

# ABOUT VIGILANCE

*What you can do today to save America tomorrow*

## *Introduction*

**W**inston 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.”

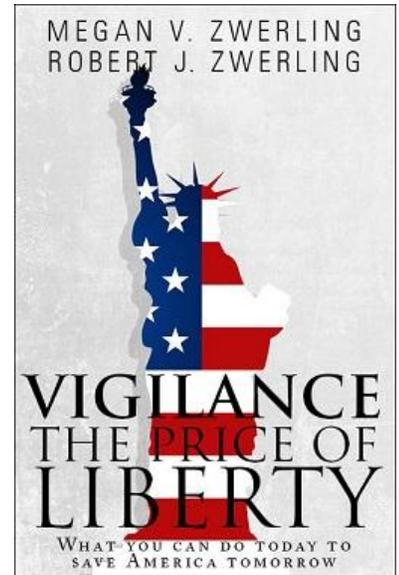
~ Joni A. (via Amazon.com)

“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

**V**igilance: *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

#### **M**EGAN 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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#### **R**OBERT 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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# VIGILANCE

## *Press & Media*

### CONCEALMENT...GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION

IRVINE, CA (March 31, 2015) – The book *Vigilance: The Price of Liberty* was launched by the thought that “Government has become too large to sustain and too opaque to be accountable, which diminishes its ability to do the public good.” As government has grown in size and complexity, politicians have become comfortable to conceal their actions from the public and, therefore, become less and less accountable.

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in a recent press conference claimed that it was convenience that lead her to establish an email server separate and apart from the government to conduct all her official business [when Secretary of State]. We are asked to believe that the inconvenience of carrying two cell phones was more than she could bear. We are asked to believe that establishing a separate server and infrastructure of an email account was easier to create than simply adding another email address to her smart phone. We are asked to ignore and disregard an earlier interview where she professed to routinely carrying two phones.

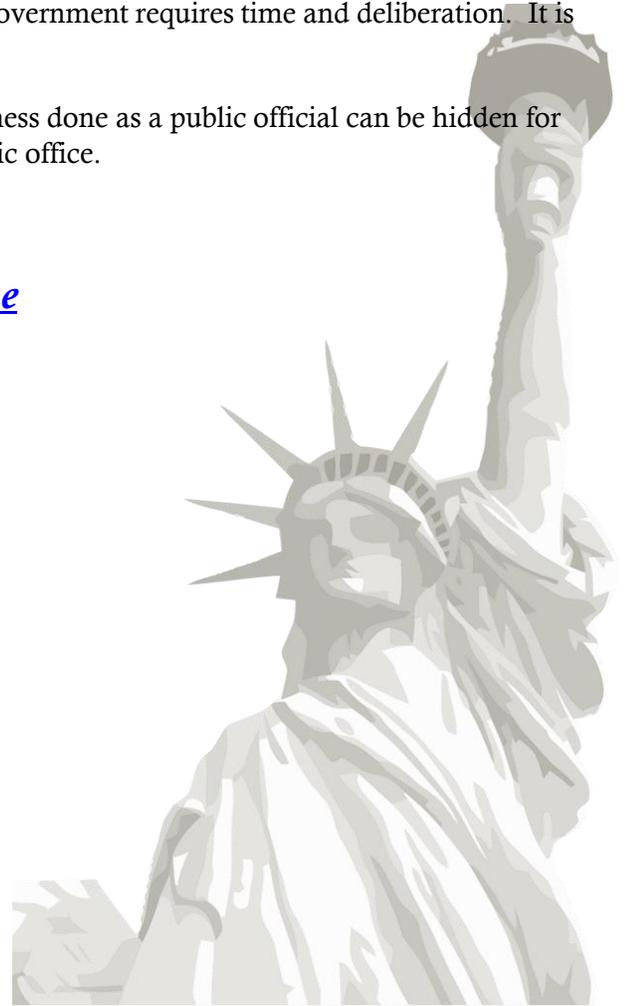
The issue here is not convenience but concealment. The fact of the matter is that Mrs. Clinton established a separate email server is to conceal from the public those activities she did not want to be held into account. Imagine if you set up a separate email account to conduct all your communications at work. How that would go over with your employer? It would not! You use your private email to conduct private activities, like looking for a new job.

Even if we disregard concealment as an anathema to public service and accept Mrs. Clinton at her word that her action was done for the purpose of convenience, then she must be disqualified from service by the mere fact that she does not understand the fundamentals of a Democratic Republic. This form of government requires time and deliberation. It is difficult, inefficient and inconvenient.

If a politician is actively concealing or is under the impression that business done as a public official can be hidden for convenience-sake, then that politician is disqualified and not fit for public office.

