

LEHIGH VALLEY COMMON SENSE HERALD

THE PUBLIC VOICE ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF THE FUTURE



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COMMON SENSE HERALD SPACE REPORT



National Space Society Launches “Enterprise In Space”

(Washington, DC -- September 29, 2014)

The National Space Society (NSS) is launching a new project called “Enterprise In Space” (EIS). This project will design, build, launch, orbit, re-enter, tour, and display a science-fiction-inspired satellite as a science education and technology demonstration project for all ages and as a tribute to the great visionaries of science and science fiction.

Inspired by the classic science fiction writers of the 20th century including Heinlein, Clark and Roddenberry, the EIS project is a grassroots effort by a dedicated team of aerospace, information technology, and education veterans. The goal of the EIS project is to launch an orbital mission by 2019 that will carry 100 or more competitively selected student experiments from around the globe, and to test out new space technology. This is an opportunity for people to directly support something truly historic. EIS will reach out to people with interests in space, science, education, astronomy, cosmology, and science fiction.

A three-minute video explains the entire idea at the Enterprise in Space website (www.enterpriseinspace.org).

The National Space Society is proud to launch the Enterprise in Space project to the world,” said National Space Society Senior Vice President Bruce Pittman. “This is an opportunity for people worldwide to come together to help transform this exciting concept into a remarkable reality. EIS is yet another example of the burgeoning free enterprise use of space.”

What began as a dream by Oregonian science fiction and space enthusiast Shawn Case four years ago is now a major NSS project. Case and his team have prepared a well-defined project plan to launch an orbiter dubbed “NSS Enterprise,” with its artistic design to be conceived by a public competition. The spacecraft will re-enter from orbit for retrieval, go on a tour along with the results of the student experiments, and ultimately be displayed in a major museum along with the names of all who helped fund it.

Case has assembled a professional team skilled in project management, aerospace, social media, and education to carry out the project. Case believes that giving each donor the opportunity to be a virtual crew member and get his or her name on an electronic chip to be carried aloft on this historic flight will greatly increase interest in the project and in space exploration

Famed Apollo 11 moonwalker and NSS Governor Edwin “Buzz” Aldrin endorses EIS: “There’s an exciting new project called Enterprise In Space that I want to tell you about. Together with the National Space Society, the Enterprise In Space project will launch an eight-foot Enterprise satellite into orbit and bring it back to Earth. This is an educational and inspirational tribute to all Enterprise ships in history, to science visionaries, and to the vision of the Great Bird of the Galaxy himself, Gene Roddenberry. My name has been to space and back. Now it’s your turn. Rendezvous with me and support the Enterprise in Space project. Help make history all over again.”

Proposals for experiments to be flown on the orbiter will be sought from students of all nations and ages, from kindergarten through university. Lynne F. Zielinski, a national award-winning educator, NSS Director and Vice President of Public Affairs, will head the EIS education team. “In my 32 years of teaching, I have worked with hundreds of students to send experiments aboard six space shuttle and nine NASA sub-orbital rocket flights,” Zielinski said. “Students really have a lot to offer. I’ve seen the potential of students when they’re excited about being a

real part of space flight exploration. Age is no barrier. They quickly adopt cutting-edge ideas and technology.”

The project’s appeal to those interested in space, science, and education goes hand-in-hand with its appeal to science fiction fans, many of whom have a naturally optimistic view of the future and of humans living and working in space—the goals that NSS has promoted since its founding.

Great visionary science fiction writers created hopes that people would be on the Moon and on the way to Mars by now. Let’s help to turn science fiction into science reality, bridging the conceptual gap through education, imagination, and inspiration. Through real-world enterprise, the people of Earth will contribute to the vision of Enterprise In Space.

Space Happenings

- **NASA’s Orion spacecraft is built to take humans farther than they’ve ever gone before. Orion will serve as the exploration vehicle that will carry the crew to space, provide emergency abort capability, sustain the crew during the space travel, and provide safe re-entry from deep space return velocities.**

On December 5, 2014, Orion launched atop a Delta IV Heavy rocket from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station's Space Launch Complex Flight Test on the Orion Flight Test: a two-orbit, four-hour flight that tested many of the systems most critical to safety.

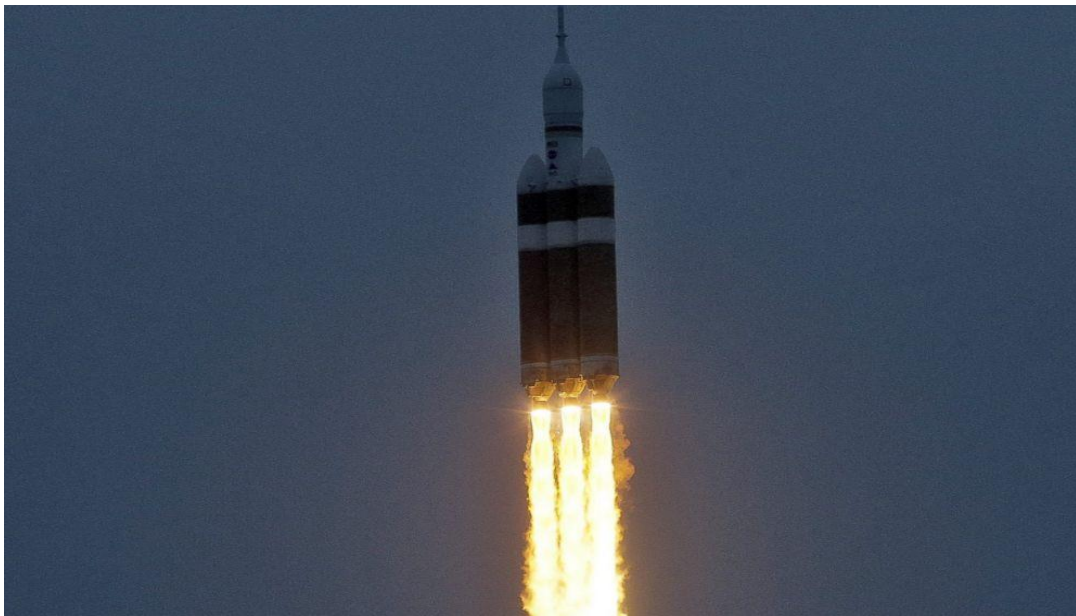
The Orion Flight Test evaluated launch and high speed re-entry systems such as avionics, attitude control, parachutes and the heat shield.

In the future, Orion will launch on NASA’s new heavy-lift rocket, the [Space Launch System](#). More powerful than any rocket ever built, SLS will be capable of sending humans to deep space destinations such as an asteroid and eventually Mars. Exploration Mission-1 will be the first mission to integrate Orion and the Space Launch System

- **Speaking of NASA's Space Launch System. The new year is off to a hot start for NASA's Space Launch System (SLS). The engine that will drive America's next great rocket to deep space blazed through its first successful test Jan. 9 at the agency's Stennis Space Center near Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. This is the first hot fire of an RS-25 engine since the end**

of space shuttle main engine testing in 2009. Four RS-25 engines will power SLS on future missions, including to an asteroid and Mars

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- The International Space Station crew captured SpaceX's Dragon cargo capsule early in the morning of January 12, 2015, two days after a launch from Florida. Dragon carried more than 5,000 pounds of supplies and payloads, including the Cloud–Aerosol Transport System, which will monitor cloud and aerosol coverage that directly impacts the global climate
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COMMON SENSE HERALD POLITICAL REPORT

On the Normalization of Cuban and American Relations

Yesterday (December 17, 2014), after more than 50 years, we began to change America's relationship with the people of Cuba.

We are recognizing the struggle and sacrifice of the Cuban people, both in the U.S. and in Cuba, and ending an outdated approach that has failed to advance U.S. interests for decades. In doing so, we will begin to normalize relations between our two countries.

I was born in 1961, just over two years after Fidel Castro took power in Cuba, and just as the U.S. severed diplomatic relations with that country.

Our complicated relationship with this nation played out over the course of my lifetime -- against the backdrop of the Cold War, with our steadfast opposition to communism in the foreground. Year after year, an ideological and economic barrier hardened between us.

That previous approach failed to promote change, and it's failed to empower or engage the Cuban people. It's time to cut loose the shackles of the past and reach for a new and better future with this country.

I want you to know exactly what our new approach will mean.

First, I have instructed Secretary of State John Kerry to immediately begin discussions with Cuba to re-establish diplomatic relations that have been severed since 1961. Going forward, we will re-establish an embassy in Havana, and high-ranking officials will once again visit Cuba.

Second, I have also instructed Secretary Kerry to review Cuba's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism -- a review guided by the facts and the law. At a time when we are focused on threats from ISIL and al Qaeda, a nation that meets our conditions and renounces terrorism should not face such a sanction.

Third, we'll take steps to increase travel, commerce, and the flow of information to -- and from -- Cuba. These steps will make it easier for Americans to travel to Cuba. They will make it easier for Americans to conduct authorized trade with Cuba, including exports of food, medicine, and medical products to Cuba. And they will facilitate increased telecommunications connections between our two countries: American businesses will be able to sell goods that enable Cubans to communicate with the United States and other countries.

Learn more about the steps we're taking to change our policy.

These changes don't constitute a reward or a concession to Cuba. We are making them because it will spur change among the people of Cuba, and that is our main objective.

Change is hard -- especially so when we carry the heavy weight of history on our shoulders.

Our country is cutting that burden loose to reach for a better future.

Thank you,

President Barack Obama

A Pioneering Trip to Cuba

by Dennis L. Pearson

With Barack Obama's announcement that he plans to normalize relations between the United States of Cuba. many Americans may decide to make Cuba a destination point for business. or travel

For me the question is not whether to make Cuba a future destination point for some unique adventure for a member of the National Space Society's Philadelphia Area Space Society upon leaving a meeting of that group said I was a pioneer to Cuban travel and now others may jump on the band wagon. And Mitch Gordon is correct, I am a pioneer to Cuban travel as I proudly can say that I was one of the first group of Americans to fly directly from a U.S. airport to Cuba,

The following is a log of my Cuban Trip which I was required to write according to the conditions of passage by the United States State Department. On the opposite side, the government of Cuba required me to purchase an health insurance policy from the Cuban government which would entitle me to utilize their single provider health system should I find myself in the need during my stay in Cuba. The Cuban government making it known that my U.S. based health and travel insurance would not be honored there.

So here is my daily of of my Cuban Trip which lasted from May 5, 2012 to May 14, 2012

- **May 5 --- Drove from home to sister's place in Southampton Township, Bucks County, PA ... Waited for pickup by limo to Philadelphia International Apartment by Park Avenue Limo Service about 3:00 AM 5/6**
- **Day 1 – Flew to Miami , Florida where Tour begun --- Joined Collete Tours and The parish of Thomas Moore Roman Catholic Church – located at Troy ,Michigan (near Detroit) and began exploring the cultural and historic treasures of Cuba – just 90 miles off the coast of the United States- but a world away. Flew into Miami, which was our gateway city to Cuba; and, we became acquainted with fellow travelers during a welcome dinner at a popular Cuban Restaurant. Dinner included in the cost of the trip.**

•
Departed Philadelphia International Airport on Flt: 1399 of American Airways – Terminal A- Gate 3 6:15 AM Arrived Miami International Airport about 9:00 AM

Paid American Airlines extra Charge of \$35 for 1 checked in bag ...had one carry-on...Went through screening at entrance to terminal Pulled out and was frisked ... New Hush Puppy Shoes thoroughly checked.

Met Collete tours tour Representative Chris Corriere at the Miami International baggage claim and he guided me to the area for pickup by a van from the Sheraton Miami Airport Hotel. On arrival to hotel checked into room 915.

Needed sun glasses so bought sun glasses at the Hotel's gift shop, and purchased at hotel a deposit ticket for Big Bus tours to Miami Beach and Miami Unfortunately the deposit ticket which included a boat tour of Biscayne Bay proved an error and ten of us had to buy a new ticket and get a refund for the wrong ticket from the hotel

The Collete Tour representative gave us our refund ... On the tour I bought a wide brim hat that I needed because this too I left home and needed it as I am susceptible to skin cancer. and ate lunch at a restaurant run by the singer Stefan Esteban.(Cuban Ham, Flam and cheese Sandwich)

The hotel shuttle took us to stop 19 in Miami on the tour where we picked up the Big Bus. The Big Bus dropped us off at Stop 4 on Ocean Drive in Miami Beach. We stayed on Ocean Drive about an hour. Then we got back on the Big Bus at Stop 4 and returned to Stop 19 ... no shuttle awaited it so the group of ten got in 2 taxis to return to the hotel.

5:30 PM --- Welcome Briefing by Chris Corriere to all tour participants

6:00 --- our participants met in Lobby of Sheraton Miami to depart for a welcome dinner at Las Culebrinos

6:30 PM – Dinner (Pork Cuban Dinner)

Day 2 – Miami to Trinidad, Cuba

The Jaime González Airport is an international airport that serves Cienfuegos,¹ a city on the southern coast of Cuba, and capital of the province of Cienfuegos

Adventure began as we flew from Miami to the Jaime Gonzales Airport. Airport. Transfer by Transfur Bus line (government owned bus line) to Trinidad, famous for its cobblestone streets and pastel-colored houses. Later that evening a local restaurant introduced me to the vibrant culture of the Cuban people. ..At Dinner enjoyed some live guitar music.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

6:00 AM --- Breakfast opens –Rickenbacker Restaurant

5;15 AM --- Bags outside of room

6:45 AM --- Transfer to Airport (5 minutes from hotel) One lady on bus realized forgot passport and other material in room ,, She had to go back to the hotel with a representative from Collete to retrieve it
We waited in wrong line for checking before realizing had to go elsewhere to check in ... Had to get in back of line again before they gave us service ... The last of us got through checking and baggage about 8:45 AM ... Paid Skyking \$40 for 1 checked bag ...Had 1 carry on...Went through screening

Arnold Swartznegger type screening in Mars related movie.

