

Freedom Society



Powerpoint Script

In this presentation we want to address the over-reaching arm of government as it attempts to take control over more and more areas of our lives.

The problems confronting America today are overwhelming. Our debt now tops 16 trillion dollars and this is a debt that is going to be shouldered by our children and grandchildren unless we do something now. Everyone knows that government spending in this country is out of control, yet our politicians don't have the backbone to do anything about it.

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Our country is faced by the real threat of becoming a bankrupt nation, like Greece and other nations that lost control and were not able to balance their budgets. Corporations are leaving America in droves because of high taxes and over regulation. Businesses are moving to countries that are business friendly, and with this move employment for millions of Americans is being swept away. Government is killing the goose that lays the golden egg with its failed policies.

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The culture war Americans are engaged in is affecting the way that our children and grandchildren will be guided in the future. The traditional family is the bedrock of our communities and the birthplace of strong moral and ethical values. Third graders are now being taught that a family is two men or two women with children. Sex education and birth control techniques are taught, often regardless of parents' wishes or knowledge. Valedictorians can't even mention God in their graduation addresses. Where will this type of education lead our children and the future generations of America?

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There was a time when America's education system was a model for the world. Today America is rated very low when compared to other nations. Many people are asking when is the monopoly regarding education going to end, and when are Americans going to have some real options for the education of our children?



The title of this lecture is "Freedom Society."

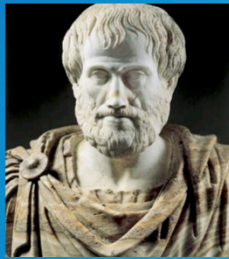
Freedom is God's greatest gift. But if we are not vigilant, we will lose it. How can we build a society of freedom and avoid the temptation, as a nation, to spend ourselves into bankruptcy?

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Human beings have lived under dictators and tyrants throughout most of our history. We have been dominated by evil people who have abused us, killed us and used us as mere objects for their own selfish desires.

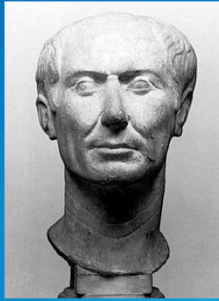
Glimpses of Freedom



- ❑ Memory of Freedom has remained
- ❑ Glimpses of Freedom during human History: – Ancient Greece – Roman Republic
- ❑ Freedom is not sustained and dies
- ❑ Aristotle – (384~322)
“Republics decline into democracies and democracies degenerate into despotism.”

We saw freedom express itself briefly in ancient Greece and in the Roman republic. But freedom invariably was not sustained and ultimately died. As Aristotle wrote, “republics decline into democracies and democracies degenerate into despotism.” Why do democracies die? Because people get tempted to make the government spend too much. Athens, the first democracy, was known as a center of creativity and freedom. Eventually unwise though popular policies resulted in the decline of democracy, and freedom died.

Populism and the death of Democracy and freedom



- ▣ Roman Republic (509 BC ~ 49 BC)
- ▣ Distribution of land to poor in 133 BC
- ▣ State subsidized grain rations (122 BC)
- ▣ Cancellation of debts (45BC)
- ▣ The Colosseum and Roman Games (72 AD)
- ▣ Power-hungry leaders used welfare policies to gain popular support against the Senate
- ▣ Led to rise of Roman dictators

In the early part of the Roman republic, the state was wisely run and Rome expanded into a great nation. But toward the end of the Roman republic, citizens demanded free land, free grain and the cancellation of debts. (Sound familiar?) Power-hungry leaders used welfare policies to gain popular support. Public money was spent on gladiatorial games and spectacles. Ultimately the republic of Rome died and imperial Rome was born. The age of dictators arrived. Freedom died, and free men became virtual slaves to the new dictator-emperor.

The Death of Democracy and freedom



Modern examples of populism

- Lenin in Russia
- Hitler and the rise of Nazi Germany
- Peron in Argentina
- Hugo Chavez in Venezuela
- Collapse of Greece today
- Out of control social welfare spending in southern Europe

We can see a similar process at work in the modern age. Look at some of the tragic trends in modern democracies. In Russia, the Bolsheviks came to power by manipulating the democratic reforms instituted under Tsar Nicholas II. Lenin promised "peace, land and bread" but delivered a communist dictatorship. In Germany, Hitler seduced the German people to surrender their democracy to him on a platform of National Socialism. Peron came to power in Argentina by promising to distribute wealth to the poor. At the time, Argentina was one of the ten wealthiest nations on earth. By the end of his regime, it had become one of the world's poorer nations. More recently the populist dictator Hugo Chavez came to power in Venezuela by promising to redistribute wealth, but he has only succeeded in making his country decline.

