatal flaw.

All of our above noble aspirations are impossible to do in 2012 if limited to a dozen one-page reports, which has been our annual output in recent years. Maybe we have readers who will help us resolve that. We need to enlist more help for this newsletter, and if we fail to do so, *Freedom Matters* will soon cease to exist. So, let us hear from you.

Please email us:
rebshar@chorus.net