

ABOUT VIGILANCE

What you can do today to save America tomorrow

Introduction

Winston Churchill said, “The best argument against democracy is a five minute conversation with the average voter,” but the converse was held by Thomas Jefferson who wrote “Whenever the people are well informed they can be trusted with their own government; that whenever things get so far wrong as to attract their notice, they may be relied on to set them right.”

Vigilance: The Price of Liberty is about liberty and how it is tied to prosperity. Unless we learn the Constitution and demand a well-managed government the American Dream will die with the next generation. Vigilance provides a non-partisan working knowledge of the Constitution, analyzes problems stemming from political corruption, and offers seven solutions to save America.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT VIGILANCE

“Great book. I learned things I never knew before. A must read for all that want to make America a better and sounder Country.”

~ Robert L. (via Amazon.com)

“This book provides an excellent framework for preserving the American Dream.”

~ Joni A. (via Amazon.com)

“Thoughtful essay with good background and supporting arguments.”

~ S. Kampa

EXCERPT FROM VIGILANCE

In the Battle of Trenton, men risked bullets and bayonets. They fought not for a government, but for the idea of Liberty. We have a debt to these soldiers that can only be serviced but never repaid. That service is our vigilance to assure our governments are just, well-managed, and restrained. If we fail in our resolution to be honest seekers of fact and reasoned judgment, then we dishonor our heritage. If we fail in our vigilance to keep government tightly limited, then our children will pay the price.



VIGILANCE: THE PRICE OF LIBERTY

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VIGILANCE

THE PRICE OF LIBERTY

About The Book

Vigilance: The Price of Liberty was written to inspire the public to become well informed, reasoned, and to demand better from those that we elect. This is a non-partisan, Father-Daughter creation exploring our past, present and future through our current state of affairs from the perspectives of two generations. During this journey of enlightenment we became angry in being played for fools by politicians and the media, fearful for our future from the pending economic disaster, and aware that the issues that face our country have largely precipitated from a lack of vigilance of its people. The absence of vigilance has produced a collective ignorance of our nation's history, a disregard for the Constitution, and a public that has become disenchanted and disaffected by political games. It has become more important than ever to read and understand our founding documents to give us the tools needed to insure the "Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

About The Authors

MEGAN V. ZWERLING

Megan is currently a student at the University of South Carolina studying Biomedical Engineering with a Business minor. Her love for the nation's history was sparked when taking Advanced Placement U.S. History in high school. Combined with her interest in biomedical engineering, she did her high school senior project on the impact of excessive and uncertain regulations on medical advances. Her research revealed how regulations hinder medical development but, more important, she discovered the threat to liberty as it affects her future and the future of her generation.

Without liberty she would not have the opportunity to achieve the "American Dream". She was inspired to co-author the book, Vigilance: The Price of Liberty, when writing essays for her college applications that asked to discuss the most important problem facing her generation. Realizing that too many people are not sufficiently informed of the facts to demand a well-managed government, she and her father began a two year journey to write Vigilance.

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ROBERT J. ZWERLING

As a high-tech business executive for the past two decades, Robert has founded, managed and grown software companies for manufacturing, telecommunications and predictive analytics. His work took him across the globe, from which he developed a keen understanding of the unique role of America and American liberty to produce prosperity.

Concerned about the destruction of liberty from partisan politics and a media that takes sides, he was compelled to research American history and the Constitution to find solutions. He then joined with his daughter on a journey to reclaim the liberty we have let government take from us. Robert has a Bachelor of Engineering from Stony Brook University and a Masters of Science in Mechanical Engineering (in thermodynamics and fluid mechanics) from CSU Los Angeles and is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of California.

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Press Releases

REPUBLICANS CONTROL CONGRESS . . . BUT THAT'S NO LONGER ENOUGH

IRVINE, CA (January 7, 2015) – On January 6, 2015 the Republican Party formally took control of the House of Representatives and Senate. But this is not enough. Whether you are of Democratic or Republican Party affiliation, the objective both parties habitually seek to gain is the ultimate political prize – control of the House, Senate and Presidential branches of government. It's the “Super Bowl” of political victory. In fact we are now told by the parties and media political pundits that effective governing cannot happen until one party has captured those branches. However, it is instructive to note that all forms of dictatorships have the same goal – to consolidate power in one man or party.

The Constitution was specifically designed with the House, Senate, President and Judiciary to be equal and with separate powers with the express purpose to prevent power from consolidating in one man or one branch. So parties, that can consolidate power, work against the very design that the framers crafted. A government that “needs” to be controlled by a singular political group enables the will of the party to supplant the will of the nation. For example, the Affordable Care Act was just such legislation and its passage trampled on our liberty to make our own healthcare decisions.

As we write in the book *Vigilance: The Price of Liberty*, “The great body of us instinctively knows that Liberty is about the freedom of choice, but what we do not realize is how our Liberty is eroded by the uncontrolled growth of government. We do not understand that our prosperity and Liberty are intertwined; we do not comprehend that we cannot control our future unless we have Liberty.” Power vested in a single party is a threat to liberty if one party retains that power for too long.