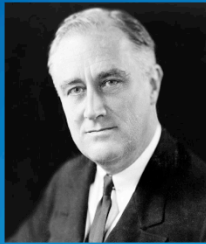
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Even in Europe today, we can see the collapse of modern Greece based on populist demands for unrealistic government spending, labor reforms and social programs. Out-of-control social welfare spending in southern Europe threatens Spain, Italy and other nations in Europe. The euro is in serious danger of collapse. The pattern of history is very clear. What starts as democracy and hope--if it transforms itself into unbridled populism--leads to the destruction of freedom in that society and results in the rise of dictators. This is the sad lesson that history instructs and teaches.

The Lesson of History

▣ Franklin D. Roosevelt:



“The lessons of history, confirmed by the evidence immediately before me, show conclusively that continued dependence upon relief induces a spiritual disintegration fundamentally destructive to the national fiber.

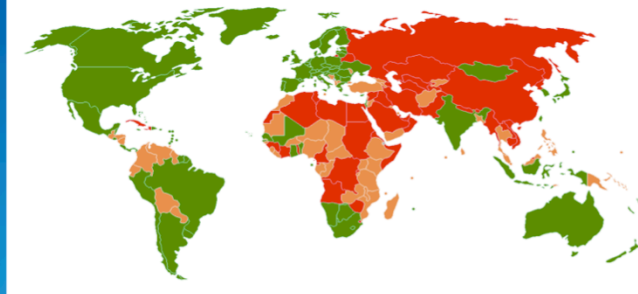
To dole our relief in this way is to administer a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit.

It is inimical to the dictates of a sound policy. It is in violation of the traditions of America.”

- 1935 State of the Union Address

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, normally thought of as the great hero of the welfare state, said this: “(The lessons of history, confirmed by the evidence immediately before me, shows conclusively that) continued dependence upon relief induces a spiritual disintegration fundamentally destructive to the national fiber. *To dole our relief in this way is to administer a narcotic, a subtle destroyer of the human spirit.* It is inimical to the dictates of a sound policy. It is in violation of the traditions of America.” FDR had it absolutely right in this case. Social welfare policies have become a drug, and we, the American people, are becoming addicted.

The World at a Crossroad



- Freedom and democracy are more prevalent in today's world than at any other time in history.
- Freedom is not secure. World has returned to the point just prior to the fall, but securing lasting freedom requires the Messiah and his teaching.

The news is not all bad, however. When we look around the world today, we see freedom and democracy in its various forms spread wider than it has ever been in human history. The United States of America has been the leader in this process. It still is. Why else would people be clamoring to come to America, while they are leaving so many other countries?

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The problem is that freedom is not secure, democracies are in trouble all over the world. When Ben Franklin was asked what kind of country the founding fathers' had created he said: "a republic, madam, if you can keep it." He also said: "When the people find that they can vote themselves money, that will herald the end of the republic." Can we keep our republic, or will we repeat the pattern and allow our democracy to be undermined by irresponsible spending and the unrestrained growth of government bureaucracies? We have come to a point of decision. The basic vision of the founders is simple: government is meant to be the servant of the people. When we give too much power to government, it becomes our master.

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To look at it from a biblical perspective, it's analogous to what happened in the Garden of Eden. God created humans to be the masters of creation (Gen 1:28). The archangel was supposed to be our servant. But we allowed ourselves to be seduced, and the servant became the master. Ever since then, we've been in trouble. Doesn't that describe our current crisis? The government offers us all kinds of seductive temptations. But guess who has to pay for them? We do! So we get high taxes, bigger deficits, and then even more taxes to pay for the interest on our natural (national?) debt. We start depending on government entitlements that we can't afford. Like Adam in the painting by Blake, we've fallen asleep. We've been seduced into giving away our God-given authority and responsibility to the government, when the government is supposed to be our servant!

Freedom Society



- ▣ **A society of Conscience**
- ▣ **Self-regulating society**
- ▣ **Required ingredients:**
 - Strong Families
 - Private Ownership
 - Free Markets and Competition
 - Better Schools
 - Strong National Defense

So now we know what we *don't* want our nation to be: a society where the government dominates the people. But what would a good society look like? This is what we call the Freedom Society—a society not based on government regulations and entitlements, but on public-minded families living together and serving their societies voluntarily. The Freedom Society is the society of conscience. It is a self-regulating society, not a society dominated by bureaucracies and rules -- but a society of love, righteousness and caring for one another voluntarily. In order to create a self-regulating society, you only need a few ingredients.

