

Freedom Matters

A Weekly Newsletter

Dane County, Wisconsin

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We are a free people in a republic, under a constitution which limits the powers of government to those necessary to secure the unalienable rights of each person to their life, liberty and property. Yet, when a legislature is in session, no one's life, liberty or property is safe. It's the curse of a democracy. That's why we have a republic instead. *Freedom Matters* dedicates itself to the fight to restore our republic. Most of the press and courts fail to do so. They've forgotten that freedom matters.

A Thanksgiving Message from the Editor

by Mike Byrne

As I was driving to work on Thanksgiving day listening to National Public Radio, a university professor described how the native Americans bailed out the Separatists (Pilgrims) with a feast we now celebrate as Thanksgiving. While she then elaborated on the way the white men exterminated whole Indian tribes, I reflected on the trend toward what I see as "revisionist history."

Practitioners of this art form often have an agenda to ensure that any of us who might praise patriotism are preemptively infused with guilt over some terrible event perpetrated by our forefathers. It is undeniable that there are many examples of tragic and downright evil behavior by Europeans against the indigenous people of this continent. It is equally true that behavior which could only be characterized as uncivilized (maybe downright barbaric) was part of the existence of some of those indigenous people. It's not like all the indigenous people here just got along like one big happy family; they fought ferociously over territory and treated each other quite harshly at times.

But the past is the past and no one can convince me that because someone did something very wrong three or four hundred years ago, I should somehow abandon allegiance to principles that evolved two hundred years ago. The fact is, America is a great experiment that has succeeded tremendously and on Thanksgiving Day, the great majority of Americans are able to enjoy the holiday in peace, prosperity, and contentment because the experiment in that limited democracy that our founders called a republic has created a successful society.

What was conspicuously absent on the radio was the real reason the Indians had to intervene and bring food to the settlers. It was because the settlers had failed to provide for themselves. How was this possible? It was not because of poor soils, lack of seeds, or the ravages of illness. It was entirely the fault of the structure of the society they brought with them.

Prior to embarking from England it had been necessary for the pilgrims to solicit financial assistance from colonizing speculators in London. In return for financial aid from these London promoters, the pilgrims had contractually agreed to enforce a system of "ownership of property in common" in Plymouth colony. With the adoption of the Mayflower Compact, which was based upon this concept—communalization of property—came the creation of one of the first share-the-wealth cooperative colonies on American shores. The founding of this commonwealth wherein private property ownership and free enterprise were prohibited was known as "the common course and condition" and it nearly resulted in the destruction of the entire colony.

From the first Thanksgiving of 1621 to the hopeless winter of 1622, dwindling food supplies led to starvation and the death of more than half the colonists. Communal farming could not produce sufficient food to feed the settlers. Throughout the commune there was dissension, disharmony, and irresponsibility which penalized initiative and encouraged dependency. With the prospect of death-by-starvation confronting them, the pilgrims saw the reason for their failure.

In *Of Plymouth Plantation*, Governor William Bradford, one of the original Separatists, writes: "So they began to think how they might raise as much corn as they could... that they might not languish in misery." At last, after much debate of things, the governor gave way "that they should set corn every man for his own particular... This had very good success for it made all hands very industrious, so as much more corn was planted than other wise would have been."

That is what should have been mentioned yesterday to the radio audience. It was the abject failure of socialism that resulted in the holiday. It was the failure of central planning as well.

So to bring us up to modern times, I note that a perusal of the news stories around the area shows that all of the various governments, whether they be city, county, village or town, report increases in the costs of operation. This means they must raise the amount they take from the citizens, or hope that new revenue sources are developed. Some, like the town of Perry, are blatantly shoving off onto future taxpayers the responsibility to pay off their current cost of government. Others are expecting their pool of residents to ante up more per households. None are reducing expenditures.

At the same time, most towns seem to be moving to restrict any future settlement or development of their area. They seem unconcerned that expenses keep rising and therefore a closed community will have to pay more per individual to keep it all going as it is. They also seem oblivious to the "rural cleansing" that is the goal of the environmental movement. It doesn't dawn on them that after they stop all new homes in their town, the environmentalist movement will then take over and force the ones already here out of their rural homes and back into the city. It's happening in other parts of our nation. It's happening right here in Dane County, over on Fish Lake.

I guess government assumes that if they tell people how and where they can live, everyone will just smile and do it. How wrong they are. History shows that people move away when it gets intolerable, or if they can't, they rebel and change things. How long before it happens here ...

Happy Holidays,
Mike.

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