Flight detail --- Sky King Airways Flight --- CFG SK1803 ,,

Sea number 8D ---Departure time 10:00 AM

Arrival time --- Sometime after 11:00 AM --- 1 hour flight

Received visa and letter of Authorizations from Chris Corriere ... Went through Cuban Customs and waited for baggage ... Saw many Cubans bringing in TV's and other items from the States ...

Met Cuban Guide --- Edthris Alvaris and bus driver Jackto Cruz upon departing Cuban Customs and getting on bus

12:00 PM or sometime later ,, Transferred to Hotel – Hotel Las Brisas , TRINIDAD ... Lunch provided by =Cuban tour guide ... at buffet Restaurant of Hotel

After lunch received key for room 6106 --- 2nd floor room ...Room adequate but shows it age in bathroom

Bed had one pillow and 1 sheet... I am used to more pillows

Exchanged currency in bank at resort ... \$50 U.S. dollars for \$43.60 Cuban Convertible Pesos

After that got ticket from front desk to pick up towel so I could use it to dry off after taking a dip in the beachfront Caribbean Sea of the resort ... Six other traveling companions were with me ...The water was clean and somewhat warm

While swimming met Lugo Rivera from Puerto Rico and Cameron from California ... Both individuals said that they now live in Costa Rico because of low property taxes... Their trip to Cuba cost less because they came in from Costa Rica..

6:30 PM ---Met at Hotel Lobby to depart for dinner

7:00 PM ---Dinner and Dinner Music – Trinidad Colonial Restaurant --- A State-Run restaurant

Day 3 --- Trinidad – Msnaca Iznaga – Trinidad ----Embark on a Trinidad city tour ,,Visit the Palacio Cantero, the city's history museum housed in a restored Neoclassical place. Explored the Old Cathedral, churches, and unique houses of this museum of a city. Next, visit Manaca Ixnaga Sugar Factory

and estate located in the valley de los ingenios or valley of the sugar mills. Learned about sugar production and its importance in the Cuban economy. The path to the Cane crusher was rugged and one lady on the tour hurt herself (knee) and later needed medical attention Utilizing Cuba's state-run medical system. I note that all of on the tour had to pay for Cuban insurance to access their health care system should we need it.

Enjoyed lunch at the estate before learning about the local craft of linen making from the residents, ...

Earlier in the morning visited a ceramic studio and participated in a hands-on demonstration while the owners discussed their traditions that have been passed down from generation to generation. I note the owner or supervisor of the shop may have been involved in the revolution as he had a photograph of himself with Che and with Raul Castro.

Then we returned to our hotel to enjoy some grilled local specialties at its Le Visola outdoor restaurant.

Today Breakfast, a local bar drink, lunch and dinner was included.

7:00p AM – Breakfast Opens – 1514 Restaurant

8:30 AM – Depart Hotel

Then Arrive at the Casa of Alfarero about 9:00 AM for a hands on demonstration in pottery making at the studio of of Azareil Santandre in Trinidad-Cuba ...Videotaped presentations and took pictures ...Also bought a clay model of an automobile made by the studio ...for 5 CCP's...

Next we went on a walking tour of the Old City of Trinidad stopping at the Palacio Cantera, the city's history museum housed in a restored Neoclassical palace where restoration work is ongoing ... Pictures taken show this ... Spent one CCP for permit to take pictures...Then tour participants gathered at Plaza Mayor for tour guide lecture and instructions ...Then went in the Old Cathedral called the Iglesia de la Santisima Trindad also called the Parraquail Mayor which contains multiple altars to the saints ... In Church saw bat...Afterwards went to a local bar and café called the La Chanchachara for a special drink included in the tour of the same name , heard live music from a local band – bought CD for \$10CCP and saw and video-taped a cigar making demonstration

Went out in the Countryside to visit a Manaca Izenga Sugar Mill and saw demonstration on how they squeezed the sugar cane plant to get juice ... At the manor house there now turned into a restaurant we ate lunch ...The Mainfare of the day was Pork..During lunch we were entertained by dinner music

Back at the resort about 7:00PM ate at Le Vigola outdoor restaurant for another pork dinner...Also had dinner music from a quartet which included a lovely lady playing a clarinet

Day 4 – Trinidad – Cienfuegos – Trinidad – This morning drove toward Cienfuegos , the city known as La Perla de la sur (The Pearl of the Sur) . Visit the

Cienfuegos Botanical Gardens , the oldest of its kind in the island. During a fascinating lecture , learned about the garden's ties with Harvard university and its founding as a research center where a sugar mill once stood. After a picnic lunch we went on a city tour that highlighted the exterior of the Cathedral de la Purisima Concepcion and the square which included a school, a theatre and a monument to martin Marti ...In the square was the local Municipal building and Communist Committee headquarters...Went into the school and Theatre not the headquarters. Later set out on a spectacular harbor cruise where a local fisherman shared stories and insights about his industry...Returned to Trinidad and once again dined this time inside the Le Vigola restaurant at the resort...Again had dinner music

7:00 –Buffet Breakfast at the 1514 Restaurant...8:30 ---Departed for Botanical gardens ...Then visited the Botanical Gardens ...Lecture which amounted to history of gardens was in Spanish but translated by tour guide, We had a 45 minute walking tour in which each tree whether Bamboo or some sort of Palm was identified ...During course of walk saw Camereon and Hugo who we have met at the beach , more Accurately in the Sea driving a car to get to their lunch site ...Apparently they were traveling alone but at the lunch site they also was accompanied by a female. Was it possible that they were some type of agent... Yes or No

Upon Completion of the walk ...We went into a green house of sort to see more plants ..I bought three packets of offered seeds for \$7.50 CCP.

For lunch we had a box lunch which included a sandwich, bisque cake a banana. Next we went to Cienfuegos for a City Tour --- The City seems clean and in better condition then Trinidad ...Had opportunity to take a sneak peak of the school there ...Guards escorted me inside to take an entrance admonition from Fidel ...The paid 2ccp to enter theatre,..saw there a white clad women of the Spiritus sect in Cuba.. Theatre built in 1889. ...TOOK picture of Monument dedicated to independence and Joseph Marti

Afterwards went on Boat ride to home of someone called Lugo ... who gave us a lecture concerning his profession ..also fished for shark and other fish ..Showed us hooks, nets and his house...House one story ,,Square shaped with central foyer where TV was and small dining table ...4 bedrooms were to the side and kichen was separated by an outdoor padio ...For cuba had a sizeable yard and house was on an island in the harbor or Bay.The family seemed sizeble...Saw a dog and A Banana RAT which was a pet and could be held safely but watch out for the occasional excrements which Janice V. to her sorrow learned...Lugo's story is interesting ...Some years ago he escaped Cuba in a raft and went to Florida perhaps illegally Some years late he inherited this property and worked out a deal with the U.S..government and Cuba and went back...Lugo served us a fine sample of grilled red snapper

Harbor cruise started at 2:30 ...Was served a drink – I had a coke..Which in Cuba is called A TuCola ... Others had a fine time including a priest drinking Maliti's which is a drink where crushed sugar is crushed into mint and a mixture of white rum and lemon juice

Upon completion of boat tour went back to resort ...Had dinner this time at the indoor portion of the Le Vigeola ,, Had excellent fish dinner ..Again had dinner music.

After lunch I took the time to view the show that was going on at the resort --- dancing-singing and Magic

Day 5: Trinidad- Bay of Pigs museum- Havana...Embark on a scenic drive this morning, pass lush mountains and forests, charming country towns and farms and the pristine Caribbean Sea. Visit the Bay of Pigs Museum in Playa Giron. With an brief orientation by staff, discover the Cuban history behind one of the major events of the Cold War and how the Victory of Grion is locally KNOWN AND impacted Cuba. Enjoy lunch at the La Cierva de los Peces which is named for the nearby Cave of the Fish a cenote or sinkhole filled with multicolored sea life. Here the Cuban national bird the tacorono and some of island's most colorful fish.live

Here we learned about preservation efforts from local marine biologists and conservationists...From there we traveled across the countryside via the national highway to Havana, Cuba's energetic capital.. We checked in at the Hotel Nacional, an iconic national landmark.. Had a welcoming Maliti drink and given key to room 458 ...Which is a very nice room with 110 V ..But can't drink the water from the tap and the bathroom is adequate but dated...Later that evening dined at the Divina Pastora Restaurant (Las Tasca Bar Parrillada) overlooking Havana and its Harbor ..Great restaurant ..Then we visited La Carbabo Castle and take in the Canonazo, Havana's cannon firing ceremony. Today B,L, and Dinner included

7:00 Am – Breakfast at resort = buffet 1514 restaurant

7:15 – Bags outside of hotel room

7:30 – Depart Hotel for Bay of Pigs Museum --- Saw Video there which I attempted to video-tape –propaganda film for Cuba much like our WWII films that exhorted confidence and support for the war effort from US citizens.

Lunch at the La Cuerva de les Peces ---Fish and crab

5:00 – Arrive at Hotel Nacional, Havana the former Hilton

6:30 --- Meet at Lobby and depart for dinner

Dinner at Divina Pastora Restaurant --- Seafarer that included scrimp and lobster...Meal was great and good service as well as dinner music...Took great pictures there...But must remark that the Combination and Proximity of Harbor and perhaps sewer created a strong fragrance at times.

9:00 ---Visit la Cabanna Castle and experienced CANNON FIRING CEREMONY. The participants were wearing old style Colonial Spanish military uniform .. I had the feeling that the Cannon was firing on the United States daily but the cannon ball hardly could reach the US shore 90 miles away.

Day 6: Havana –Guanabacoa – Havana- This morning visit a day care center in Havana, located at St. Barbara R.C Church, conducted by Our Sisters of Guadalupe Day Care Center...Meet the nuns who dedicate their lives in helping these children and families ... ALSO MET WITH THE children who are in the care of the day care centered aged K –through 5 grade ...They sang for us in their recreation area ...And we saw the kitchen which prepared them food and the area in which they did projects and studied The Day Care Center is supported by private funds not government ...Primary German ... Kuba Stany Santander. Cu Next paid visit to Carita Cuba, a Catholic Charity focusing on at risk persons, notably the elderly and physically challenged...Then savored a lunch at a typical restaurant in Old Habana named La Paella in Hotel Valencia ... Some sort of combined sea food plate ...After lunch went to Tobacuba a maker of Le Corona brand cigars...There we discovered the secret of Cuban cigars at this factory and learned why they are treasured world wide ...One person was given 2 cigars after doing a little magic related to beads and making small dogs...We viewed where ladies unwrapped the tobacco wrapping in preparation to send to another department upstairs ... Tobacco smelled good and felt smooth... Each employee is allowed to keep 5 cigars a day ...WHERE TOBACCO IS MAUFACTURED INTO CIGARS –VERY TIGHT AND PRIMITIVE Space... tobacco wraps Are wrapped around tobacco. Tip glued on by Canadian GLUE AND PUT IN PRESS Each employee does approximately 8,500 cigars a day ...300,000 done a day,,, Afterwards went to Tobacco store associated with company ... No photos allowed. Dinner which was included tonight was at a one of the Area's paladars , a small specialty restaurant with its own organic farm...Met the proprietors of this family run and privately owned business as they shared their stories about opening a privately –run restaurant in Cuba ...Breakfast, lunch and dinner was included.

7:00 AM --- Breakfast

8:30 AM --- Departed Hotel

Visits in Morning to Day Care Center and Adult Care Center

Gave \$ 5CCP donation to traveling group on high walking silts

Lunch – La Paella

Afternoon visit to Cigar Company and tobacco store related to it

Noticed a problem with a rash, pimple or swelling on face ...Bought Alore crème for 15 plus ccp

Primary School visit canceled due to lateness of hour

6:30 departure from the hotel for dinner

7:00 --- Dinner at Divina restaurant ...Very nice house... large patio

Day 7: Havana ... Traveled to colonial township of Guanabacoa and learned about afro-Cuban religion while at museum in which you had to pay to take pictures

...Well had excellent dance session which I managed to tape without paying ... Janice V joined in the dance when one of the dancers dragged her forward ...Kidded her that she is now married...Then visited the home of Ernest Hemingway, Finca Vigia (Lookout farm) It was here that he conceived his final masterpiece ...The Old Man and the Sea ... But Mrs. Mary Hemingway gained possession of manuscripts from which she had produced books such as East of Eden and Islands in the Stream...Enjoyed Lunch at El Patio, located in an 18th Century Mansion overlooking the Habana Cathedral (Had Spaghetti Dinner ... Paid \$10 CCP for CD, and Paid \$10 CCP to take picture of bearded Cuban ...Next step back in time as we had an walking tour of Old Havana ...It was a very hot day ...Learned about the City's architectural and restoration efforts as we visited the Maqueta de la Ciudad de Le Habana Museum which housed a model of the city and listened to a lecture from a city planner ... One must pay to take photos here...Next went on a visit to a site where a special mirror (only in England and Portugal) can see live most of the city...Wanted to go to a Cuban playoff game between the Industriales and Matarza but it didn't work out .. So bought an Industriales hat made in China at the hotel for 12 CCP...In the evening took a trip AROUND Havana in one of the antique American convertible cars that city is known for ... Stopped at Revolucion square and enjoyed Chicken breast dinner at El Aljibe in Merador, in the modern part of the city.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

7:00 – breakfast

8:30 – Departed Hotel-

In morning visited the Afro-Cuban MUSEUM IN Guanabacoa and Hemingways – Finca VIGIA

Had dinner at El Patio Restaurant in Old Habana

In the afternoon took walking Tour of Old Habana

Depart Hotel – 6:30 PM

Before dinner took taxi ride of antique cars to Revolucion Square and to restaurant,,, Carol Cook fell and got oil from antique cars all over her.