Strong Families
Private ownership
Free markets and competition
Better schools
Strong national defense

Freedom Society



First, we absolutely need healthy families. That is the strong foundation upon which the Freedom Society is built. With strong families, you only need a minimum amount of government. And we don't need the government to tell us what a family is. We already know. It is one man and one woman, together with their children and hopefully their grandkids too.

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We also need free markets and fair competition. If you have these factors then you can create self-regulating business environments. Bad products simply don't sell. Who created personal computers and smart phones? The government? No, it was private enterprise. Who created e-bay and amazon.com? Al Gore? No, they were created by entrepreneurs and competitive creativity.

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In the same way, we don't need a government monopoly on public education. The free market can actually create better quality public education at a lower price. (The British have got it right when they call our private schools "public schools" and they call our public schools "state schools!") What we need is real, free market competition in our public schools: more vouchers, more charter schools, more support for home schooling and less tax money going to prop up failed government bureaucracies. In the state schools, we need to make sure the best teachers get good pay, and the bad teachers fired. And we need less federal control over what we can teach our kids about things like religion, sex and marriage.

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One thing that is absolutely necessary in a Freedom Society is national security. We need a strong national defense to protect ourselves and our allies from the totalitarian threat, whether it comes from atheistic ideologies as in China and North Korea, or militant Islam such as with Iran or Al Qaeda. We also need to uphold the Second Amendment, guaranteeing the right to own and bear arms. Statistics show that communities with the strictest gun control tend to have higher rates of violent crime. Why? Because when private citizens aren't allowed to own guns, then the only people who do own them privately are the criminals.

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Self-regulating societies work. Freedom works. Look at the early days of America as an example. Of course we can't ignore problems like racism, slavery, and women's rights. But in terms of the economy, the US has been a good model. In the 19th century--without much help from the government--education expanded, railroads were built: also hospitals, heavy industry, publishing houses, telephones, electricity – all based primarily on private enterprise and invention.

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What about helping the poor? Welfare and other charities used to be handled many through churches and non-government agencies. As a result, the churches were a lot stronger than they are today. These days, who has money left to give to charity or to tithe when the government takes so much? In the 19th century the government's share of the Gross Domestic Product was only around 5 percent. But people felt a personal duty to help others, rather than relying on the government to do it. Freedom works. What doesn't work is what government controls and an impersonal system that creates a tradition of families staying on the government dole generation after generation.

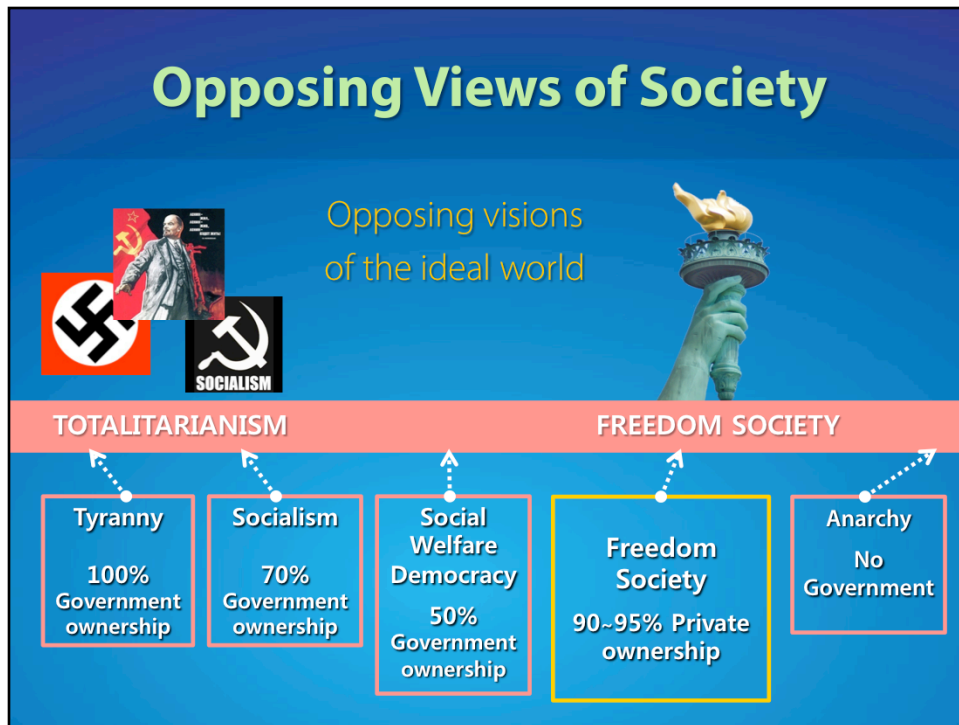
Freedom Society What will it look like?