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DISCOURAGEMENT OF DEBATE

As appeared in the Wall Street Journal on March 27th, The Campus Climate Crusade, by Kimberly Strassel, colleges are actively suppressing speech that does not hold with their views – climate is but one example. Strassel reports that a “collation of liberal organizations have been using “disclosure” to sully the names of conservative professors and to try to shut down their programs.” Strassel continues to highlight the liberal American Association of University Professors, Kansas Chapter, demanded the records of Art Hall who runs the Center for Applied Economics at the University of Kansas School of Business. Hall filed a law suit to stop students from demanding Hall turn over his personal emails over the past 10 years. Why target Hall? Apparently because he received a grant from the conservative Fred and Mary Koch Foundation and that Hall testified against green energy quotas. The irony here is that the AAUP defended climate change proponent, Michael Mann, against a conservative group’s demand for his records.

The concept of a university as a bastion of free thought and debate, where the learned and learning can intellectually experiment has largely faded into institutions that force a political line of thought. Today, students are told “truths” that are absolute and any deviation from the accepted thought is intolerable. As we write in [Vigilance: The Price of Liberty](#), Herbert Marcuse was a political theorist and he was considered a Father of the “New Left” that originated in the campus protests in the 1960s. His essay Repressive Tolerance, argues that tolerance does not apply to right-wing political movements and writes of his term “liberating tolerance”: Liberating tolerance, then, would mean intolerance against movements from the Right and toleration of movements from the Left [emphasis added]. . .

They would include the withdrawal of toleration of speech and assembly from groups and movements which promote aggressive policies, armament, chauvinism, discrimination on the grounds of race and religion, or which oppose the extension of public services, social security, medical care, etc. If schools and other government institutions cannot program the thought Marcuse deems acceptable, then he demands that the rights of freedom of speech and assembly, protected by the First Amendment, be withdrawn for those thinkers that contradict his social policies. Democracy demands tolerance of ALL thought, for if some thought can be banned then all thought can be banned. When debate is reduced to name calling of “science denier”, “raciest” or “sexist” then there is no debate. The foundation of freedom is freedom of speech, even speech that for some may be reprehensible. If there is a position noble and worthy then it can and must be intellectually defended.



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WE ARE ALL STUDENTS

Political beliefs mean nothing if they are not challenged. If you have not cultivated enough facts to render a reasoned judgment, nor listened to others point of views, then you have not achieved a well-rounded perspective. How it is that one's personal belief is the absolute correct one? James Madison commented that as long as men remain fallible there will be a difference of opinion.

Political debates often run into differing points of view where neither party in the conversation is willing to listen to the other. The result can then manifest in name calling and a general elevation of voice volumes. This helps no one, solves nothing, and creates more problems. Most of us have something to say of value, something to teach, but we fail to see that quality in others. Whether or not we agree with the perspectives of others is beside the point.

If all of us thought ourselves students rather than teachers, maybe our free flow of ideas could give way to innovation. The best solutions are reached through debate of differing points of view – not from one mind or point of view.

In continuance with the theme of having reasoned dialogue to give way to solutions, let us all become students once again. Everyone has something to learn. It would behoove us to listen to others, whether we agree or disagree, so that we may come to a more informed conclusion.



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MILLENNIALS FEEL MINIPULATED

Young people are apathetic to politics not only because they are distrustful of politicians and the media that covers their antics, but also, in part, because they feel manipulated. It has become a rather common belief that politicians will say whatever they need to say to get elected. One could say this desperation for votes is due to the path of a career politician - one who is dependent on the taxpayer dollar and ignorance. In reality there are multiple factors that have led to this disconcerted feeling of young voters toward the politicians vying for their votes, but that is something that should be a topic for further discussion.

In the meantime, candidates may have trouble just getting Millennials to come to the voting booth, let alone vote for them if they do. Millennials are an untapped voting resource that candidates need to take special care to impress as this voting group has the potential to swing this election IF they use their voting power.



VIGILANCE

Press Releases

THE MOST MODERN POLITICAL THINKING

The great philosopher Socrates said “The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.” In 1787 a group of men assembled to construct the greatest political document of mankind. It was the most modern of political thinking that drew upon all the thousands of years of governments before it. These men realized the greatness the country could attain with the right form of government that would protect individual liberty.

The document they created enabled the country to change the course of the world. It brought prosperity never before experienced by so many. It lifted billions of people from abject poverty and the drudgery of daily life to education and free time – a concept largely unheard of. The people of the country became exceptional and, when given the most powerful military, sought not to use it to conquer but to liberate. This country is America and its document the Constitution.

However, most of her citizens consider the Constitution out dated. Something to be interpreted for “modern” times or just irrelevant. But since 1787 there has been no successful “modern” political thinking than that expressed in the Constitution. Political movements of collectivism expressed as socialism, communism and Marxism have all proven insufficient, unsustainable or simply abject failures. These are the old and past failed political philosophies.

Which is why we question how Americans so often revere the Constitution at the same time they remain ignorant of it? Why do we let politicians trample upon and disregard the Constitution? Why do we forsake our civic responsibility and allow ourselves to be played for fools? Why do we ignore the hundreds of years of history and make the same mistakes?

It was these questions that lead us to write Vigilance: The Price of Liberty to help us remember who we are, where we came from, and why we are the last best hope for liberty and prosperity. Please join us in restoring that document that remains the most modern of political thought and let us not turn back to the failed old ways of despotic collectivism.