Dinner 7:00 at El Aljibe

When got back into Hotel --- Saw baseball game between Industriales AND Martanza on TV ...25 delay for cork bat cheat by Martanza ... Umpires went crazy deciding what to do

Day 8 ---Havana – Casa Fuster – Havana ---Ladies given flowers for mother's day ...Explore the Cuban Fine Arts Museum and enjoy presentation given by a local art historian ,,,, Saw ALSO important revolucion vehicles in central Park right next to the fine arts building ...Next headed over to the Casa Fuster, the colorful home of Jose Fuster. One of his apprentices/a son/ was at hand to talk about his work

inspired by GAUDI Experience.. But visit to house delayed to after lunch...Lunch at La Feminina a popular restaurant that resides at the end of the legendary 5th Avenue... Carol Cook was asked to play chucharachas ..Once done at the Fuster house headed back to hotel for a discussion led by Camilio Garcia Lopez =Trigo boss of public relations and social communication in the Central nacional de educacion sexual (Cenesex) about policies between the U.S. and Cuba... To sum it up –Trigo said that relations between his country and the US government are still bad He added that Cuba is not against the people but only the government... He wants the U.S. to end the embargo, get out of gitmo and free the Cuban 5. While the US position centers around reparations to those US interests which were nationalized, memory of Castro wanting to be the man who could fire missiles at us, and cuban human relations policies .. The priests among us and myself voiced critical concerns about some of his statements ... And I surely did not know that Thomas Jefferson was a source of these problems. And In the evening went to Sierra Maestro for dinner --- a high rise where you can see on the 25th floor the city ,the sea etc... We did not stay there as reservations were messed up by the establishment so we went to the 32 and 33 floor of the former Hilton to the Le Torre restaurant for a farewell DINNER ... Also could see the city scape from this location

7:00 Am --- Breakfast opens ... 9:30 depart Hotel ... Cuban Fine Arts Museum ... Visit Casa Fuster ... LUNCH AT La Fermina ...Lecture of Cuba/US RELATIONA
7:00 Depart for Dinner ---FAREWELL DINNER AT La Torre Restaurant
Tipped Eldelyso – 35 CUP Tipped Jqcto 25 CUP

Day 9 --- Havana – Miami Florida TOUR ENDS... Breakfast included

7:00 BreAKFAST OPENS

7:00 am SUITCASES OUT

8:00 Depart for Havana Airport

11:00 PM – Flight Hav-Mia 5K1802

The plane we used coming back was a Cuban airline

And re-entry to the United States in Miami was a breeze ... I had no problems with customs ,Fact is I had more Problems with customs coming from Canada in 2010 then I had coming back from Cuba. Of course, there is no Cuba stamp on my passport.





Venturing into the unknown future ---A future that may or may not come --- Road to Hope, Change or Disappointment

by Dennis L. Pearson

(Compiled from 2008 to 2015)

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Part 5

The following is a book review found on goodreads.com in regard to Barack Obama's 2004 bestseller *Dreams From My Father*:

Nine years before the Senate campaign that made him one of the most influential and compelling voices in American politics, Barack Obama published this lyrical, unsentimental, and powerfully affecting memoir, which became a #1 New York Times bestseller when it was reissued in 2004. *Dreams from My Father* tells the story of Obama's struggle to understand the forces that shaped him as the son

of a black African father and white American mother—a struggle that takes him from the American heartland to the ancestral home of his great-aunt in the tiny African village of Alego.

Obama opens his story in New York, where he hears that his father—a figure he knows more as a myth than as a man—has died in a car accident. The news triggers a chain of memories as Barack retraces his family's unusual history: the migration of his mother's family from small-town Kansas to the Hawaiian islands; the love that develops between his mother and a promising young Kenyan student, a love nurtured by youthful innocence and the integrationist spirit of the early sixties; his father's departure from Hawaii when Barack was two, as the realities of race and power reassert themselves; and Barack's own awakening to the fears and doubts that exist not just between the larger black and white worlds but within himself.

Propelled by a desire to understand both the forces that shaped him and his father's legacy, Barack moves to Chicago to work as a community organizer. There, against the backdrop of tumultuous political and racial conflict, he works to turn back the mounting despair of the inner city. His story becomes one with those of the people he works with as he learns about the value of community, the necessity of healing old wounds, and the possibility of faith in the midst of adversity.

Barack's journey comes full circle in Kenya, where he finally meets the African side of his family and confronts the bitter truth of his father's life. Traveling through a country racked by brutal poverty and tribal conflict, but whose people are sustained by a spirit of endurance and hope, Barack discovers that he is inescapably bound to brothers and sisters living an ocean away—and that by embracing their common struggles he can finally reconcile his divided inheritance.

A searching meditation on the meaning of identity in America, *Dreams from My Father* might be the most revealing portrait we have of a major American leader—a man who is playing, and will play, an increasingly prominent role in healing a fractious and fragmented nation.

As a critique, Gordon Gordonsson responded: " the real story of Mr. Obama's life was less dramatic — and more routine — than the president made it out to be in the memoir.

Said Dennis Kennethsson: In the end we must ponder the implications of this Nikola Tesla Statement: " Let the future tell the truth, and evaluate each one according to his work and accomplishments. The present is theirs; the future, for which I have really worked, is mine."

At this point Ken Haas shared one of his "As I see it from Here" articles that appeared in the Lehigh Valley Common Sense Herald in the 1990's

It had been a rough day for the Judge. A steady parade of defendants stood before him - all types of crimes, both small and large. The Judge was bone-tired. Not the physical tiredness we often feel, but the mind-numbing mental tiredness of fatigue that saps your very last reserve of self-control. This very last reserve of self-control, of course is necessary to prevent an individual from going off the deep end mentally. Finally, with total exasperation the Judge threw up his hands and cried out: "That's it! I have had it up to here!" The statement accompanied by the appropriate gesture to the throat area.

The Judge continued: "I will hear no more cases today. Court is in recess until tomorrow. I ask all the people present here that may want sanity to return to their political leaders and to their government and to their society to go home and pray tonight with all their fervor at their command. With God's help and our own basic instinct in regard to what is right and just, may we all come back tomorrow with our act cleaned up."

Don't we all feel like that Judge sometimes; and yes, he has suggested a wonderful, wonderful idea! What would brother Brown say about that? I think he would say Amen.

Clearly, we must all clean up our act in our personal conduct, in our dealings with one another. People that are called on to lead must do so with honor and dignity. Telling us the unvarnished truth, they must purge areas under their command or authority of deceit, dishonesty, inefficiency, corruption, misdealing, conniving and immorality.

Dennis Kennethsson nodded in agreement.

And all three wondered whether in Dreams From My Father whether the future president did not actually set out to write a factual history of his life . What they all perceived from the book was the belief that the future President seemed to see everything through a racial and revolutionary lens.

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is an education initiative in the United States that details what K-12 students should know in English language arts and mathematics at the end of each grade. The initiative is sponsored by the [National Governors Association](#) (NGA) and the [Council of Chief State School Officers](#) (CCSSO) and seeks to establish consistent education standards across the states as well as ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter two- or four-year college programs or enter the workforce.

The Common Core Standards seek to make U.S. students more competitive with increasingly proficient students from other countries. These standards emphasize teaching math more in-depth, and teaching English and language arts through not just classic books but also historical documents and technical manuals. States and school districts can decide specifics.

The Common Core State Standards are said to provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. With American students fully prepared for the future, our communities according to promoters of the standards would be best positioned to compete successfully in the global economy.

Yet some of the biggest critics of new lesson plans aligned with the national Common Core standards are the people charged with teaching them. Perry Charimonte in a FoxNews article published December 8, 2013 suggests that a growing number of teachers say the national standards, adopted by some 45 states, have combined with pressure to "teach to the test" to take all individuality out of their craft.

To these teachers the new education approach is turning their lessons into little more than data-dispensing sessions, and they fear their jobs are being marginalized.

"Now teachers aren't as unique," said Michael Warren, a public school history teacher in New Jersey. "It means anyone can do it. It's like taking something done by humans and having it done by a machine."

The standards were created by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers to improve academic achievement and increase teacher accountability for their students performance.; and of importance Barack Obama and his administration have embraced them

Backers of the Common Core Standards Initiative, according to Charimonte say adoption of these standards are critical to ensuring all of the nation's middle and high school students meet a baseline in math and English. But while it is possible to say that Common Core is not itself a curriculum, but a set of standardized tests; we also can say that private curriculum producers are marketing their materials as "Common Core-aligned."

To which Dennis Kennethsson muses: " Clairmonte is correct in asserting that critics of Common Core say establishment of a national standard is simply a backdoor way of nationalizing curriculum. We all know that under the base 10

system 2 plus 2 equals 4. I ask will a future regime more interested in mind control rather education creativity say under the same base system that 2 plus 2 equals 3 or 5 or whatever.

In regard to the Common Core Standards Concept, Barack Obama did not simply “embrace” a concept that others developed; the real truth asserted by Dr Susan Berry in a Breitbart article of December 5, 2013, was that the very roots of Common Core lay in the early ideas generated by the president and his fellow radical community organizer, Bill Ayers

Berry maintains: "Just prior to the presidential election of 2008, [Dr. Stanley Kurtz](#), Senior Fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center, wrote an [op-ed](#) published in the *Wall Street Journal* in which he observed that then-Democrat presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama’s “most important executive experience” was heading up the Chicago Annenberg Challenge (CAC), an education foundation that was the invention of Bill Ayers, founder of the Weather Underground in the 1960s.

In 1995, Bill Ayers was part of a team that helped create the Chicago Annenberg Challenge, an education reform project that worked with half of Chicago's public schools. Barack Obama, then working as an attorney and law school professor, was elected chairman of the eight-member board of the CAC. The board included individuals of diverse political backgrounds, including Ray Romero, the President of Ameritech; Stanley Ikenberry, the former President of the University of Illinois; and Republican Arnold Weber, who had served in the Nixon White House.

Obama led the CAC from 1995 to 1999 and remained on the board until 2001. The foundation funneled more than \$100 million into community organizations and radical education activists.

The CAC’s stated purpose was to improve Chicago’s public schools ironically using funding from an education initiative by Walter Annenberg, the billionaire Republican philanthropist who served as Richard M. Nixon's ambassador to the U.K. Annenberg and his wife, Leonore, gave the CAC \$50 million in the 90's.

At the time, Walter and Leonore weren't just giving money to educational foundations started by William Ayers. They were also giving hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Republican National Committee and various other Republican groups, as well as to a whole host of Republican candidates, including the following:

- George W. Bush \$4000
- Mitt Romney \$5000

- Strom Thurmond \$1000
- Fred Thompson \$500
- Rick Santorum \$3000

As chairman, Obama handled fiscal matters while Ayers co-chaired the CAC's other key entity, the "Collaborative," which influenced education policy. Archives from the Richard J. Daley Library at the University of Illinois at Chicago showed that Obama and Ayers worked as a team to advance the CAC agenda

Historically, CAC's agenda channeled Ayers' educational philosophy "which called for infusing students and their parents with a radical political commitment, and which downplayed achievement tests in favor of activism." Ayers wrote that teachers should act as community organizers whose focus is provoking resistance to American racism and oppression.

"I'm a radical, Leftist, small 'c' communist," Ayers said in an interview in Ron Chepesiuk's *Sixties Radicals*.

Implementing Ayers' radical philosophy in schools required them to associate with "external partners" that received the actual funding, such as ACORN, the South Shore African Village Collaborative, and the Dual Language Exchange. In addition, funding was extended to promote "leadership" among parents who would ultimately adopt Obama's political agenda.

The Chicago Public Education Fund was created in 1998 by Obama, Ayers, and the rest of the CAC board. Then-Illinois state Sen. Obama was a member of the leadership council, as was Bill Ayers' father, Thomas Ayers, and brother, John Ayers. Ultimately, the CAC closed down in June of 2001, leaving the Fund to distribute grant money

As it occurred Berry repeats a Kurtz report that when CAC, prior to closing, conducted its own study of the effects of its grants on the test scores of Chicago public-school students, they found no evidence of educational improvement.

Interestingly, as CAC was closing down, a pilot program called Grow Network was starting up in New York. Founded by David Coleman--known as the "Architect" of the Common Core standards - and Jason Zimba, the Grow Network negotiated a contract in 2001 with the Chicago Public Education Fund on behalf of Chicago Public Schools (CPS)

In that same year, current U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan began as CEO of CPS; two years after taking on his new role, Coleman's Grow Network finalized its \$2.2 million contract with CPS to provide the school district with student performance data for the 2002-2003 school year.

Grow Network was introduced as a new endeavor in CPS's 2002 Education Plan, in which the school district announced that the initiative would "produce more accessible reports on student performance" and provide "clear and effective tools for principals, teachers, and parents."

In the CPS Education Plan, "The Honorable Senator Barak [sic] Obama of Minor, Barnhill, and Galland" was listed as a member of the Planning and Development Advisory Committee, while Janet Knupp and Sonya Choe Miller of The Chicago Public Education Fund, and Ken Rolling of The Chicago Annenberg Challenge were listed as members of the Steering Committee in the Professional Development Audit. In addition, John Ayers and Mike Klonsky of Bill Ayers' Small Schools Workshop were listed as participants in the Education Plan's discussion groups.

In 2004, Coleman and Zimba sold Grow Network to McGraw Hill, which has continued its lucrative relationship with CPS.

Today, Coleman and Zimba head Student Achievement Partners, an organization that has played a leading role in the development of the Common Core standards and has actively supported their adoption in the states.

Though Coleman may or may not be a supporter of the Obama-Ayers brand of radically progressive education, CPS paid more than \$2 million to bring Coleman's unproven program to the district, a fact that suggests he was indeed well-connected to the Chicago education system.

In addition, Coleman is on record as saying he believes there is "a massive social injustice in this country" and that education is "the engine of social justice."

Bill Ayers was born in December 1944 and was raised in a Chicago suburb. In the mid-1960s he taught at a radical alternative school -- part of the "free school movement" -- where students addressed teachers by their first names, and where no grades or report cards were given. By age 21, Ayers had become the director of that school. In 1968 he earned a B.A. in American Studies from the University of Michigan.

In the late Sixties, Ayers became a leader of the Weather Underground (WU), a splinter faction of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). Characterizing WU as "an American Red Army," Ayers summed up the organization's ideology as follows: "Kill all the rich people. Break up their cars and apartments. Bring the revolution home, Kill your parents." One of Ayers' fellow WU leaders was Bernardine Dohrn, the woman who would later become his wife.

