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VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1 BY AND FOR FREEDOM LOVING ALASKANS



Reject the Initiation of Violence

Mises Daily: Thursday, December 27, 2012 by [Ron Paul](#)

[Excerpted from Ron Paul's historic farewell speech to Congress, which is available in our new publication, *Pursue the Cause of Liberty: A Farewell to Congress*, in both [pocketbook](#) and [ebook](#) editions, with an introduction by Lew Rockwell.]

Trust Yourself, Not the Government

Too many people have for too long placed too much confidence and trust in government and not enough in themselves. Fortunately, many are now becoming aware of the seriousness of the gross mistakes of the past several decades. The blame is shared by both political parties. Many Americans now are demanding to hear the plain truth of things and want the demagoguing to stop. Without this first step, solutions are impossible.

Seeking the truth and finding the answers in liberty and self-reliance promotes the optimism necessary for restoring prosperity. The task is not that difficult if politics doesn't get in the way.

We have allowed ourselves to get into such a mess for various reasons.

Politicians deceive themselves as to how wealth is produced. Excessive confidence is placed in the judgment of politicians and bureaucrats. This replaces the confidence in a free society. Too many in high places of authority became convinced that only they, armed with arbitrary government power, can bring about fairness, while facilitating wealth production. This always proves to be a utopian dream and destroys wealth and liberty. It

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Government in a free society should have no authority to meddle in social activities or the economic transactions of individuals. Nor should government meddle in the affairs of other nations. All things peaceful, even when controversial, should be permitted.

We must reject the notion of prior restraint in economic activity just as we do in the area of free speech and religious liberty. But even in these areas government is starting to use a backdoor approach of political correctness to regulate speech—a dangerous trend. Since 9/11 monitoring speech on the internet is now a problem since warrants are no longer required.



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The Proliferation of Federal Crimes

The Constitution established four federal crimes. Today the experts can't even agree on how many federal crimes are now on the books—they number into the thousands. No one person can comprehend the enormity of the legal system, especially the tax code. Due to the ill-advised drug war and the endless federal expansion of the criminal code we have over 6 million people under correctional suspension, more than the Soviets ever had, and more than any other nation today, including China. I don't understand the complacency of the Congress and the willingness to continue their obsession with passing more Federal laws. Mandatory sentencing laws associated with drug laws have compounded our prison problems.

The federal register is now 75,000 pages long and the tax code has 72,000 pages, and expands every year. When will the people start shouting, "enough is enough," and demand Congress cease and desist.

Achieving Liberty

Liberty can only be achieved when government is denied the aggressive use of force. If one seeks liberty, a precise type of government is needed. To achieve it, more than lip service is required.

Two choices are available.

1. A government designed to protect liberty—a natural right—as its sole objective. The people are expected to care for themselves and reject the use of any force for interfering with another person's liberty. Government is given a strictly limited authority to enforce contracts, property ownership, settle disputes, and defend against foreign aggression.

2. A government that pretends to protect liberty but is granted power to arbitrarily use force over the people and foreign nations. Though the grant of power many times is meant to be small and limited, it inevitably metastasizes into an omnipotent political cancer. This is the problem for which the world has suffered throughout the ages. Though meant to be limited it nevertheless is a 100 percent sacrifice of a principle that would-be-tyrants find irresistible. It is used vigorously—though incrementally and insidiously. Granting power to government officials always proves the adage that: "power corrupts."

Once government gets a limited concession for the use of force to mold people, its habits and plan the economy, it causes a steady move toward tyrannical government. Only a revolutionary spirit can reverse the process and deny to the government this arbitrary use of aggression. There's no in-between. Sacrificing a little liberty for imaginary safety

always ends badly.

Today's mess is a result of Americans accepting option #2, even though the Founders attempted to give us Option #1.

The results are not good. As our liberties have been eroded our wealth has been consumed. The wealth we see today is based on debt and a foolish willingness on the part of foreigners to take our dollars for goods and services. They then

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loan them back to us to perpetuate our debt system. It's amazing that it has worked for this long but the impasse in Washington, in solving our problems indicate that many are starting to understand the seriousness of the world-wide debt crisis and the dangers we face. The longer this process continues the harsher the outcome will be.