▣ Government's role



- Defense
- Law and Order
- Operation of the Courts

Then what is the ideal role of the government? Government's role is basically simple. It is to secure the national defense and to keep law and order. As the servant of the people, the government doesn't need to own much or to run as many programs as it does today. Isn't it a better idea to give less of our money to the government and more of our money to our churches, synagogues, mosques and charities to do good works? Religious and conscientious people simply do a better job of taking care of people than the government does.

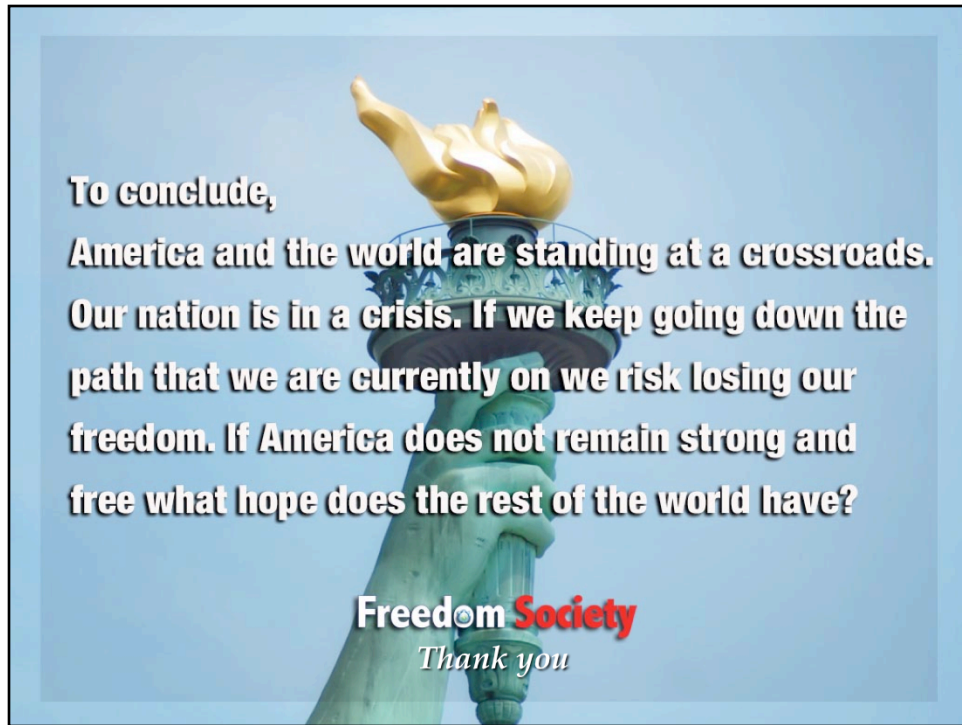


What is the opposite vision of the Freedom Society? It is totalitarianism. It is a society where the government owns everything. In Soviet style communism, the government owned 100 percent of everything. This is still the case today in a country like North Korea. In Nazi-style National Socialism, private enterprise was forced to follow the priority of the state, which placed military expansion as the top priority. In democratic socialism the government owns about 70 percent and the economy declines. How about social-welfare democracy such as we are approaching in Europe and America today? The government owns or controls about 50 percent. So we've reached a crossroads. The social welfare democracies of today must choose whether to go in the direction of the Freedom Society or toward tyranny and economic collapse. But this is not to say that there should be no government at all. That would be anarchy. The ideal is a situation where government's role is reduced to 5 to 10 percent and private citizens own 90 to 95%.

Freedom Society



[Alexis de Tocqueville](#) warned that "a democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover that they can vote themselves largesse from the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy, always followed by a dictatorship. The average age of the world's greatest civilizations has been 200 years."



Will America resist the temptation that de Tocqueville spoke of? Our nation is in a crisis. If we keep going down the path that we are currently on we risk losing our freedom. Let's resolve together today that we will keep our republic, and move it increasingly toward the Freedom Society ideal.