In a July 29, 1969 speech which he delivered at the University of Oregon, Ayers boasted of SDS's role in the Venceremos Brigades, a project initiated by the Cuban intelligence agency to recruit and train American leftists as "brigadistas"

capable of waging guerrilla warfare.

Ayers was an active participant in the 1969 “Days of Rage” riots in Chicago, which were led by WU's antecedent group, Weatherman. In the mayhem, nearly 300 members of the organization engaged in vandalism, arson, and vicious attacks against police and civilians alike. Their immediate objective was to spread their anti-war, anti-American message. Their long-term goal, however, was to cause the collapse of the United States and to create, in its stead, a new communist society over which they themselves would rule. With regard to those Americans who might refuse to embrace the new Communist society, Ayers and his comrades -- including Bernardine Dohrn, Mark Rudd, Linda Evans, Jeff Jones, and numerous others -- proposed that such resisters should be sent to reeducation camps or killed. The terrorists estimated that it would be necessary to eliminate some 25 million people in this fashion, so as to advance the revolution.

Gordon Gordonsson read a post-election article attributed in Truthout Magazine to University of Chicago Professor William Ayers, the very same individual that opponents of Obama said he was associated with before he launched his bid to become an Illinois State Senator.

Gordonsson found the following statement by Ayers interesting:

"We might find hope in the growth of opposition to war and occupation worldwide. Or we might be inspired by the growing movements for reparations and prison abolition, or the rising immigrant rights movement and the stirrings of working people everywhere, or by gay and lesbian and transgender people courageously pressing for full recognition."

From this piece Gordonsson was reminded of what the reverend Jesse Jackson said at a former Democratic Convention some time back ... In implying that the two sides of an issue may both be right Gordonsson viewed this as saying there is no right or wrong. And of course, Gordonsson knew that most Christians couldn't agree with that

Why! There are standards we must comply with ... There is a limitation to our rebellion against these standards.... And the feel good generation must realize that what they insist are rights actually may be sinful to God but he is the Judge of that. God offers forgiveness for our misdeeds, sins, but we must repent and atone for these sins.

But radical left-wing activist Bill Ayers on the surface still seems outside these parameters. Ayers reflected the following on March 30, 2011: “I get up every morning and think, today I’m going to make a difference . Today I’m going to end capitalism. Today I’m going to make a revolution. . (However) I go to bed every night disappointed but I’m back to work tomorrow, and that’s the only way you can do it.”

Ayers comments were made at Union Square in New York City at an encampment of new protest group known as the Occupy Wall Street ... The Occupy movement is an international protest movement against social and economic inequality, its primary goal being to make the economic structure and power relations in society fairer. Local groups often have different foci, but among the movement's prime concerns is the claim that large corporations and the global financial system control the world in a way that disproportionately benefits a minority, undermines democracy and is unstable

.Bill Ayers, the 1960s radical who went on to become a college professor and associate of President Obama, Ayers retired in 2010 from his post as a professor of education at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Prior to his career in academia, he was a fugitive for years for his role with the Weather Underground until surrendering in 1980. Charges against him were dropped because of government misconduct. His ties to President Obama have been in dispute since becoming a campaign issue during the 2008 presidential race, though it is known he served with Obama on a Chicago charity's board.

As it stands, Bill Ayers is said to have ties to at least nine other people besides the President. in the Obama White House. This alleged list includes Michelle Obama, David Axelrod, Valerie Jarrett, Kevin Jennings, Anita Dunn, Arne Duncan, Martha Kanter, Vartan Gregorian and Cindy Moelis.

According to Gordon Gordonsson, he next heard of Ayers whereabouts when he spoke at a commemoration of the 1970 incident at Kent State University, where Ohio National Guard members killed four students during a protest . Ayers argued that the bombings he helped the Weather Underground carry out to protest the Vietnam War bore no resemblance to the deadly Boston Marathon attack; and glossed over the fact that his group's bombs killed three fellow terrorists and were linked to the murder of a San Francisco police officer.

“How different is the shooting in Connecticut from shooting at a hunting range?” Ayers told a reporter who asked him to compare the incidents Ayers continued: “Just because they use the same thing, there’s no relationship at all.”

Ayers went on to accuse Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who spent five years in a POW camp, of murdering civilians in the war, lament the deaths of two fellow Weather Underground members – skipping over the fact that they blew themselves up while trying to make bombs – and painted his actions as a heroic bid to end U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Ayers was the keynote speaker at the event, which drew an estimated 350 people on the university’s Commons, according to the Akron Beacon Journal [↗](#). But it was after Ayers made his prepared remarks that he bristled over a possible comparison of terrorist acts separated by more than four decades.

In summation, Bill Ayers has a complicated history with the president. But the Huff Post claims in a report of June 18, 2013 that there's no proof Ayers and Obama were ever friends, But as was reported above the men actually worked together on the board of a Chicago-based charity.; and Ayers also hosted a campaign event when Obama first ran for office in the 1990s.

During the 2008 presidential campaign, former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin according to the Huff Post report accused Obama of "palling around with terrorists," referring to Ayers openly taking credit for the 1970s bombings at the U.S. Capitol and Pentagon. Ayers brushed off Palin's accusations in an interview with the New Yorker in 2008.

He said that he thought his relationship with Obama was probably like that of thousands of others in Chicago; "And, like millions and millions of others," he wished he knew him better."

Never-the-less, Bill Ayers, former University of Illinois professor and co-founder of the violent anti-war group Weather Underground, said June 18, 2013 and reported in the Huff Post said that President Barack Obama should be put on trial for war crimes, according to RealClearPolitics.

"Every president in this century should be put on trial," Ayers told Charlie Stone in his own words on RealClearPolitics' "Morning Commute." "Every one of them goes into an office dripping with blood and then adds to it. And, yes, I think that these are war crimes. I think that they're acts of terror."

Ayers, whose Weather Underground bombed police stations, the U.S. Capitol and the Pentagon during its anti-Vietnam War crusade in the 1960s and 1970s, said he'd give Obama a failing grade based on his presidency's policy and politics. Nevertheless, Ayers said he likes the president.

"He's a curious person. One of the things I like about him is he's curious. He wants to know things. He asks questions, he's not just charming, he's also interested. He reads," Ayers said. "I liked him personally -- he's a really good guy."

Responded Gordonsson: " On one hand he asserts that he wished he knew the guy better but on the other hand he asserts he is a curious person that wants to know things, asks questions and his not just charming but interested too." Is not that an indication that he had a friendship or a relationship with the President."

Echoes Dennis Kennethsson" " According to Ayers, he's a really good guy but a war criminal too..But so is George W. Bush , at least people of Ayers persuasion say."

New York's budding anti-capitalism protest movement began September 17, 2011 with a vague sense of grievance over the widening gap between the rich and poor in America.

But since then, it has provided fuel for a broader national anti-corporate message, drawing inspiration from the Arab Spring but struggling to define its goals beyond a general feeling that power needs to be restored to ordinary people

Occupy Wall Street claims to be a leaderless resistance movement with people of many colors, genders and political persuasions. The one thing they all have in common is that they claim to be the 99% that will no longer tolerate the greed and corruption of the 1%. They use the revolutionary Arab Spring tactic to achieve their ends and encourage the use of nonviolence to maximize the safety of all participants.

The Arab Spring was a revolutionary wave of demonstrations and protests occurring in the Arab world. Since December 18, 2010 there have been revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt; a civil war in Libya resulting in the fall of its regime; civil uprisings in Bahrain, and Yemen; civil uprisings and civil war in Syria; major protests in Israel, Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, and Oman, and minor protests in Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Western Sahara. Clashes at the borders of Israel in May 2011 have also been inspired by the regional Arab Spring.

The protests have shared techniques of civil resistance in sustained campaigns involving strikes, demonstrations, marches and rallies, as well as the use of social media to organize, communicate, and raise awareness in the face of state attempts at repression and internet censorship.

Many demonstrations have also met violent responses from authorities, as well as from pro-government militias and counter-demonstrators. A major slogan of the demonstrators in the Arab world has been *Ash-sha`b yurid isqat an-nizam* ("The people want to bring down the regime").

Brought together by outlets such as Twitter and Facebook, participants hoped the New York protests would plant the seeds of a permanent national movement

OCCUPYWALLSTREET alleges to be a people powered movement for democracy that began in America with an encampment in the financial district of New York City. Inspired by the Egyptian Tahrir Square uprising and the bottom-up collective decision making of the Spanish acampadas, the group vows to end what they characterize as the monied corruption of our democracy.

Adbusters Media Foundation is a not-for-profit, anti-consumerist, pro-environment^[1] organization founded in 1989 by Kalle Lasn and Bill Schmalz in

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The foundation describes itself as "a global network of artists, activists, writers, pranksters, students, educators and entrepreneurs who want to advance the new social activist movement of the information age." To state it another way, *Adbusters* alleges a global network of culture jammers and creatives working to change the way information flows, the way corporations wield power, and the way meaning is produced in our society

The *Adbusters Media Foundation* publishes the reader-supported, advertising-free *Adbusters*, an activist magazine with an international circulation of 120,000 devoted to challenging consumerism. Notable past and present contributors to the magazine include Christopher Hedges, Matt Taibbi, Bill McKibben, Jim Munroe, Douglas Rushkoff, Jonathan Barnbrook, David Graeber and others.

Adbusters has launched numerous international campaigns, including Buy Nothing Day, TV Turnoff Week and Occupy Wall Street, and is known for their "subvertisements" that spoof popular advertisements.

In English, *Adbusters* has bi-monthly North American, Australian, and International editions of each issue. *Adbusters'* sister organizations include Résistance à l'Aggression Publicitaire and Casseurs de Pub in France, *Adbusters Norge* in Norway, *Adbusters Sverige* in Sweden and Culture Jammers in Japan.

The participants of the event were mainly protesting against social and economic inequality, corporate greed, and the influence of corporate money and lobbyists on government, among other concerns. *Adbusters* states that, "Beginning from one simple demand – a presidential commission to separate money from politics – we start setting the agenda for a new America." The protest's organizers hope that the protesters themselves will formulate their own specific demands, expecting them to be focused on "taking to task the people who perpetrated the economic meltdown."

OCCUPYWALLSTREET thundered across America, threatening to morph into a fully fledged national movement.

On October 5, 2011, a few New York based Unions gave a high-profile boost to the long-running protest against Wall Street and economic inequality, with their members joining thousands of protesters in a lower Manhattan march. Across the country, students at several colleges walked out of classes in solidarity.

Said Dennis Kennethsson in zest but part seriousness: "Whereas Generation X somewhat emulated the political attitude of their World War II/Korean War grandparents generation, the newest generations seems to reveal in duplicating the civil disobedience of their baby boomer grandparents. Somewhat like the

generation of Theodore Roosevelt who were eager to revel in the heroism and memories of their Civil War generation grandparents.”

People gathered at Foley Square, an area encircled by courthouses and named for "Big Tom" Foley, a former blacksmith's helper who became a prominent state Democratic leader. From there they marched to Zuccotti Park, the protesters' unofficial headquarters.

By October 6, 2011 similar demonstrations had been held in Washington, Los Angeles, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Miami, Portland, Maine. And as Dennis Kennethsson reports: “Those Lehigh Valley residents or college students who had no desire or no money to join the protesters in New York City started their own protest at the corner of 7th and Hamilton Streets in Allentown, Pennsylvania, the city’s center square. “ Said Kennethsson: “It would be interesting indeed, to see how these youthful participants react to the annual wreath laying ceremony at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in center square conducted by the United Veterans and Allentown and the Pro-Monument Association of Lehigh County, whose members are mostly of the passing World War/Korean War generation with a spattering of participants from the Vietnam generation.”

Kennethsson, having attended the event himself, reports that the Allentown Occupy group laid low for the event.

Police in Los Angeles and Philadelphia dismantled tents and arrested Occupy protesters who refused to leave city property early Wednesday, November 30, 2011. Los Angeles police moved in at 12:30 a.m. About an hour later, the City Hall lawn was cleared and closed for cleanup. About 200 people were arrested in the operation, which utilized some 1,400 officers.

The Los Angeles encampment, which has been in place for some 60 days, had become the largest one remaining after police raided New York's Zuccotti Park on November 15 and dismantled the nearly two-month-old camp there.

The fate of The refugees from Manhattan's Zuccotti Park was to live in a rotating series of churches since Mayor Michael Bloomberg shut down their camp in November 2011. That is what the Occupy encampment has become: A band of homeless protesters with no place to go. Amid accusations of drug use and sporadic theft, they've been sleeping on church pews for weeks, consuming at least \$20,000 of the funds that Occupy Wall Street still had in its coffers. Their existence is being hotly debated at Occupy meetings: Are these people truly "Occupiers" who deserve free food and a roof over their heads?

In a Huff Post of 1/12/2012, 34-year-old Ravi Ahmad, who works for Columbia University and volunteers with Occupy in her spare time said; "We don't do this

out of charity,. We do this so that whoever wants to work in the movement can work in the movement. This is a meritocracy."

On November 28, Mayor Nutter of Philadelphia gave protesters camped at Dilworth Plaza a 48-hour notice to vacate the site, citing a pending construction project which as of September 2, 2014 had not been completed.

In Philadelphia, the Occupy Wall Street evictions at Dilworth Plaza came about 1 a.m. Scuffles broke out after police ordered some protesters to clear the street and 52 people were arrested. Four people were injured, and one police officer sustained a shoulder injury, another cut his hand while making arrests, and a third cut his leg while taking down a tent. A protester was injured when a police horse stepped on her toe, The movement had been living in Dilworth Plaza by City Hall for 56 days.

In aftermath, City Budget Director Rebecca Rynhart announced 12/2/2011 that the city dished out a little more than \$1 million, mostly in police overtime for the movement against corporate greed which began on Oct. 6.