The Financial Crisis Is a Moral Crisis

Many are now acknowledging that a financial crisis looms but few understand it's, in reality, a moral crisis. It's the moral crisis that has allowed our liberties to be undermined and permits the exponential growth of illegal government power. Without a clear understanding of the nature of the crisis it will be difficult to prevent a steady march toward tyranny and the poverty that will accompany it.

Ultimately, the people have to decide which form of government they want; option #1 or option #2. There is no other choice. Claiming there is a choice of a "little" tyranny is like describing pregnancy as a "touch of pregnancy." It is a myth to believe that a mixture of free markets and government central economic planning is a worthy compromise. What we see today is a result of that type of thinking. And the results speak for themselves.

A Culture of Violence

America now suffers from a culture of violence. It's easy to reject the initiation of violence against one's neighbor but it's ironic that the people arbitrarily and freely anoint government officials with monopoly power to initiate violence against the American people—practically at will.

Because it's the government that initiates force, most people accept it as being legitimate. Those who exert the force have no sense of guilt. It is believed by too many that governments are morally justified in initiating force supposedly to "do good." They incorrectly believe that this authority has come from the "consent of the people." The minority, or victims of government violence never consented to suffer the abuse of government mandates, even when dictated by the majority. Victims of TSA excesses never consented to this abuse.

This attitude has given us a policy of initiating war to "do good," as well. It is claimed that war, to prevent war for noble purposes, is justified. This is similar to what we were once told that: "destroying a village to save a village" was justified. It was said by a U.S. Secretary of State that the loss of 500,000 Iraqis, mostly children, in the 1990s, as a result of American bombs and sanctions, was "worth it" to achieve the "good" we brought to the Iraqi people. And look at the mess that Iraq is in today.

Government use of force to mold social and economic behavior at home and abroad has justified individuals using force on their own terms. The fact that violence by government is seen as morally justified, is the reason why violence will increase when the big financial crisis hits and becomes a political crisis as well.

First, we recognize that individuals shouldn't initiate violence, then we give the authority to government. Eventually, the immoral use of government violence, when things go badly, will be used to justify an individual's "right" to do the same thing. Neither the government nor individuals have the moral right to initiate violence against another yet we are moving toward the day when both will claim this authority. If this cycle is not reversed society will break down.

When needs are pressing, conditions deteriorate and rights become relative to the demands and the whims of the majority. It's then not a great leap for individuals to take it upon themselves to use violence to get what they claim is theirs. As the economy deteriorates and the wealth discrepancies increase—as are already occurring—violence increases as those in need take it in their own hands to get what they believe is theirs. They will not wait for a government rescue program.

When government officials wield power over others to bail out the special interests, even with disastrous results to the average citizen, they feel no guilt for the harm they do. Those who take us into undeclared wars with many casualties

resulting, never lose sleep over the death and destruction their bad decisions caused. They are convinced that what they do is morally justified, and the fact that many suffer just can't be helped.



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When the street criminals do the same thing, they too have no remorse, believing they are only taking what is rightfully theirs. All moral standards become relative. Whether it's bailouts, privileges, government subsidies or benefits for some from inflating a currency, it's all part of a process justified by a philosophy of forced redistribution of wealth. Violence, or a threat of such, is the instrument required and unfortunately is of little concern of most members of Congress.

Some argue it's only a matter of "fairness" that those in need are cared for. There are two problems with this. First, the principle is used to provide a greater amount of benefits to the rich than to the poor. Second, no one seems to be concerned about whether or not it's fair to those who end up paying for the benefits. The costs are usually placed on the backs of the middle class and are hidden from the public eye. Too many people believe government handouts are free, like printing money out of thin air, and there is no cost. That deception is coming to an end. The bills are coming due and that's what the economic slowdown is all about.