Convenience in public office by any other name is concealment.

[\*View article online\*](#)



# VIGILANCE

## *Press & Media*

### OBAMA'S WAR ON THE AMERICAN DREAM

IRVINE, CA (January 22, 2015) – In President Barak Obama's State of the Union address to Congress (January 20, 2015) he declared "the shadow of crisis has passed and the state of the Union is strong". He then mentioned several points of unemployment, wages and GDP growth to add substance to his declaration. However, in politics, fact and perceptions are often a mirage. For example, a glass that is filled half way can be viewed as half-empty or half-full. If the Democratic President holds the glass in front of Republican partisans, these partisans see the glass bone dry without a "smidgen" of water to be found. But, hold the same glass to Democratic partisans and they see water overflowing the glass.

Now, a clear-eyed analysis will show economic progress and in the right direction but, at anemic levels. The real unemployment rate using the government's U-6 indicator is over 10% versus the widely reported U-3 indicator of 5.6%. The U-3 indicator has been satisfactory for 50 years because, as the U-3 rate declined, the workforce participation rate increased. In other words, unemployment dropped because more people were working. However, since 2009 the largest contributor to the drop in the U-3 unemployment was people "leaving" the workforce. So, 5.6% is related to the lowest workforce participation rate in the last 35 years rather than more people being employed.

The President also crowed that wages were rising. However, adjusted for inflation, the median wage has fallen about 10% under the President's watch. Couple this with GDP growth that is, on average, 50% less than GDP growth of post-recession recoveries of the past 50 years and you have extremely poor economic performance in the face of massive government spending to "stimulate" the economy. Under Obama's policies the government has increased debt from \$10 trillion to \$18 trillion.

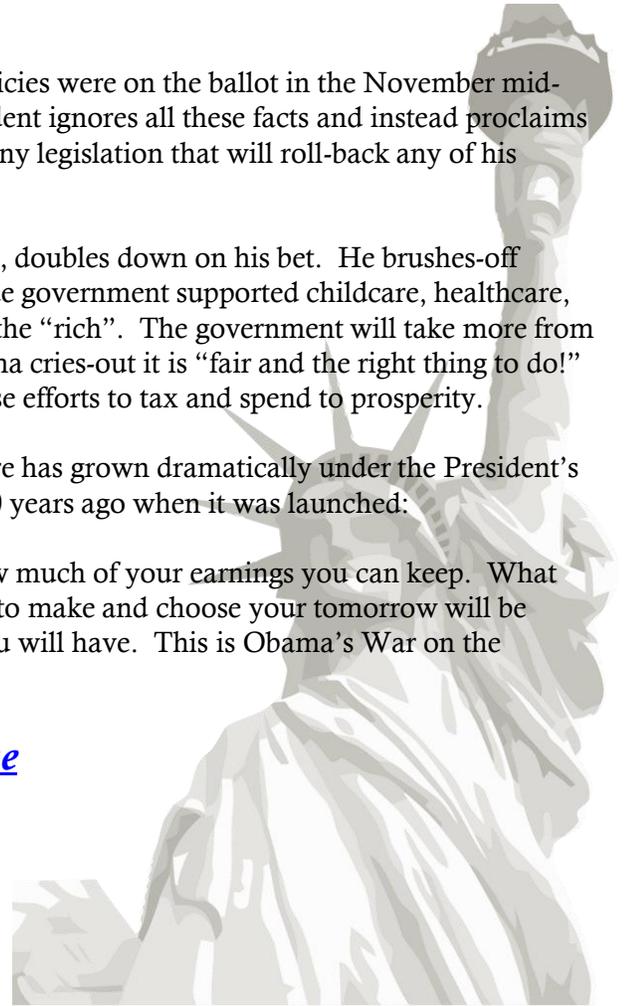
The President credits the end of the "crisis" to his policies yet, those policies were on the ballot in the November mid-term election and were thoroughly rejected by the voters. But the President ignores all these facts and instead proclaims all is now well and draws a line to say to Republicans that he will veto any legislation that will roll-back any of his policies.

In the face of rejection by the voters, the President, like a losing gambler, doubles down on his bet. He brushes-off reality and instead speaks of "Middle Class Economics" that will provide government supported childcare, healthcare, education, retirement and a home. And all this will be borne by taxing the "rich". The government will take more from the wealthy to "give" to the middle-class. With this proclamation Obama cries-out it is "fair and the right thing to do!" Never mind the Constitution or, for that matter, the failed results of these efforts to tax and spend to prosperity.