With the Los Angeles and Philadelphia evictions, Occupy encampments remained in a handful of cities including San Francisco; Asheville, North Carolina; Oklahoma City; and Washington, according to media reports and websites set up by the movement in some cities

Occupy San Francisco according to its website exists to peacefully protest politico-economic corruption since September 19, 2011: In their words Occupy is a movement is to restore the 99%(control) over big banks and corporations that buy our elected representatives and corrupt our representative form of democracy.

And of course, even in Downtown Allentown the Allentown Occupy group would not be allowed to continue their encampment at the corner of 7th Street and Hamilton Street - the so-called center square. The fact is, the City of Allentown was in the process of creating an state authorized Neighborhood Improvement Zone to re-create its Center City Area. Ed Pawlowski , Allentown's Mayor, was busy promoting a project to build a hockey arena to revitalize the Hamilton Street Area; and as a consequence of this, members of the Allentown Occupy were asked to leave. Their efforts thereafter diverted to speak against the project at public meetings. And additionally to speak against A toxic incinerator planned for Allentown to burn trash and sewage sludge . Allentown Occupy members said that the incinerator like plant would threaten the air quality of the City and the people's health, hinder recycling efforts and do economic harm to the city.

To these protests and demonstrations, Gordon Gordonsson could only shake his head Wondering how Bill Ayers might be further involved ... Gordonsson understood that China's Mao Tze Tung had his youthful Red Guard to produce

both change and orthodoxy in Chinese Society ... What Gordonsson wanted to know is, how this youthful band of rabble rousers might relate to or facilitate Barack Obama's unrealized social agenda of change that the upstart Tea Party movement and Conservative Republicanism had stood at guard against. Gordonsson wondered whether the Occupy Wall Street movement was the Progressive/liberal Democratic reaction to the Tea Party.

**May we ask: Why did the Occupy Wall Street demonstrators gather together?
Why did they come into being?**

Using their language:

- **They gathered together in alleged solidarity to express a feeling of mass injustice.**
- **They gathered together so that all people who feel wronged by the corporate forces of the world would know that they are allies.**

What do they say?

The Premise ---

As one people, united, they acknowledge the reality: that the future of the human race requires the cooperation of its members; that our system must protect our rights, and upon corruption of that system, it is up to the individuals to protect their own rights, and those of their neighbors; that a democratic government derives its just power from the people, but corporations do not seek consent to extract wealth from the people and the Earth; and that no true democracy is attainable when the process is determined by economic power. We come to you at a time when corporations, which place profit over people, self-interest over justice and oppression over equality, run our governments. We have peaceably assembled here, as is our right, to let these facts be known.

The Grievances ---

- **They have taken our houses through an illegal foreclosure process, despite not having the original mortgage.**
- **They have taken bailouts from taxpayers with impunity, and continue to give Executives exorbitant bonuses.**
- **They have perpetuated inequality and discrimination in the workplace based on age, the color of one's skin, sex, gender identity and sexual orientation.**
- **They have poisoned the food supply through negligence, and undermined the farming system through monopolization.**
- **They have profited off of the torture, confinement, and cruel treatment of countless animals, and actively hide these practices.**
- **They have continuously sought to strip employees of the right to negotiate for better pay and safer working conditions.**

- They have held students hostage with tens of thousands of dollars of debt on education, which is itself a human right.
- They have consistently outsourced labor and used that outsourcing as leverage to cut workers' healthcare and pay.
- They have influenced the courts to achieve the same rights as people, with none of the culpability or responsibility.
- They have spent millions of dollars on legal teams that look for ways to get them out of contracts in regards to health insurance.
- They have sold our privacy as a commodity.
- They have used the military and police force to prevent freedom of the press.
- They have deliberately declined to recall faulty products endangering lives in pursuit of profit.
- They determine economic policy, despite the catastrophic failures their policies have produced and continue to produce.
- They have donated large sums of money to politicians, who are responsible for regulating them.
- They continue to block alternate forms of energy to keep us dependent on oil.
- They continue to block generic forms of medicine that could save people's lives or provide relief in order to protect investments that have already turned a substantial profit.
- They have purposely covered up oil spills, accidents, faulty bookkeeping, and inactive ingredients in pursuit of profit.
- They purposefully keep people misinformed and fearful through their control of the media.
- They have accepted private contracts to murder prisoners even when presented with serious doubts about their guilt.
- They have perpetuated colonialism at home and abroad.
- They have participated in the torture and murder of innocent civilians overseas.
- They continue to create weapons of mass destruction in order to receive government ontracts.*

The Conclusion --

To the people of the world, We, the New York City General Assembly occupying Wall Street in Liberty Square, urge you to assert your power.

Exercise your right to peaceably assemble; occupy public space; create a process to address the problems we face, and generate solutions accessible to everyone.

To all communities that take action and form groups in the spirit of direct democracy, we offer support, documentation, and all of the resources at our disposal.

Join us and make your voices heard!

The protests have drawn an assortment of anarchists, anti-globalization activists and disaffected 20-somethings from North Carolina, Minnesota and Wisconsin — the type of polyglot crowd that has been known to disrupt International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings. But the efforts have also drawn support from union members, including New York transportation workers who allowed some of the protesters to take shelter inside the subway system.

The movement has struck a chord in some liberal New York circles, attracting celebrities such as actress Susan Sarandon and former New York governor David Paterson. It also got a seal of approval from one of the world's most successful capitalists, billionaire George Soros, who said the demonstrators had every reason to be angry at the U.S. financial system for jeopardizing their future.

But Glenn Beck offers a different take ; “These people are only interested in destruction. That leads to gas chambers. That leads to guillotines. That leads to millions dead. That leads to Mao. That leads to totalitarianism, every single time.” And as it was, Glenn and his two cohorts obviously knew a lot of people who poorly invested their inheritance, prostituted themselves, spent hundreds of thousands on low-demand Fine Arts degrees, or more. The trio read statements from people who seemed to be pretty mad at the bankers and corporations when really they have made the poor choices that led to their predicaments. Their conclusion being: “Maybe someone should have warned the Fine Arts major that they may not find a job to pay for their expensive degree? No? Instead YOU should help pay for it for them...it's only fair, right?”

Said Dennis Kennethsson: “I don't think that Glenn Beck and his cohorts are serious about that ... They don't really think that the government should pay for all expensive college education ... I for one never had a college loan ... Yes, I had a grad school college discount ... But I'm so glad that all my college education that led up to my two degrees was fully paid at the time I received my degrees ...So I had nothing to pay back ... I can thank my mother Christine Georgesdottir and my summer employment at a big industrial plant for that ... Nevertheless I do have empathy for those who paid for their education by virtue of loans and could not receive jobs in their area of study ... I wanted to be a teacher and there was no full-time jobs in education for me I do thank my mother for getting me through that period in my life I did not collect any unemployment during that time in my life nor did I receive any other benefits.... I learned to be frugal because my pay from substitute teaching and other jobs was not very much.... Indeed I was disappointed that I could not get a full-time job ... But just the same, I didn't want

to punish the world for me not having a full-time job ... I wanted to be as constructive as I could in that unsatisfactory situation.

The question is : Is the connection of Barrack Obama and Occupy undeniable? Douglas V Gibbs in his November 7, 2011 Canada Free Press report "ACORN and Occupy Wall Street's White House Connection", thinks that to be so.

Writes Gibbs: "Among some political minds it is believed that the White House is behind the Occupy Wall Street protests. Obama, remembering the beating the democrats received in November of 2010 when the TEA Party enabled the Republicans to win in a landslide, decided he needed his own version of the TEA Party. The problem is, liberal collectivists don't organize in a manner similar to the independently minded TEA Party ralliers. Collectivists need someone to tell them what to do (hence why they embrace big government and tyrants), and so the White House had to orchestrate the protests through some creative community organizing. For Obama, that would be easy, since he is a masterful political agitator."

According to Gibbs,: "Obama's old buddies at ACORN would fit the bill nicely", and he was sure " the organization was the White House's first choice in being a part of creating the liberal version of a TEA Party."

To which Gordon Gordonsson responds: " He may have something here . :

Gibbs continues: " Problem is, liberal collectivists aren't clean like TEA Party members, aren't peaceful like TEA Party members, and they don't have a clue what to do beyond complaining and protesting.

Neither did the democrats during Bush's presidency. All they did was complain, call Bush every name in the book, and make every accusation they could get their hands on (more often false accusations at that) - and the politics of personal destruction worked just fine for the leftists.

Now, aside from their politics of personal destruction against Herman Cain and the rest of the Republican field, they are also using those tactics against the achievers and producers of American society through the Occupy Wall Street protests.

And the White House was never pegged as being behind any of it. . .

Until Obama's buddies at ACORN got fingered."

But Dennis Kennethsson offers this observation: " True but the Republican Party leadership are no angels when it comes to their tactics against their adversaries either. Maybe both parties need some Taming of the Tongue. Let us look at James 3: 3-12 for some inspiration:

3 Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly. ² We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

³ When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal. ⁴ Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. ⁵ Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. ⁶ The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

⁷ All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind, ⁸ but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

⁹ With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God's likeness. ¹⁰ Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be. ¹¹ Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? ¹² My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Again Gibbs speculates:

" Now, ACORN Officials are scrambling to hide their association with the Occupy Wall Street protests. ACORN is firing workers and shredding documents, after being exposed as being players behind the Occupy Wall Street protests.

Why would they do that?

In addition to firing staff and shredding documents, the remaining workers are being told to blame disgruntled ex-employees for leaking information in an effort to explain away their involvement in Occupy Wall Street protests.

The New York City chapter is also installing surveillance cameras and recording devices at its Brooklyn offices, is removing or packing away supplies bearing the name ACORN, and is handing out photos of Fox News staff with a stern warning not to talk to the media.

"They're doing serious damage control right now," said a New York Communities for Change (ACORN by another name) source to Fox News.

But why would they want to distance themselves from the Occupy protests. Isn't this kind of thing right up their alley?

Could it be that they are running and hiding not because they are thinking of how they will look being associated with the OWS protests, but because links to the White House may be discovered?

Could it be that they are scrambling in order to protect Obama?

Established in 1991, the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME) is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that “advances and advocates for equity and social justice through multicultural education.” NAME defines multicultural education as a “philosophical concept” that promotes “the ideals of freedom, justice, equality, equity, and human dignity” within the toxic milieu of an American culture rife with “racism, sexism, classism, linguicism, ablism, ageism, heterosexism, religious intolerance, and xenophobia.”

Emphasizing “the role schools can play in developing the attitudes and values necessary for a democratic society,” NAME strives to combat America's allegedly ubiquitous flaws by teaching students to: “critique society in the interest of social justice”; “critically analyze oppression and power relations in their communities” and elsewhere; “challenge all forms of discrimination”; “work actively toward structural equality in organizations and institutions”; and advocate for “the redistribution of power and income among diverse groups.” The Association promotes these values via its website, position papers, policy statements, press releases, and political advocacy activities.

Emphasizing the many positive “contributions” that illegal aliens have made to the United States, NAME affirms its “deep opposition” to state laws “designed to drive out undocumented immigrants” and “create a hostile climate for Latino students, whether documented or not.” The United States bears “complicity in the reasons why” people from Central America violate U.S. immigration laws, says NAME, charging that the North American Free Trade Agreement “has enabled the U.S. to flood Mexico with cheap, subsidized produce that has shut down many Mexican farms and displaced millions of rural Mexican farmers, while turning profits for large agricultural corporations.”

Another of NAME's chief concerns is the issue of “environmental injustice,” a reference to “the disproportionately high degree to which communities of color are exposed to pollution (and the corresponding low level of environmental benefits they enjoy).” These inequities, says NAME, result from “deep societal racism and classism” whose hallmarks are “disparities of wealth” and inequitable “resource distribution.”

Rejecting the notion “that the U.S. is a race-neutral society,” NAME contends that a multitude of “barriers to employment and promotion still exist for people of

color, women, and other ... groups.” Thus the Association strongly supports affirmative action in the realms of business and academia. Preferential policies, NAME explains, help “provid[e] people of color, women and other protected groups educational and workplace opportunities” they would not otherwise have.

NAME also condemns the “heterosexism” of Western culture as a form of “oppression” that results in “the exclusion of lesbians, gay males, bisexuals, transgender[s], and queer people (LGBTQ) in every aspect of the individual, cultural, and institutional aspects of life.” Such exclusion, says NAME, “creates an environment of violence and hatred towards LGBTQ people and their allies”; “establishes and perpetuates the notion that all people are or should be heterosexual”; and “hinders the growth of individuals by confining all people to rigid roles of gender and sexual orientation.” To address these issues, NAME is committed to “eliminating heterosexism” through the development and implementation of educational material and programs “promoting an inclusive society.”

NAME has chapters in every region of the United States, and its 1,500+ members consist of professional educators, administrators, and school-affiliated specialists such as psychologists, social workers, counselors, curriculum developers, librarians, and researchers.

In December 2012, Rick Ayers, a teacher-education professor at the University of San Francisco, was elected as NAME's co-president. He is the brother of Bill Ayers, the former Weather Underground terrorist-turned education professor. Bill Ayers himself was a keynote speaker at NAME's November 2011 international conference in Chicago, along with critical race theorist Patricia Williams and several others.

In regard to William Ayers he is still out there doing his revolutionary thing on twitter ... June 11, 2013 --- So the state needs to know everything about us to keep us safe and we can know nothing about the state because its keeping us safe. 1984....June 12, 2013 --- Civil disobedience is the active refusal to obey certain unjust laws, demands, and commands of government. Stand up with Edward Snowden. June 12, 2013 --- The burden of proof is on the State: Why did it do what IT did? How does it justify itself in a putative democracy? On what legal basis? June 12, 2013 ---Courage hope compassion. Remembering Medgar Evers 1963 ... Which in response a certain JK said: Crawl back under your rock Commie. You are a disease and another responder said; . Hay, you said Obama should be put on trial. How can the likes of you say such a thing. You live in a glass house ...

