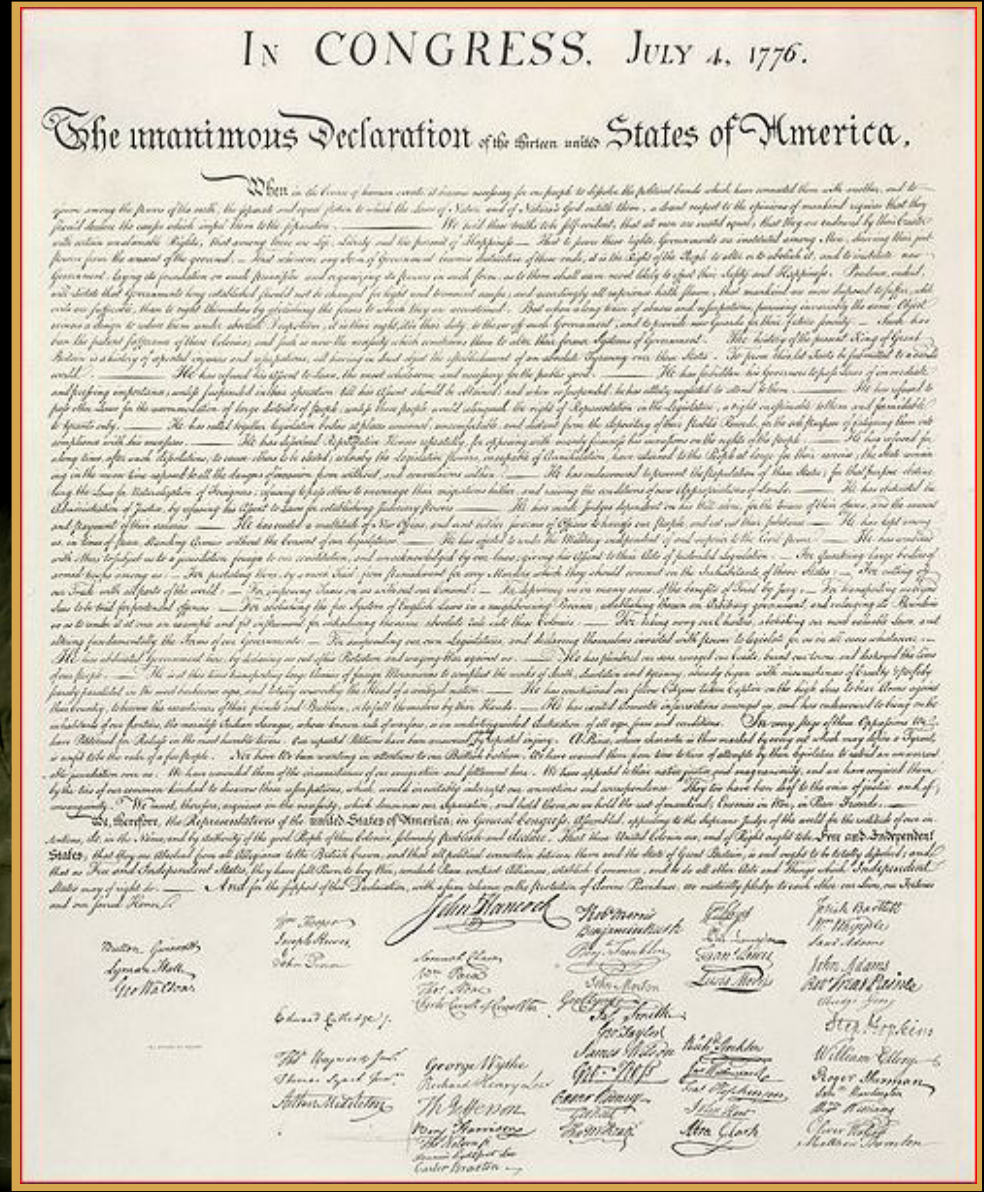


Democracy: The Striped Horse...

Many people believe that the United States was founded as a "Democracy", and will stake their Patriotic lives on that. But it is abundantly clear that this country was founded as an Oligarchy - rule of the priveleged wealthy over the poor and disenfranchised. It was a benevolent extension of Feudalism, and should be commended as such. A brief reading of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Amendments will clarify that for any who are in doubt. Most of our founding fathers were slave owners and would have probably fought twice as hard to keep their slaves, as they did over the tax on the tea in Boston Harbor. They were, for the most part, wealthy plantation owners. "Native Americans" were considered the lowest form of predatory animal life and certainly not "human". Women did NOT have a right to vote. Child labor was heavily exploited. It would be a full CENTURY before slaves were "freed", and nearly another century before they got the right to vote. "Equality" has never been a cornerstone of our government, and probably never will be. You can paint stripes on a HORSE, and pretend it is a zebra. But you will only annoy the horse, and make a mess of your clothes when you ride.

