

American Empire: Grand Republic to Corporate State

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“America: A Republic? A Democracy?”

The belief that the United States is a Democracy is pervasive throughout much of the American electorate. An erroneous tenet endlessly endorsed by elected officials, the press, academics as well as John and Joan Q. Public.

America was founded on the principles of Republican Government. (Pertains to the form of government and not the party.) The word Democracy appears nowhere in the Constitution. The Constitution with its attendant Bill of Rights, is a blueprint of the American Republican Government. Read the *Federalist* by Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison; or, refer to the notes on the *Debates on the Constitution* during the Constitutional Convention, and one finds that the Founding Fathers were hardly fans of Democracy. Or, merely recite the Pledge of Allegiance: “I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. And to the . . . **Republic** . . . for which it stands . . .

Following are brief explanations of various forms of government; among them Republic and Democracy, in addition to Socialism, Marxism, Fascism, Syndacalism . . .

Republic: Idea of government where the chief executive attains leadership, usually by elections; as opposed to heredity. A form of government of the representative type; where the electorate votes for those who will represent their interests. It is a form of government designed to protect the rights and interests of the individual. It is generally promulgated by a constitution, a government of limited variety.

The U.S. Government has three distinct branches: Legislative, featuring the House of Representatives and the Senate; the Judicial, Supreme Court; and, the Executive or President.

Representatives are elected by the people to two-year terms; the Senate, six-year terms. Those on the Supreme Court are appointed by the President, "with the advice and consent of the Senate," per the Constitution. The President is elected by not only popular vote, but in addition, the Electoral College.

According to the Constitution, the Electoral College is . . . "Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or person holding office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector." Article II, Section I.

Criticism resonates in some quarters of the voting public concerning the Electoral College as inhibiting the popular election. Despite the fact that most presidential contests have been decided by national elections, the Electoral College demonstrates the fact that the Founding Fathers had a certain measure of distrust in the common man and his capacity to successfully maintain the viability of the Grand Republic. An apprehension further underscored by the original election scheme for the Senate. The electorate did not cast ballots for their six-year Senators; rather, members of this House of Congress were voted for by the State Legislators. The public was not able to vote for Senators till 1913.

The generally accepted version of a Republic is **Rule by Law**. This is in direct opposition to regal or totalitarian systems where government is promulgated by a single leader or a restricted clique or junta.

Democracy: There are two basic types of Democracy: Participatory and Representative. With regards to the former, each citizen acts in his or her own accord in helping to put forth an agenda which will see a vote taken on an issue or issues. With the latter, the electorate sends representatives to a parliament where an assembly of elected officials sees to the issues important to those from whose districts they represent. The participatory form is workable with a restricted number of participants. The representative type is required for larger amounts of people to render Democracy workable in an organized fashion. Either way, the 51/49 rule generally prevails. A concern for many of America's Founding Fathers who saw Democracy as the potential of the tyranny of the majority over the minority.

Democracies, like Republics, must insure the protection of the people's freedom and liberties. A constitution limiting the powers of government—whether written or implied—is essential. Unlike America, with its written constitution, Britain has no such document; as opposed to Magna Carta followed by a litany of documents that have appeared at various stages of British history, leading to the present situation in Britain. But there is no set document like the U.S. Constitution—which establishes limited government, in accordance with an attendant Bill of Rights outlining protections for the citizenry from the intrusions of government—with an emphasis on the rights of the individual. However those rights are protected by the legislature in Britain and France, and by the Courts in the United States.

Socialism: Socialism is the collective ownership of the means of production, land and capital. Includes, too, the means of getting the fruits of production to market.

Socialism includes a broad extension of state activity. For example, national health insurance, public education, publically-controlled utilities and public transportation, just to name a few. Socialists believe this would ease the burdens of everyday life of the citizens, while at the same time eliminating what they see as the inequalities inherent in Capitalism.

Socialists also believe that their regulated system would bring order to the waste and spoilage that they see is the result of the Capitalist system. Socialists are great believers in preventing the inequalities of wealth, where the few enjoy much more at the expense of the many.

Marxism: There are differences between Marxism and Socialism. Socialists believe in the peaceful implementation of Socialism. Everybody would be assimilated into the system as opposed to being coerced.

Doctrinaire Marxists believe in the violent overthrow of the established order. This would be followed by a dictatorship by the Proletariat (working class) until the Bourgeoisie (ruling class of Capitalists) has been eliminated, leaving only the Working Class.

Marxists also differ from Socialists in that private property would be abolished. Free enterprise would be severely curtailed, except for allowing small business people or traders and small farmers not affiliated with collectives to exist.

Socialism generally occurs in countries already industrialized, catering to the welfare of the individual. Marxism, on the other hand, has preceded attempts at heavy industrialization, at the expense of the worker.

Syndicalism: An amalgamation, if you will, of Socialism, Marxism, Pluralism (where the responsibility of government is distributed and shared by a plethora of groups and interests, so that there is no monopoly of power) and Anarchism (belief here is that voluntary affiliations and associations would perform the necessary government functions). Anarchists believe peaceful means should be employed to achieve aim; quite the contrary of some like Michael Bakunin who believed that violence was a prerequisite to power.

Syndicalism is a theory which sees the workers as the owners of the means of production. Society should be decentralized. Workers, on the local level, work for Syndicates according to their trades and would run local society. Labor exchanges would be erected to organize and run police and judicial services. A National Federation of Syndicates would take control of the nation's capital. A rough equivalent of this was the old Soviet Union.

Fascism: Poster child expression here was Mussolini's Italy after 1922. Fascism contains elements of Nationalism, Syndicalism, Socialism, Idealism (importance of goals, principles and

values; also, includes the penchant to see things as they might be as opposed to seeing things as they are) and Republicanism.

Fascism largely hinges on the idea of the primacy of the state. Obedience. Discipline. These factors will determine their cultural, societal, political and moral philosophies. The state manages a firm grip on all endeavors. Fascism can be authoritarian and totalitarian.

Dictatorship: The maturation of the Industrial Revolution and the rise of Modern Societies helped to spur the demise of the absolute monarch; while giving rise to the emergence of the Dictator. Dictators have utilized all manner of political, societal, cultural, economic and other forms of national structure in order to aggrandize power. Many have understood and used modern methods of psychology to subdue entire populations. Potential opposition is subject to disposal by lies, scapegoating or manipulation of the levers of power or . . . brute force.

Control of the Fourth Estate amounts to the ether of censorship; while an endless litany of oration cudgels the brains of the masses. "Duty," "service," "equality," "democracy," "freedom," empty phraseology designed to assure the loyalty of the pliable and destroy the "enemies of the state."

Elections, under a Dictatorship, are sometimes frequent but definitely one-sided. Nominations are generally put forth and approved by the single controlling party. Leaving the voter little choice but to cast their support for the party line of candidates. The resulting governing structure is little better than a sounding board for the Dictatorship.

Dictatorships are many times the result of national crises—defeat in war; economic collapse; revolution or related political upheaval. Dictators have made great use of sparkle and spectacle, flash and splash to corral loyalty—parades, music, sports, assemblies, militarism, propaganda, recapturing past glories. . .

Examples of Dictators have been Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Saddam Hussein, Kim Jong-un, Francisco Franco, Porfirio Diaz. . .