Of interest, Gordon Gordonsson had been reading a theology book called Paul and the Law.... And what he got from that is that the Covenant that God made with the Jewish people under Jesus has been extended to us ... The word went out to the Gentiles and the Gentiles like the Hebrew nation came under the word. To

become under the law means that we must abide by the standards of the law ... In addition, the significance of becoming under the law means that violating the law will have consequences for the individual and nation. A penalty will be paid ... But just as the Old Covenant law promised that the Hebrew Nation would be restored if it atones for its misbehavior and abides by the law, the same promise is for us under the New Covenant. The Hebrew Nation is waiting for the construction of a new Temple in Jerusalem, replacing the ones that were destroyed during periods of the Hebrew Nation's dispersal. For those under the New Covenant, this Temple is not a building but it is found in our hearts, mind and soul ... We comply by the law by keeping our hearts pure.... In truth we are not saved by the sacrament of Baptism in Christ or by the Eucharist ... We are saved because Jesus died for our sins and offers us grace and salvation. And in becoming one with Christ we must change how we behave --- that is, become new persons in Christ. Obama speaks about change we can believe in. But Gordonsson says that Jesus Christ is the only person that can bring forth change that we can believe in ... The ideas expressed above by Bill Ayers and promoted by NAME are ideas inherent in secular humanism and secular humanism has no eternal values ... All values in secular humanism are temporary, human generated and can lead to anarchy if advanced too far.

For example, the decision of the then Allentown City Council President Michael D'Amore in 2010 to advance a measure granting full health benefits to same sex couples working for the City is an example of Secular Humanism. In 2010 . Pennsylvania same sex couples did not have the right to marry or form a civil union yet; but D'Amore never the less wanted to give these couples the same rights as married couples ... A right that quite interestingly was not granted to unmarried heterosexual couples.

Of historical interest, the advocacy of same sex benefits was not confined solely to the City of Allentown City Hall on Hamilton Street but a few blocks west at the Lehigh County Government Center (once the Lehs Department Store) located at the intersections of Hamilton Street and 7th Street the lame duck Executive Director Matt Croslis attempted to change then county policy which stated the spouse of a county employee can receive benefits if the employee is "legally married to a person of the opposite sex by providing money for it through a change in a line item in the \$361.7 million budget being considered by county commissioners."

A split 5-4 vote by the Lehigh County board of commissioners made October 13, 2013 rejected this attempt to extend health benefits to spouses of county employees who were in same-sex marriages as a result of a marriage license obtained from a state where such marriages was legal.

According to the Easton Express report of Colin McEvoy that decision served as a bitter disappointment to Thomas Cunningham, an Allentown man who held up the license he received in New York after marrying his husband.

He stated to the Board: "What is different about my marriage because I'm married to a male rather than a female?" Cunningham asked. "There isn't any.

Both Kennethsson and Gordonsson agree that that in the secular humanistic world this may be so but in the eternal world there may be a major difference of opinion.

In 1996, Pennsylvania was one of 14 states to amend its laws to add anticeremony and anti-recognition provisions applicable to same-sex couples. The proliferation of such laws across the country – another 11 states added similar provisions the following year – was in response to litigation in Hawaii, in which the Hawaii Supreme Court had held the state's ban on same-sex marriage to be presumptively violative of the state's equal protection clause. See *Baehr v. Lewin*, 852 P.2d 44 (Haw. 1993).

In Pennsylvania, Representative C. Allan Egolf of Perry County sponsored the marriage amendment and described it as "an expression of Pennsylvania's traditional and longstanding policy of moral opposition to same-sex marriages and support of the traditional family unit." (Doc. 115-18, p. 27). Ultimately, both houses passed the legislation by overwhelming majorities, the House by 177 to 16, and the Senate by 43 to 5.

The Pennsylvania Marriage Laws define "marriage" as "[a] civil contract by which one man and one woman take each other for husband and wife." 23 Pa. C.S. § 1102. In addition, a provision entitled "Marriage between persons of the same sex" states as follows: It is hereby declared to be the strong and longstanding public policy of this Commonwealth that marriage shall be between one man and one woman. A marriage between persons of the same sex which was entered into in another state or foreign jurisdiction, even if valid where entered into, shall be void in this Commonwealth. 23 Pa. C.S. § 1704.

As stated, the Marriage Laws have the effect of preventing same-sex couples from marrying in Pennsylvania and nullifying the marriages of same-sex couples legally married elsewhere for purposes of recognition in the Commonwealth.

Please note -- Lehigh County which was created in 1812 by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to administer judicially the civil and criminal laws of the Commonwealth would have been obligated to enforce these laws, Consequently 5 of the more conservative members of the Lehigh County Commissioners stuck

with the law to deny a line-item in the budget which would have provided benefits to same-sex marriage partners.

But the above is not the end of the story for as it occurred on May 20, 2014 ,Pennsylvania's same-sex marriage ban was ruled unconstitutional in Pennsylvania by a Federal district Judge in the case known as DEB WHITEWOOD, *et al.*, Plaintiffs, vs. MICHAEL WOLF, *in his official :capacity as Secretary, Pennsylvania :Department of Health, et al.*, :

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Today, certain citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are not guaranteed the right to marry the person they love. Nor does Pennsylvania recognize the marriages of other couples who have wed elsewhere. Hoping to end this injustice, eleven courageous lesbian and gay couples, one widow, and two teenage children of one of the aforesaid couples have come together as plaintiffs and asked this Court to declare that all Pennsylvanians have the right to marry the person of their choice and consequently, that the Commonwealth's laws to the contrary are unconstitutional. We now join the twelve federal district courts across the country which, when confronted with these inequities in their own states, have concluded that all couples deserve equal dignity in the realm of civil marriage.

In response to the decision of the Federal District Court and the statement by Governor Michael Corbett of Pennsylvania not to appeal the decision, the Board of Commissioner of Lehigh County by motion voted 6-0 on May 29, 2014 , with three abstentions, to authorize a change to county policy, which had restricted benefits to those in marriages "between persons of the opposite sex." Previously,The board had twice voted down efforts to provide the *benefits*.

One County employee had filed a civil lawsuit against the County earlier in May , claiming the county policies violated his constitutional rights and should be reversed

The County solicitor in light of the Federal Court ruling apparently advised the Commissioners that if it did not change the county policy in regard to benefits, it was opening up the county to further legal action..

Lehigh County Commissioner Brad Osburne emphasized before the vote "It was made very clear that if action was not taken by the county, not only will the

outstanding lawsuit become problematic, but additional lawsuits against the county would be inevitable and the damages from those lawsuits would be significant,"

In Jeremiah 2: 13 the prophet proclaimed the Lord's disgust: "My people have committed two sins; they have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

Gordonsson's wait and see attitude primarily on his take on the Obama Administration is based on whether Barack Obama and the Democratic Majority would forsake traditional American moral and political values about God and government and build a cistern that cannot hold water and moreover build a house on sand that won't withstand the storm.

To Gordonsson, Obama's attitude in regard to Islam is important to know because this may determine what kind of cistern and what kind of house would be built in America in the forthcoming future

Democratic Candidate Barack Hussein Obama facing strong criticism about his relationship with his controversial pastor Jeremiah Wright posted this statement entitled On My Faith and My Church March 14, 2008 in the Huff Post Politics Blog.

The pastor of my church, Rev. Jeremiah Wright, who recently preached his last sermon and is in the process of retiring, has touched off a firestorm over the last few days. He's drawn attention as the result of some inflammatory and appalling remarks he made about our country, our politics, and my political opponents.

Let me say at the outset that I vehemently disagree and strongly condemn the statements that have been the subject of this controversy. I categorically denounce any statement that disparages our great country or serves to divide us from our allies. I also believe that words that degrade individuals have no place in our public dialogue, whether it's on the campaign stump or in the pulpit. In sum, I reject outright the statements by Rev. Wright that are at issue.

Because these particular statements by Rev. Wright are so contrary to my own life and beliefs, a number of people have legitimately raised questions about the nature of my relationship with Rev. Wright and my membership in the church. Let me therefore provide some context.

As I have written about in my books, I first joined Trinity United Church of Christ nearly twenty years ago. I knew Rev. Wright as someone who served this nation with honor as a United States Marine, as a respected biblical scholar, and as someone who taught or lectured at seminaries across the country, from Union Theological Seminary to the University of Chicago. He also led a diverse

congregation that was and still is a pillar of the South Side and the entire city of Chicago. It's a congregation that does not merely preach social justice but acts it out each day, through ministries ranging from housing the homeless to reaching out to those with HIV/AIDS.

Most importantly, Rev. Wright preached the gospel of Jesus, a gospel on which I base my life. In other words, he has never been my political advisor; he's been my pastor. And the sermons I heard him preach always related to our obligation to love God and one another, to work on behalf of the poor, and to seek justice at every turn.

The statements that Rev. Wright made that are the cause of this controversy were not statements I personally heard him preach while I sat in the pews of Trinity or heard him utter in private conversation. When these statements first came to my attention, it was at the beginning of my presidential campaign. I made it clear at the time that I strongly condemned his comments. But because Rev. Wright was on the verge of retirement, and because of my strong links to the Trinity faith community, where I married my wife and where my daughters were baptized, I did not think it appropriate to leave the church.

Let me repeat what I've said earlier. All of the statements that have been the subject of controversy are ones that I vehemently condemn. They in no way reflect my attitudes and directly contradict my profound love for this country.

With Rev. Wright's retirement and the ascension of my new pastor, Rev. Otis Moss, III, Michelle and I look forward to continuing a relationship with a church that has done so much good. And while Rev. Wright's statements have pained and angered me, I believe that Americans will judge me not on the basis of what someone else said, but on the basis of who I am and what I believe in; on my values, judgment and experience to be President of the United States

Then as it occurred, In September 2008, Democratic Presidential nominee Barack Hussein Obama was interviewed by George Stephanopoulos for ABC's This Week news program. George Stephanopoulos in the past had served President Bill Clinton as a Press Secretary. Stephanopoulos addressed Obama's assertion that Republicans were attempting to scare Christian voters by suggesting that the Democratic candidate was not Christian.

Obama by his detractors was said to be born a Muslim to a non-practicing but somewhat political radical Muslim father from Kenya and an atheistic white mother from Kansas and for some years had a reasonably Muslim upbringing under the auspices of his Indonesian step-father. When Obama attended 4th grade in 1971, Muslim children spent two hours a week studying Islam, and Christian children spent those two hours learning about the Christian religion. (In a Roman Catholic school) In their first neighborhood, Obama occasionally followed his stepfather to the mosque for Friday prayers, a few neighbors said. Zulfan Adi, a

former neighborhood playmate of Obama's who has been cited in news reports as saying Obama regularly attended Friday prayers. Obama's 3rd-grade teacher at the Catholic school, who lived near the family [said that] "Rarely, Barry went to the mosque with Lolo" " confirming that Obama attended mosque services.

In the end one may ask , does it really matter whether Obama attended Friday prayer services or not.? But it might matter more if Obama actually accepted the Muslim faith or if Moslim clerics believe him to be a Muslim or declared him to be a Muslim. For if Obama once was a Muslim, he is now what Islamic law calls a *murtadd* (apostate), an ex-Muslim converted to another religion who must be executed. Were he elected president of the United States, this status, clearly, would have large potential implications for his relationship with the Muslim world.

Mr. Obama, who is a Christian and often proudly speaks about how his Christian faith has influenced his public service, said during the ABC interview that he finds it "deeply offensive" that there were efforts "coming out of the Republican camp to suggest that perhaps I'm not who I say I am when it comes to my faith."

The exchange came after Mr. Obama said that Republicans were attempting to scare voters by suggesting he is not Christian, which McCain campaign manager Rick Davis said was "cynical." "The McCain campaign has never suggested you have Muslim connections," said Mr. Stephanopoulos, who repeatedly interrupted Mr. Obama during the interview

"I don't think that when you look at what is being promulgated on Fox News, let's say, and Republican commentators who are closely allied to these folks," Mr Obama responded, and Mr. Stephanopoulos interrupted: "But John McCain said that's wrong." Mr. Obama noted that when Republican vice presidential nominee Gov. Sarah Palin "was forced" to talk about her pregnant 17-year-old daughter, he issued a forceful statement to reporters that the line of inquiry was "off limits." But he said the McCain campaign tried to tie him to "liberal blogs that support Obama" and are "attacking Governor Palin."

Let's not play games," he said. "What I was suggesting — you're absolutely right that John McCain has not talked about my Muslim faith. And you're absolutely right that that has not come."Mr. Stephanopoulos interrupted with, "Christian faith."

"My Christian faith," Mr. Obama said quickly. "Well, what I'm saying is that he hasn't suggested that I'm a Muslim. And I think that his campaign's upper echelons have not, either. What I think is fair to say is that, coming out of the Republican camp, there have been efforts to suggest that perhaps I'm not who I say I am when it comes to my faith — something which I find deeply offensive, and that has been going on for a pretty long time."That was indeed a slip of the tongue, but many will say, no it wasn't. You be the judge....

And Judge the American People will because at a press conference in Turkey in April 2009, President Obama casually rebuked the timeless notion that the United States is a Judeo-Christian nation.

Said Obama;"One of the great strengths of the United States is ... We have a very large Christian population -- we do not consider ourselves a Christian nation or a Jewish nation or a Muslim nation. We consider ourselves a nation of Citizens who are bound by ideals and a set of values."

Obama at Cairo University June 4, 2009 said: "I've come here to Cairo to seek a new beginning between the United States and Muslims around the world, one based on mutual interest and mutual respect, and one based upon the truth that America and Islam are not exclusive and need not be in competition. Instead, they overlap, and share common principles -- principles of justice and progress; tolerance and the dignity of all human beings.

I do so recognizing that change cannot happen overnight. I know there's been a lot of publicity about this speech, but no single speech can eradicate years of mistrust, nor can I answer in the time that I have this afternoon all the complex questions that brought us to this point. But I am convinced that in order to move forward, we must say openly to each other the things we hold in our hearts and that too often are said only behind closed doors. There must be a sustained effort to listen to each other; to learn from each other; to respect one another; and to seek common ground.

