

Can America Return to Greatness?

Over the course of the last 220 years, forty four men have held the distinction of holding the office of the President of The United States of America. These men have come from a wide range of backgrounds with many differing cultural ideals. We have had great men that were great presidents. We have had great men that were lousy presidents. We have had lousy men that were actually pretty good presidents and we have had a few the were just plain lousy. Some of these men were poor and rose to the top. Others were born into a world of privilege. Over the expanse of these years totaling eleven score The United States of America has risen from pesky rabble rouser to industrial giant, to savior of the world and now the lone world superpower. America, decadent and proud yet apathetic and foolish, we now stand on the great precipice of history. Here we are, staring into the abyss like many before us, Babylon, Egypt, Greece, Rome, Spain, and England to name a few. Some of those who stood here before us, have faded into history as nothing but a few paragraphs for a high school sophomore in the world history textbook. Others are still among us but are only shadows of their former greatness. So, there it is... the question that pleads for an answer. Are we merely peering into the dark void of failure, secure in our footing and able to step back? Or have we stepped off the cliff and begun our free fall toward insignificance or extinction?

To answer this question, perhaps it is best to ask another. What made America so great? Our humble beginnings were hardly made from the purest and most benevolent principles. After all, this great nation was founded with slavery being a legal trade. This great nation once ruled that a black man was merely three fifths the value of a white man. These are surely not the ideals that made America the greatest nation ever to exist on the face of the Earth. Even with all of

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WHO'S NEXT ?

ET Families sending Kids to College!

The big news in some Evergreen Times families this fall isn't just football. It's college. No, I am not talking about NCAA football. Nicole is off to the University of California—Berkeley. The Kronebusch family has two kids off to college, Matt will be at Washington State University in Pullman while Lauren will attend the University of Washington. That's going to be a knock down drag'em out fight this Christmas.

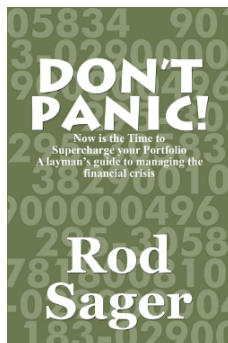
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(Greatness, continued from page 1)

America's faults, millions of hopeful souls crossed an ocean that was far more imposing then, than it is today. They came to blaze a trail in a brave a new world. America is not a place, it is a way of life.

America was founded on an idea. The belief that all men are created equal and all have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This notion was absolutely unprecedented in all of the world's history.

The founding fathers with all their human imperfection and endless bickering amongst themselves, took some sixteen years to craft together the Constitution and several more before it was ratified. In the end, a nation was created like no other before it. A nation truly ruled by it's citizens and each with liberties that had never been offered to common people of any country. A nation of laws, governed by direct representatives of the people in the communities across the land. This wonderful creation, this American experiment, this new nation, was either the greatest stroke of human genius, the greatest stroke of luck, or a stroke from the hand of God almighty himself. Perhaps it was a touch of all three.

The idea that one could seek their happiness and success unhindered by prejudice, brought forth the greatest minds from across the seven seas. They came to be free, they came to become a part of what we were. They did not come to change America to fit the ideals of the home they left, but rather to become part of us. The came to be an American. They came to assimilate into our society and make us stronger in our diversity. With out a doubt, it worked.

Over the course of the twenty two decades since George Washington was sworn in as our first president, America has sought to right her wrongs. Justice has not always come swiftly and at times has come with a great price in blood. But let it be told America has always sought justice for all.

During the second World War, the United States emerged not only as the greatest nation on Earth, but the greatest that ever existed, an economic disaster unlike any before it and verbial hatches and launched the greatest econ-



nessed by human beings. We across three oceans helping the wipe Hitler's Germany, Musso-

Average Americans made They rationed supplies like but provide for the military. Ordi-



extraordinary cause and helped America show the world why liberty is so powerful. Soldiers fight harder, when they are fighting for freedom. People put aside their own petty indulgences and stepped up to help the nation any way they could. The men and women of the greatest generation did not snivel about the lack of a decadent lifestyle. They stepped up and led the nation and the world to victory over oppression across three continents.

After W.W.II, America grew stronger and more wealthy. We helped rebuild Europe and Japan and forged new alliances with many of the most powerful nations. Even as the cold war with Russia loomed over us, we expanded in power and influence. The peak of America's greatness came in the early 1960's. As the 1960's progressed, America started to become addicted to an ever increasing quality of life. Politicians began pandering to the less fortunate with promises they could not keep. As Americans became more and more self-

ish, they began to take for granted a lifestyle their parents had to earn. Fueled by the empty promises from government officials seeking only to get re-elected, our nation has plummeted into political apathy and divisive politics of destruction. Our children are not taught to understand the value of money. They seem unable to comprehend the size and scope of W.W.II and The Great Depression. Yet today's Americans are whining to politicians, begging for a bailout. Americans, a mere seventy years ago felt they owed their country but today many think their country owes them.

So here we are, standing on the precipice of failure, one foot dangling over the edge. Our nation took more than two centuries to accumulate a debt of some eight trillion dollars and the current congress and president have committed in a mere eighteen months to nearly double it to a whopping fourteen trillion dollars. There is no Great Depression (yet). There is no World War. There is only greed, deception, lies and a lust for power and control over the people of these United States. This is not a Republican versus Democrat issue. This is a liberty versus tyranny issue. So put down the latte, turn off the 42 inch flat screen T.V. and quit whining about how your stinking car is two years old and you can't afford a new one... boo hoo. It's time to shelve the apathy. It's time to demand that these Republican and Democrat criminals return our nation to the people. It's time for Americans to step up and payback our fore fathers what WE OWE THEM! We owe them the continuation of the idea that life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is a right of all Americans. The continuation of the idea that anyone can make it in America with hard work and determination, not a handout from some faceless government official. The idea that anyone is welcome in our nation who wants to assimilate into our culture an contribute to our greatness. The idea that government is an arm of the citizens not the arm of oppression and control. The idea that everyone has a right to be who they are so long as they don't infringe on the rights of others.

Come November send Washington D.C. a loud message. Send every single incumbent member of congress home for the holidays. Make a point to read the constitution, it's not as long as you think. Make a promise to actually study the viewpoints of all the candidates running for office. Make a vow to actually look at how your representative voted in the 111th congress. Don't let your Union or your Pastor decide who you vote for. This election, take some initiative and vote for someone who believes in the principles of a free society. Vote for someone that you think is more like one of the six guys on the front page of this newsletter and not like a pimped out rock star. The choice is ours, the choice is now, and the choice is final. May God Bless America and may he safely guide her home.

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extraordinary cause and helped America show the world why liberty is so powerful. Soldiers fight harder, when they are fighting for freedom. People put aside their own petty indulgences and stepped up to help the nation any way they could. The men and women of the greatest generation did not snivel about the lack of a decadent lifestyle. They stepped up and led the nation and the world to victory over oppression across three continents.