But consider the fact that this Oligarchy HAS "freed the slaves" (primarily for financial reasons), and HAS given women the right to vote (or else!). We now have a black President, but little has changed in our government - which SHOULD start some bells ringing for you. And somewhere around the early part of my life, "Native Americans" were given the right to vote - FOR THEIR WEALTHY RULERS IN WHICHEVER PARTY THEY CHOSE TO SUPPORT. It must be understood that these "Parties" are a sham, and that the SAME wealth rules this country, regardless of which party you belong to. We "fiddle" while Rome burns, as we discuss the merits of one Party over the other. And also consider the fact that this country of ours has set a "model" for the rest of the world, and became the most powerful country in the world - AS AN OLIGARCHY - NOT AS A DEMOCRACY. Fooling ourselves, has become the primary pastime of Americans, and has continued since our founding fathers declared that "all men were created equal" (as long as they were wealthy, white and male). "Equality" has been a very flexible term throughout our history and rise as the most powerful country in the world. We've been out painting horses, since the days of Paul Revere!

Please don't forget that the "slaves" WERE freed, ...sort of. And that women DID get equality, ...sort of. And the small remnant of surviving "Native Americans" (after the genocide) WERE given the right to conduct gambling operations on their reservations - Now THAT's "Equality" at work! All of this was done, under our system of Oligarchy. And maybe that's why people have come to think that this is a Democracy that we are defending with our lives, and supporting with every dollar we can make. But let's be realistic, and at the



same time, avoid "biting the hand that feeds". Social Consciousness did have its day, and it is still struggling (often in vain) to gain even more ground in our powerful Oligarchy. But "Freedom" isn't free, never was, and never will be. I believe it was Benjamin Franklin who said "Anyone willing to give up freedom for safety, deserves neither" (I may have misquoted, but you get the idea). And Thomas Jefferson, possibly our most important founding father, said "Those who hammer their guns into plows, will plow for those who do not...". Pretty simple advice, eh? (no, I'm not Canadian, but close).

We now live in a land of "entitlement". We use an inordinate amount of the Earth's resources for our tiny (but explosive) population. We pollute at an inordinate level for our population. And we are indignant if anyone questions our "entitlement" do do these things. In fact, we may even go to war over it if our TRUE corporate government decides that it is in their best interest. We have had a great many wars to "free" the land, resources and populations of other countries - and make them our OWN - like California, Hawaii, Texas, etc. But we have also fought (and countless thousands have died) defending the PRINCIPLES of our culture and "Social Consciousness". We need to re-establish those principles, and put them on the front burner. I once knew a guy who "freed" the cash in the register of a convenience store at gunpoint. "Freedom fighters" come in all stripes... He now has his very own stripes.

Currently, we are having a global economic crisis that appears to be directly related to the system of Oligarchy which has taken over the world. And it is heartbreaking to see. It would seem that some "moderation" is in order, if we are to survive. Our Oligarchy got us this far. That same Oligarchy has moderated itself in the past to free slaves, women, children and even Native Americans to some extent (not to the extent of giving them their land back, but that's the POINT - we need to be realistic here!).

There IS hope for the Oligarchy which now rules the entire civilized world. It has changed and moderated before, and it can do it again. But please remember that it has NEVER, moderated without pressure from the people it rules - like Mahatma Ghandi, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, for example. All three of those examples, drew inspiration from David Henry Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience", and if you want to track down the roots of "Freedom" I do not believe there is a better place to start than the short treatise called "Civil Disobedience". I've been honored to have been a guest in many countries around the world, and often as part of the U.S. government's outreach in a concerted effort to

make the world a better place. There are a great many extremely dedicated people working from within our own government and also outside of it, to help manage an increasingly unmanageable population explosion, and the resultant deprivations and horrors that come with that overpopulation. Our country has sustained some damage, but I am firmly convinced that it is still the greatest country on Earth and have had the experience working within it, to support my convictions. It is up to US people, to wake up and start making the changes that we need to make, in order to nurse it back to the health and pride that has made it our home and the envy of the rest of the world. WE, as a people, need to change - first and foremost!

Art is quite possibly the most defining element of all cultures. It affects our perception of what is "good" and what is "right". We "participate" in Art through our perception, and our culture is changed by the Art we embrace. Much if not most of our media, represents "propaganda" or "persuasion" rather than Art. Today, we have entire cultures glued to their television sets, being spoon-fed a false representation of our very own real culture. Our perception is skewed by our consumerism. We consume "News", and believe it to be "truth", when in fact most of the real truth is hidden between the lines or is not presented at all. News "sells" - but almost exclusively, bad news is what sells. There is a PROFIT motive, behind all "news" on major media outlets. Our "entertainment" is no longer Art, it is "pap". We see perfect people in commercials, living perfect lives that we do NOT live. We are INSTRUCTED, by our major media sources. We are pulled in nearly every direction imaginable, to whatever "ends" are being paid for by those who present this media content. The sooner we wake up to this fact, the better chance we have of re-awakening our own "Social Consciousness", and our own appreciation of the culture that the world once fervently admired. Rock music, Blues Music, Film and many other forms of art are uniquely American in their origins. But we seem to have lost our way, and others have picked up where we dropped the ball. I believe that is something we can correct. We could start with music, which is one of the reasons this site is here - and we can entertain ourselves with an eye (and ear) toward our roots as a culture. And everyone knows that television will rot your brain anyway...

Much more later...