As the Holy Koran tells us, 'Be conscious of God and speak always the truth.' That is what I will try to do today -- to speak the truth as best I can, humbled by the task before us, and firm in my belief that the interests we share as human beings are far more powerful than the forces that drive us

Now part of this conviction is rooted in my own experience. I'm a Christian, but my father came from a Kenyan family that includes generations of Muslims. As a boy, I spent several years in Indonesia and heard the call of the azaan at the break of dawn and at the fall of dusk. As a young man, I worked in Chicago communities where many found dignity and peace in their Muslim faith. ...

So I have known Islam on three continents before coming to the region where it was first revealed. That experience guides my conviction that partnership between America and Islam must be based on what Islam is, not what it isn't; and I consider it part of my responsibility as President of the United States to fight against negative stereotypes of Islam wherever they appear.

.. So let there be no doubt: Islam is a part of America. And I believe that America holds within her the truth that regardless of race, religion, or station in life, all of us share common aspirations -- to live in peace and security; To get an education

and to work with dignity; to love our families, our communities, and our God. These things we share. This is the hope of all humanity.”

So Obama had no doubt that Islam is part of America. But due to recent events that carried over from the end of 2010 into 2011 should we have some doubt that even in the Moderate Islam nation of Egypt where Obama made his Cairo University assertion in June 2009 that Christianity may not be as welcome in that part of the Arab world as we thought. That Egypt although it was the first Arab nation to make peace with Israel does not hold within her the truth that regardless of race, religion, or station in life, that all of them share common aspirations --- to live in peace and security, to get an education and work with dignity, to love other families as they were their own, to love the diversity found in all communities of their settlements, and to respect the different manner in which adherents of the multiple religious faiths that exist there worship their God.

That was our fear as the Muslim Brotherhood with the election of Morsi as Egyptian President worked to increase the influence of Islam in the nation until the Army intervened and said enough is enough. But despite its leaders being arrested and outlawed, the Muslim Brotherhood is still out there asking its supporters to put pressure on the military to give the government back to the Muslim Brotherhood.

A Washington political insider, retired US Air Force General Tom McInerney has confirmed that the Muslim Brotherhood has a major presence in the White House inner circle. In an interview with a Washington radio station, the for assistant vice chief of staff and commander in chief of U.S. Forces Europe has identified as least two Muslim Brotherhood players with direct Oval Office access. -

This Muslim Brotherhood influence has been detailed in the book “Impeachable Offenses: The Case to Remove Barack Obama from Office” by New York Times bestselling authors Aaron Klein and Brenda J. Elliott. In the book the authors document that Obama has aided the return to power of Islamic extremist groups in the Middle East and confirms that the administration may have exposed national security information through Huma Abedin, Hillary Clinton’s deputy chief of staff. Abedin’s family has very close personal ties with the Muslim Brotherhood that run deep. -

The second White House figure with disturbing ties to the extremist group is Mohamed Elbiary who is a member of the Department of Homeland Security’s Advisory Council -

concerning a tell-all book by former Defense Secretary Robert Gates that strongly criticizes President Obama and Vice-President Biden for making decisions about national security that were politically motivated, McInerney applauded Gates for doing the nation a service for exposing the practice.

He noted that Gates should have made his concerns known earlier indicating, "We've got Muslim Brotherhood in the U.S. government today.... at least 10 to 15 in the U.S. government" Inter

McInerney expressed strong concern due to the extremist organization's influence on our Homeland Security and the secretary of state's office, where Abedin holds a key post.

"Her parents are Muslim Brotherhood. And her intuitions are in that direction," said McInerney

Reflects Gordon Gordonsson; "These connections may be absolutely true, but without strong proof and documents, McInerney's assertions bring back memories of Senator McCarthy's Red Scare tactics during the Cold War.

Said Dennis Kennethsson: As an American I must show tolerance and understanding for others in their behavior. And encourage that every individual be given due process if they transgress the law. But just the same, I can not bend my Christian principles to appease others. The fact is I believe that Jesus Christ through his death and resurrection has provided me with the keys to heaven if I only believe in him and act accordingly. Indeed I want to live in peace with others. But I will not reject the divinity of Jesus just to accomplish this.

Just the same, the Daily Star of Lebanon reported that the Syriac Orthodox bishop of Mount Lebanon and Tripoli George Saliba on Wednesday July 30, 2014 in a radio interview denounced Muslims as enemies of Jesus, accusing them of a history of violence and oppression against Christians.

Saliba In his words said: : "What is happening in Iraq is a strange thing, but it is normal for Muslims, because they have never treated Christians well, and they have always held an offensive and defaming stand against Christians," "We are not calling for armament and war; we don't have the capacities,". "We used to live and coexist with Muslims, but then they revealed their canines [teeth]." "They are the enemies of Christ and they do not differ from the Jews in terms of treating Christians."

The bishop accused Muslims of centuries of violence against Christians, condemning the attacks on the Christians of Iraqi Mosul.

Saiba continues : "[They don't] have the right to storm houses, steal and attack the honor of Christians," "Most Muslims do this, the Ottomans killed us and after that the ruling nation-states understood the circumstances but always gave advantage to the Muslims."

Saliba also said Muslim generations are raised on bad feelings against Christians, saying this applies to the majority of Muslims. "Islam has never changed, and Muslims have been educated on the bad treatment of Christians," "We are not surprised by these behaviors, but we [put hopes] on some Muslims brothers who do not support such behaviors, despite them being a minority."

Following is a text of President Obama's speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday, September 25, 2013, as released by the White House:

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, fellow delegates, ladies and gentleman: I would like to begin today by telling you about an American named Chris Stevens.

Chris was born in a town called Grass Valley, California, the son of a lawyer and a musician. As a young man, Chris joined the Peace Corps, and taught English in Morocco. And he came to love and respect the people of North Africa and the Middle East. He would carry that commitment throughout his life. As a diplomat, he worked from Egypt to Syria, from Saudi Arabia to Libya. He was known for walking the streets of the cities where he worked -- tasting the local food, meeting as many people as he could, speaking Arabic, listening with a broad smile.

Chris went to Benghazi in the early days of the Libyan revolution, arriving on a cargo ship. As America's representative, he helped the Libyan people as they coped with violent conflict, cared for the wounded, and crafted a vision for the future in which the rights of all Libyans would be respected. And after the revolution, he supported the birth of a new democracy, as Libyans held elections, and built new institutions, and began to move forward after decades of dictatorship.

Chris Stevens loved his work. He took pride in the country he served, and he saw dignity in the people that he met. And two weeks ago, he traveled to Benghazi to review plans to establish a new cultural center and modernize a hospital. That's when America's compound came under attack. Along with three of his colleagues, Chris was killed in the city that he helped to save. He was 52 years old.

I tell you this story because Chris Stevens embodied the best of America. Like his fellow Foreign Service officers, he built bridges across oceans and cultures, and was deeply invested in the international cooperation that the

United Nations represents. He acted with humility, but he also stood up for a set of principles -- a belief that individuals should be free to determine their own destiny, and live with liberty, dignity, justice, and opportunity.

The attacks on the civilians in Benghazi were attacks on America. We are grateful for the assistance we received from the Libyan government and from the Libyan people. There should be no doubt that we will be relentless in tracking down the killers and bringing them to justice. And I also appreciate that in recent days, the leaders of other countries in the region -- including Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen -- have taken steps to secure our diplomatic facilities, and called for calm. And so have religious authorities around the globe.

But understand, the attacks of the last two weeks are not simply an assault on America. They are also an assault on the very ideals upon which the United Nations was founded -- the notion that people can resolve their differences peacefully; that diplomacy can take the place of war; that in an interdependent world, all of us have a stake in working towards greater opportunity and security for our citizens.

If we are serious about upholding these ideals, it will not be enough to put more guards in front of an embassy, or to put out statements of regret and wait for the outrage to pass. If we are serious about these ideals, we must speak honestly about the deeper causes of the crisis -- because we face a choice between the forces that would drive us apart and the hopes that we hold in common.

Today, we must reaffirm that our future will be determined by people like Chris Stevens -- and not by his killers. Today, we must declare that this violence and intolerance has no place among our United Nations.

It has been less than two years since a vendor in Tunisia set himself on fire to protest the oppressive corruption in his country, and sparked what became known as the Arab Spring. And since then, the world has been captivated by the transformation that's taken place, and the United States has supported the forces of change.

We were inspired by the Tunisian protests that toppled a dictator, because we recognized our own beliefs in the aspiration of men and women who took to the streets.

We insisted on change in Egypt, because our support for democracy ultimately put us on the side of the people.

We supported a transition of leadership in Yemen, because the interests of the people were no longer being served by a corrupt status quo.

We intervened in Libya alongside a broad coalition, and with the mandate of the United Nations Security Council, because we had the ability to stop the slaughter of innocents, and because we believed that the aspirations of the people were more powerful than a tyrant.

And as we meet here, we again declare that the regime of Bashar al-Assad must come to an end so that the suffering of the Syrian people can stop and a new dawn can begin.

We have taken these positions because we believe that freedom and self-determination are not unique to one culture. These are not simply American values or Western values -- they are universal values. And even as there will be huge challenges to come with a transition to democracy, I am convinced that ultimately government of the people, by the people, and for the people is more likely to bring about the stability, prosperity, and individual opportunity that serve as a basis for peace in our world.

So let us remember that this is a season of progress. For the first time in decades, Tunisians, Egyptians and Libyans voted for new leaders in elections that were credible, competitive, and fair. This democratic spirit has not been restricted to the Arab world. Over the past year, we've seen peaceful transitions of power in Malawi and Senegal, and a new President in Somalia. In Burma, a President has freed political prisoners and opened a closed society, a courageous dissident has been elected to parliament, and people look forward to further reform. Around the globe, people are making their voices heard, insisting on their innate dignity, and the right to determine their future.

And yet the turmoil of recent weeks reminds us that the path to democracy does not end with the casting of a ballot. Nelson Mandela once said: "To be

free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."

True democracy demands that citizens cannot be thrown in jail because of what they believe, and that businesses can be opened without paying a bribe. It depends on the freedom of citizens to speak their minds and assemble without fear, and on the rule of law and due process that guarantees the rights of all people.

In other words, true democracy -- real freedom -- is hard work. Those in power have to resist the temptation to crack down on dissidents. In hard economic times, countries must be tempted -- may be tempted to rally the people around perceived enemies, at home and abroad, rather than focusing on the painstaking work of reform.

Moreover, there will always be those that reject human progress -- dictators who cling to power, corrupt interests that depend on the status quo, and extremists who fan the flames of hate and division. From Northern Ireland to South Asia, from Africa to the Americas, from the Balkans to the Pacific Rim, we've witnessed convulsions that can accompany transitions to a new political order.

At time, the conflicts arise along the fault lines of race or tribe. And often they arise from the difficulties of reconciling tradition and faith with the diversity and interdependence of the modern world. In every country, there are those who find different religious beliefs threatening; in every culture, those who love freedom for themselves must ask themselves how much they're willing to tolerate freedom for others.

That is what we saw play out in the last two weeks, as a crude and disgusting video sparked outrage throughout the Muslim world. Now, I have made it clear that the United States government had nothing to do with this video, and I believe its message must be rejected by all who respect our common humanity.

It is an insult not only to Muslims, but to America as well -- for as the city outside these walls makes clear, we are a country that has welcomed people of every race and every faith. We are home to Muslims who worship across our

country. We not only respect the freedom of religion, we have laws that protect individuals from being harmed because of how they look or what they believe. We understand why people take offense to this video because millions of our citizens are among them.

I know there are some who ask why we don't just ban such a video. And the answer is enshrined in our laws: Our Constitution protects the right to practice free speech.

Here in the United States, countless publications provoke offense. Like me, the majority of Americans are Christian, and yet we do not ban blasphemy against our most sacred beliefs. As President of our country and Commander-in-Chief of our military, I accept that people are going to call me awful things every day - - (laughter) -- and I will always defend their right to do so.

Americans have fought and died around the globe to protect the right of all people to express their views, even views that we profoundly disagree with. We do not do so because we support hateful speech, but because our founders understood that without such protections, the capacity of each individual to express their own views and practice their own faith may be threatened. We do so because in a diverse society, efforts to restrict speech can quickly become a tool to silence critics and oppress minorities.

We do so because given the power of faith in our lives, and the passion that religious differences can inflame, the strongest weapon against hateful speech is not repression; it is more speech -- the voices of tolerance that rally against bigotry and blasphemy, and lift up the values of understanding and mutual respect.

Now, I know that not all countries in this body share this particular understanding of the protection of free speech. We recognize that. But in 2012, at a time when anyone with a cell phone can spread offensive views around the world with the click of a button, the notion that we can control the flow of information is obsolete. The question, then, is how do we respond?

And on this we must agree: There is no speech that justifies mindless violence. There are no words that excuse the killing of innocents. There's no video that justifies an attack on an embassy. There's no slander that provides an excuse

for people to burn a restaurant in Lebanon, or destroy a school in Tunis, or cause death and destruction in Pakistan.

In this modern world with modern technologies, for us to respond in that way to hateful speech empowers any individual who engages in such speech to create chaos around the world. We empower the worst of us if that's how we respond.

More broadly, the events of the last two weeks also speak to the need for all of us to honestly address the tensions between the West and the Arab world that is moving towards democracy.

Now, let me be clear: Just as we cannot solve every problem in the world, the United States has not and will not seek to dictate the outcome of democratic transitions abroad. We do not expect other nations to agree with us on every issue, nor do we assume that the violence of the past weeks or the hateful speech by some individuals represent the views of the overwhelming majority of Muslims, any more than the views of the people who produced this video represents those of Americans. However, I do believe that it is the obligation of all leaders in all countries to speak out forcefully against violence and extremism.

It is time to marginalize those who -- even when not directly resorting to violence -- use hatred of America, or the West, or Israel, as the central organizing principle of politics. For that only gives cover, and sometimes makes an excuse, for those who do resort to violence.