For example, as we write in the book *Vigilance: The Price of Liberty* welfare has grown dramatically under the President's policies yet, the current level of poverty is essential the same as it was 50 years ago when it was launched:

For Obama, it will be the government who decides who gets what. How much of your earnings you can keep. What you can get. How you can live. The American dream of your freedom to make and choose your tomorrow will be replaced by the government's determination of the standard of living you will have. This is Obama's War on the American dream.

[\*View article online\*](#)



# VIGILANCE

## *Press & Media*

### EDUCATION FOR THE PEOPLE?

IRVINE, CA (January 13, 2015) – President Obama recently announced his intentions to extend two free years of community college to students willing to “work for it.” While on the surface this may have appeal to boost the economy and rehabilitate the working class, the President’s campaign to stimulate the modern workforce by controlling education is nothing short of unconstitutional. The federal government does not possess the power to dictate educational spending, nor is it granted the authority to circumscribe candidacy for a continued education.

As we write in *Vigilance: The Price of Liberty*, “Federal government involvement in education makes no sense given it is hard to prove its effectiveness. Further, it makes no sense for bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., to take our money then decide how to spend it in our localities.” We must consider this: what in the Constitution grants the national government the power to prescribe “free” college tuition to students attending a 2-year school versus those attending a 4-year institution or any school at all?

If the federal government agrees to fund such a program, how will the President’s proposed budget impact taxpayers? According to the President, \$60 billion over 10 years with another \$20 billion required by the states. If you believe this then you must have believed the White House when it forecasted, as reported in the Wall Street Journal article “*The Obama College Plan*” on January 11, 2015, “in 2010 that its income-based repayment (i.e. student loan forgiveness) plans would cost \$1.7 billion that year and \$7.4 billion over the following decade. By 2014 the Administration’s estimate had ballooned to \$7.6 billion for 2015 alone.”

In spite of the increasing money spent, the command and control central planners at the federal government have produced nothing less than dictatorship of the educational system without any betterment of it. Let tax dollars remain with localities and let parents and school boards determine how best to spend tax dollars for education. This is where it constitutionally belongs and will do the most good.

[\*View article online\*](#)



# VIGILANCE

## *Press & Media*

### 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.

[\*View article online\*](#)



# VIGILANCE

## Press & Media

### **CORONA DEL MAR TODAY: DAD, DAUGHTER PUBLISH BOOK ON 'PRICE OF LIBERTY'**

By Amy Senk | October 31, 2014

What began as a common theme in a Corona del Mar student's college application essays in 2012 became fodder for a just-published book about the U.S. government and Constitution.

*Vigilance: The Price of Liberty* was released nationally in late September, but Megan Zwerling, who co-authored the book with her father, said it began two years ago when she was a senior at Corona del Mar High School.

"I had this newfound love of history" after taking an advanced placement U.S. history class, she said. Zwerling also knew she wanted to work in the healthcare industry.

When two college applications asked for essays about the biggest issues she'd face in her future, Zwerling wrote about how government regulations have affected the healthcare industry and medical advances. "I was looking forward to working for this dream about how I might own a biotech company some day, but government has become too large and too opaque for me to do any good?" she said.

The essays turned into a senior project as she and her father, Robert, discussed her research. "I had my parents read the essays so many times to make sure the grammar was all correct," she said. "He said we should write a book, and I said, 'Ha ha.'"

He didn't let go of the idea, however. By the time they were driving across country to the University of South Carolina, where Zwerling is now a junior studying biomedical engineering, she figured out that her dad was serious.

"We talked about it the entire trip," she said. "By the end, we had a schedule and I thought, 'We're really doing this.'" In the beginning, Zwerling said, they each took a turn writing a chapter, comparing notes and talking every Sunday morning about their progress.

Eventually, she said, they reorganized the book, combining their work.

According to the Tate Publishing website, the book "is about liberty and how it is tied to our prosperity."

"Unless we become vigilant, know the Constitution and demand a well-managed government, then the American dream will die with the next generation," the website states. "This book guides the reader through a working knowledge of the Constitution, analyzes the social and economic problems that stem from political corruption, and provides seven solutions to save America."

Zwerling said the ideal audience for the book is high school students heading to college. "This impacts everyone, no matter your major," she said. "If you live in the United States, if you're American, this is for you. If you're 18 to 25, you're the ones who are going to fix this. If you're older, you can understand how things have changed."

Corona del Mar High School history teacher Laura Mayberry was "over the moon" about Zwerling's success. "She has had a strong sense of purpose and community," Mayberry said. "She cares a great deal about the future of the United States and its continued success."

Zwerling said she has been in contact with Newport Beach library officials to organize a book event when she is home from school. She has also arranged a book signing at a coffee shop in Columbia, South Carolina. The book is available online.