Sadly, we have become accustomed to living with the illegitimate use of force by government. It is the tool for telling the people how to live, what to eat and drink, what to read and how to spend their money.

To develop a truly free society, the issue of initiating force must be understood and rejected. Granting to government even a small amount of force is a dangerous concession.

Dr. Ron Paul is a Republican member of Congress from Texas and a 2012 US presidential candidate.



Constitutionally, Speaker Boehner Should Not Be Making Pre-emptive Tax Concessions

Posted by [Rob Natelson](#)

From the standpoint of one familiar with our constitutional history, the spectacle of the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives making pre-emptive tax concessions to the President is unnerving.

Over a period of centuries, the lower house of the English Parliament, the House of Commons, fought for and won the "power of the purse"—that is, the right to initiate, as well as approve, all revenue measures. Based on English success, we adopted the same system. Until now, apparently.

Fundamental to the rights of Englishman was (and is) the right not to be taxed without consent. That required approval by the House of Commons, as the best representative of the people in the English government.

It also meant that only the House of Commons could initiate tax laws. Such laws could be vetoed by the upper chamber (the House of Lords) or by the King, but they had to originate in the Commons. This rule proved to be a

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decisive factor in England's conversion from an aristocratic government into a free country.

But if the leaders of the Commons had made pre-emptive concessions as Boehner is doing now, England might not have become a free country. And if England hadn't, neither would have the United States.

In America, we copied this aspect of the English system. During the 1787 constitutional convention, the commissioners [delegates] had to wrangle over the composition of the new Congress. A key part of the ensuing "Great Compromise" was the stipulation that only the House of Representatives—the federal institution most closely reflecting the people—could originate revenue bills.

To be sure, a few commissioners tried to dismiss that prerogative as insignificant. But in one of the convention's most memorable moments, John Dickinson described how experience instructed us in ways that mere reason never could:

"Experience must be our only guide," told his fellow commissioners. "Reason may mislead us. It was not Reason that discovered the singular & admirable mechanism of the English Constitution. . . . And has not experience verified the utility of restraining money bills to the immediate representatives of the people. . . . the effect was visible & could not be doubted."

Hence, the final wording of Article I, Section 7, Clause 1: "All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with Amendments as on other Bills."

Boehner's job is not to make pre-emptive concessions to the President. It is not to negotiate for presidential permission to pass a budget. His job is to lead the House to adopt a budget in line with the views of those who elected them and the interests of the country.

The initial decision to lower, raise, or maintain tax rates should be made in the House. Any negotiations should take place only after the House adopts a budget, and that budget should serve as the starting point. Not the demands of the President.

*In private life, Rob Natelson is a long-time conservative/free market activist, but professionally he is a constitutional scholar whose meticulous studies of the Constitution's original meaning have been published or cited by many top law journals. (See: www.constitution.i2i.org/about/.) Most recently, he co-authored *The Origins of the Necessary and Proper Clause* (Cambridge University Press) and *The Original Constitution* (Tenth Amendment Center). After a quarter of a century as Professor of Law at the University of Montana, he recently retired to work full time at Colorado's Independence Institute.*



4 Rules to Freedom

The Rothbardian approach to a pro-freedom strategy comes down to the following four affirmations:

the victory of liberty is the highest political end;

the proper groundwork for this goal is a moral passion for justice;

the end should be pursued by the speediest and most efficacious possible means; and

the means taken must never contradict the goal – "whether by advocating gradualism, by employing or advocating any aggression against liberty, by advocating planned programs, by failing to seize any opportunities to reduce State power, or by ever increasing it in any area."

The Feds Huff and Puff. And Back Down Once Again

Posted by [Michael Boldin](#)

Here we go again. Another Real ID “deadline” from the Department of Homeland Security has been looming over states like a black cloud. The deadline for everyone to comply with the federal act? January 15, 2013. And “this time,” the DHS was serious about it.

The end result, though, is the same as it has been the last few times. As they’ve done every other time, the deadline has been “postponed” because states refused to comply.

The feds huff and puff, and threaten and warn. But DHS isn’t much more than a little doggie with a big bark. State nullification has bite.

THE REAL ID BACKSTORY

In 2005, George Bush and the republicans gave us the REAL ID Act, a blatantly unconstitutional national ID card program. It was set to be implemented in on May 11, 2008. The law stated that “a federal agency may not accept, for any official purpose, a driver’s license or identification card issued by a State ... unless the State is meeting the requirements of this section.” That meant that in 2008, states were going to have to issue REAL ID-compliant, national-ID drivers licenses.

But, lo and behold, a number of states passed laws and resolutions rejecting the federal act. New Hampshire, Maine, Utah and others – all made it clear they opposed it. By 2009, half the states in the country would say “NO” to REAL ID.

And Montana became the first state in modern times to pass a bill that expressly nullified a federal act. It passed both houses unanimously and was signed by Democratic Governor Brian Schweitzer.

DHS saw the writing on the wall. Months before the initial deadline, they knew that almost no one was going to be in compliance. So DHS started asking the states to request deadlines. When the March 31, 2008 deadline for extension requests came, several states didn’t even ask for one. Montana notified DHS that it was not going to comply with the REAL ID Act, ever.

The feds, of course, had to put on a show. As the deadline came near, DHS issued warnings. Montana seemed to be getting the most heat about it. People supposedly wouldn’t be able to open a bank account, or enter a federal building (that’s a blessing in disguise, maybe), or get on an airplane. Was the Bush administration warning of a no-fly zone over Montana? It sure seemed that way at the time.

But, cooler heads and stronger backbones prevailed. When Schweitzer was [asked on NPR](#) his view of the Federal Act, and threats to the people living in his state, he said the following:

*“Well, we are putting up with the federal government on so many fronts, and nearly every month they come out with another harebrained scheme, an unfunded mandate to tell us that our life is going to be better if we’ll just buckle under on some other kind of rule or regulation. And we usually just play along for a while, we ignore them for as long as we can, and we try not to bring it to a head. But **if it comes to a head, we found that it’s best to just tell them to go to hell and run the state the way we want to run our state.**”* [emphasis added]

With strong state resistance, the feds had no way to implement their so-called law. A new deadline was set. States had to comply or request another extension by the end of 2009. By late that year, a number of states refused to even request the 2nd extension. At the end of December that year, they [delayed the deadline again](#), “until further notice.”

March, 2011 was the new target date to compel states to comply with the Real ID act. With barely a peep, the deadline was [quietly extended once again](#), to our latest, January 15, 2013.

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THE CRUMBLE

Over the past month or so, people have been getting [warned](#), informed of the [looming deadline](#), told how they [won’t](#)

[be able to board a plane](#), and [more](#). But, with just over a dozen states in compliance, the feds know there's nothing they can do.

So while advisories have been issued, and warnings sent out. It's all just a big huff and puff show, because once-again, the feds have backed down. In their latest spin/press release, [DHS said the following](#):

On December 20, 2012, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) determined that thirteen states have met the standards of the REAL ID Act of 2005 ("Act") for driver's licenses and identification cards and **has granted a temporary deferment for all other states and territories.**" And in a related statement, "**DHS expects to publish a schedule by early fall 2013 and begin implementation at a suitable date thereafter.**" [emphasis added]

A "temporary deferment" to a "suitable date thereafter" from an unconstitutional federal agency on an unconstitutional federal act that they haven't been able to implement for nearly 5 years now?

Yeah, I'll take that. Those DHS piggies can huff and puff all they want. Nullification wins.

ACTION ITEM

Get involved in a nullification effort in your area. Whether it's NDAA, TSA, ACA or anything in between, you can make a difference. <http://tenthamendmentcenter.com/volunteer>

Michael Boldin [send him email] is the founder of the [Tenth Amendment Center](#). He was raised in Milwaukee, WI, and currently resides in Los Angeles, CA. Follow him on twitter - [@michaelboldin](#), on [LinkedIn](#), and on [Facebook](#).



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