That brand of politics -- one that pits East against West, and South against North, Muslims against Christians and Hindu and Jews -- can't deliver on the promise of freedom. To the youth, it offers only false hope. Burning an American flag does nothing to provide a child an education. Smashing apart a restaurant does not fill an empty stomach. Attacking an embassy won't create a single job. That brand of politics only makes it harder to achieve what we must do together: educating our children, and creating the opportunities that they deserve; protecting human rights, and extending democracy's promise.

Understand America will never retreat from the world. We will bring justice to those who harm our citizens and our friends, and we will stand with our allies.

We are willing to partner with countries around the world to deepen ties of trade and investment, and science and technology, energy and development -- all efforts that can spark economic growth for all our people and stabilize democratic change.

But such efforts depend on a spirit of mutual interest and mutual respect. No government or company, no school or NGO will be confident working in a country where its people are endangered. For partnerships to be effective our citizens must be secure and our efforts must be welcomed.

A politics based only on anger -- one based on dividing the world between "us" and "them" -- not only sets back international cooperation, it ultimately undermines those who tolerate it. All of us have an interest in standing up to these forces.

Let us remember that Muslims have suffered the most at the hands of extremism. On the same day our civilians were killed in Benghazi, a Turkish police officer was murdered in Istanbul only days before his wedding; more than 10 Yemenis were killed in a car bomb in Sana'a; several Afghan children were mourned by their parents just days after they were killed by a suicide bomber in Kabul.

The impulse towards intolerance and violence may initially be focused on the West, but over time it cannot be contained. The same impulses toward extremism are used to justify war between Sunni and Shia, between tribes and clans. It leads not to strength and prosperity but to chaos. In less than two years, we have seen largely peaceful protests bring more change to Muslim-majority countries than a decade of violence. And extremists understand this. Because they have nothing to offer to improve the lives of people, violence is their only way to stay relevant. They don't build; they only destroy.

It is time to leave the call of violence and the politics of division behind. On so many issues, we face a choice between the promise of the future, or the prisons of the past. And we cannot afford to get it wrong. We must seize this moment. And America stands ready to work with all who are willing to embrace a better future.

The future must not belong to those who target Coptic Christians in Egypt -- it must be claimed by those in Tahrir Square who chanted, "Muslims, Christians, we are one." The future must not belong to those who bully women -- it must be shaped by girls who go to school, and those who stand for a world where our daughters can live their dreams just like our sons.

The future must not belong to those corrupt few who steal a country's resources -- it must be won by the students and entrepreneurs, the workers and business owners who seek a broader prosperity for all people. Those are the women and men that America stands with; theirs is the vision we will support.

The future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam. But to be credible, those who condemn that slander must also condemn the hate we see in the images of Jesus Christ that are desecrated, or churches that are destroyed, or the Holocaust that is denied.

Let us condemn incitement against Sufi Muslims and Shiite pilgrims. It's time to heed the words of Gandhi: "Intolerance is itself a form of violence and an obstacle to the growth of a true democratic spirit." Together, we must work towards a world where we are strengthened by our differences, and not defined by them. That is what America embodies, that's the vision we will support.

Among Israelis and Palestinians, the future must not belong to those who turn their backs on a prospect of peace. Let us leave behind those who thrive on conflict, those who reject the right of Israel to exist. The road is hard, but the destination is clear -- a secure, Jewish state of Israel and an independent, prosperous Palestine. Understanding that such a peace must come through a just agreement between the parties, America will walk alongside all who are prepared to make that journey.

In Syria, the future must not belong to a dictator who massacres his people. If there is a cause that cries out for protest in the world today, peaceful protest, it is a regime that tortures children and shoots rockets at apartment buildings. And we must remain engaged to assure that what began with citizens demanding their rights does not end in a cycle of sectarian violence.

Together, we must stand with those Syrians who believe in a different vision -- a Syria that is united and inclusive, where children don't need to fear their own government, and all Syrians have a say in how they are governed -- Sunnis and Alawites, Kurds and Christians. That's what America stands for. That is the outcome that we will work for -- with sanctions and consequences for those who persecute, and assistance and support for those who work for this common good. Because we believe that the Syrians who embrace this vision will have the strength and the legitimacy to lead.

In Iran, we see where the path of a violent and unaccountable ideology leads. The Iranian people have a remarkable and ancient history, and many Iranians wish to enjoy peace and prosperity alongside their neighbors. But just as it restricts the rights of its own people, the Iranian government continues to prop up a dictator in Damascus and supports terrorist groups abroad. Time and again, it has failed to take the opportunity to demonstrate that its nuclear program is peaceful, and to meet its obligations to the United Nations.

So let me be clear. America wants to resolve this issue through diplomacy, and we believe that there is still time and space to do so. But that time is not unlimited. We respect the right of nations to access peaceful nuclear power, but one of the purposes of the United Nations is to see that we harness that power for peace. And make no mistake, a nuclear-armed Iran is not a challenge that can be contained. It would threaten the elimination of Israel, the security of Gulf nations, and the stability of the global economy. It risks triggering a nuclear-arms race in the region, and the unraveling of the non-proliferation treaty. That's why a coalition of countries is holding the Iranian government accountable. And that's why the United States will do what we must to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

We know from painful experience that the path to security and prosperity does not lie outside the boundaries of international law and respect for human rights. That's why this institution was established from the rubble of conflict. That is why liberty triumphed over tyranny in the Cold War. And that is the lesson of the last two decades as well.

History shows that peace and progress come to those who make the right choices. Nations in every part of the world have traveled this difficult path. Europe, the bloodiest battlefield of the 20th century, is united, free and at

peace. From Brazil to South Africa, from Turkey to South Korea, from India to Indonesia, people of different races, religions, and traditions have lifted millions out of poverty, while respecting the rights of their citizens and meeting their responsibilities as nations.

And it is because of the progress that I've witnessed in my own lifetime, the progress that I've witnessed after nearly four years as President, that I remain ever hopeful about the world that we live in. The war in Iraq is over. American troops have come home. We've begun a transition in Afghanistan, and America and our allies will end our war on schedule in 2014. Al Qaeda has been weakened, and Osama bin Laden is no more. Nations have come together to lock down nuclear materials, and America and Russia are reducing our arsenals. We have seen hard choices made -- from Naypyidaw to Cairo to Abidjan -- to put more power in the hands of citizens.

At a time of economic challenge, the world has come together to broaden prosperity. Through the G20, we have partnered with emerging countries to keep the world on the path of recovery. America has pursued a development agenda that fuels growth and breaks dependency, and worked with African leaders to help them feed their nations. New partnerships have been forged to combat corruption and promote government that is open and transparent, and new commitments have been made through the Equal Futures Partnership to ensure that women and girls can fully participate in politics and pursue opportunity. And later today, I will discuss our efforts to combat the scourge of human trafficking.

All these things give me hope. But what gives me the most hope is not the actions of us, not the actions of leaders -- it is the people that I've seen. The American troops who have risked their lives and sacrificed their limbs for strangers half a world away; the students in Jakarta or Seoul who are eager to use their knowledge to benefit mankind; the faces in a square in Prague or a parliament in Ghana who see democracy giving voice to their aspirations; the young people in the favelas of Rio and the schools of Mumbai whose eyes shine with promise. These men, women, and children of every race and every faith remind me that for every angry mob that gets shown on television, there are billions around the world who share similar hopes and dreams. They tell us that there is a common heartbeat to humanity.

So much attention in our world turns to what divides us. That's what we see on the news. That's what consumes our political debates. But when you strip it all away, people everywhere long for the freedom to determine their destiny; the dignity that comes with work; the comfort that comes with faith; and the justice that exists when governments serve their people -- and not the other way around.

The United States of America will always stand up for these aspirations, for our own people and for people all across the world. That was our founding purpose. That is what our history shows. That is what Chris Stevens worked for throughout his life.

And I promise you this: Long after the killers are brought to justice, Chris Stevens's legacy will live on in the lives that he touched -- in the tens of thousands who marched against violence through the streets of Benghazi; in the Libyans who changed their Facebook photo to one of Chris; in the signs that read, simply, "Chris Stevens was a friend to all Libyans."

They should give us hope. They should remind us that so long as we work for it, justice will be done, that history is on our side, and that a rising tide of liberty will never be reversed.

Thank you very much.

But of Interest, what caught the particular attention of Erick Erickson in the presidential UN speech was Obama's apparent declaration that the future must not belong to practicing Christians.

"Say what." said Dennis Kennethsson. Replied Gordon Gordonsson: "The Future must not belong to practicing Christians." Responded Kennethsson" " Are practicing Christians primarily responsible for the call of violence and the politics of division we see currently in the world?. I don't see the phrase Practicing Christians in the Presidential message but somehow Erickson is connecting something that is said in the exact copy of the text as referring to practicing Christians..

Erickson asserts that already the media and the left are in full denial, probably based on their general lack of understanding of theology. This would have been universally circulated as a gaffe had Mitt Romney said it. But with Barack Obama, he's just speaking bold truths. His bold truth declares that the future does not belong to practicing Christians,

The exact words in the speech being: The future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam. Yet to be credible, those who condemn that slander must also condemn the hate we see when the image of Jesus Christ is desecrated, churches are destroyed, or the Holocaust is denied. Let us condemn incitement against Sufi Muslims, and Shiite pilgrims. It is time to heed the words of Gandhi: "Intolerance is itself a form of violence and an obstacle to the growth of a true democratic spirit." Together, we must work towards a world where we are strengthened by our differences, and not defined by them. That is what America embodies, and that is the vision we will support

Repeats Kennethsson: "I don't see the phrase Practicing Christians in the Presidential message but somehow Erickson is connecting something that is said in the exact copy of the text as referring to practicing Christians.."

.Explains Erickson: "It is an orthodox Christian belief that Mohammed is not a prophet. Actual Christians, as opposed to many of the supposed Christians put up by the mainstream media, believe that Christ is the only way to salvation. Believing that is slandering Mohammed. That's just a fact. If you don't believe me, you go into the Middle East and proclaim Christ is the way, the truth, and the life and see what happens to your life."

Barack Obama went on to say "Yet to be credible, those who condemn that slander must also condemn the hate we see when the image of Jesus Christ is desecrated, churches are destroyed, or the Holocaust is denied."

Erickson goes on and says ,that Obama says that we cannot "slander the prophet of Islam" but it's only the image of Christ in the next sentence — not actually Christ himself desecrated. If this is so, Erickson asks, why does Barack Obama's government continue funding the National Endowment for the Arts, which funded Christ in piss, the Virgin Mary painted in dung, etc.? Erickson next pointing out what is a major difference between Islam and Christianity. Christ came to this world as an enemy of the world and expected to be impugned. He also told his followers that they should expect to be impugned. There is joy in being persecuted for following the Risen Lord. In Islam, if you impugn Mohammed, you get a fatwa on your butt. And then there is the first amendment. The President of the United States tried to have it both ways in his speech.

Again the exact words of Barrack Obama Erickson is commenting about:

I know there are some who ask why we don't just ban such a video. The answer is enshrined in our laws: our Constitution protects the right to practice free speech. Here in the United States, countless publications provoke offense. Like me, the majority of Americans are Christian, and yet we do not ban blasphemy against our most sacred beliefs. Moreover, as President of our country, and Commander-in-Chief of our military, I accept that people are going to call me awful things every day, and I will always defend their right to do so. Americans have fought

and died around the globe to protect the right of all people to express their views – even views that we disagree with. We do so not because we support hateful speech, but because our Founders understood that without such protections, the capacity of each individual to express their own views, and practice their own faith, may be threatened. We do so because in a diverse society, efforts to restrict speech can become a tool to silence critics, or oppress minorities. We do so because given the power of faith in our lives, and the passion that religious differences can inflame, the strongest weapon against hateful speech is not repression, it is more speech – the voices of tolerance that rally against bigotry and blasphemy, and lift up the values of understanding and mutual respect. I know that not all countries in this body share this understanding of the protection of free speech. Yet in 2012, at a time when anyone with a cell phone can spread offensive views around the world with the click of a button, the notion that we can control the flow of information is obsolete. The question, then, is how we respond. And on this we must agree: there is no speech that justifies mindless violence.

In his UN speech, Obama makes the following analysis in regard to constant conflicts around the world: "At times, the conflicts arise along the fault lines of faith, race or tribe; and often they arise from the difficulties of reconciling tradition and faith with the diversity and interdependence of the modern world. In every country, there are those who find different religious beliefs threatening; in every culture, those who love freedom for themselves must ask how much they are willing to tolerate freedom for others. That is what we saw play out the last two weeks, as a crude and disgusting video sparked outrage throughout the Muslim world.?"

To which Gordon Gordonsson responds: By now everyone knows the attack on our embassy and the deaths of four American consulate members in Benghazi, Libya, on Sept.11, was a coordinated military attack by Al Qaeda Islamists. It was planned well in advance so as to coincide with the anniversary of Sept. 11 -- their day of "glory" -- and was not a consequence of some obscure video released months prior. Indeed, the Obama administration knew the facts within 24 hours of the assault and was even repeatedly warned of the possibility beforehand by our professionals on the ground in Libya

Responded Dennis Kennethsoon: "Yet President Obama, Hillary Clinton, Susan Rice and administration spokesmen continued ad nauseum for almost two weeks to blame the Benghazi attack on a spontaneous crowd incensed over a video instead of what it was: an attack that was anticipated by the embassy staff and our intelligence gatherers yet ignored by a careless, amateurish, and indifferent Obama administration"

The summation of the UN speech by Erickson: "Time and again the President of the United States tries to have it both ways. But are they just words? The fact is, many religions do not recognize Mohammed as a prophet. In the widest swath of

Islam, that denial is, in and of itself, slander. So what exactly are you saying Mr. President? As an exit point, with all of President Obama's statements on tolerance in his speech, we should remember that tolerance is really not a Christian virtue. As Archbishop Chaput of Philadelphia noted, "We need to remember that tolerance is not a Christian virtue. Charity, justice, mercy, prudence, honesty — these are Christian virtues. And obviously, in a diverse community, tolerance is an important working principle. But it's never an end itself." The Archbishop also noted that evil preaches tolerance until it is dominate and then it seeks to silence good. That's not a statement that the President is evil in any way, shape, or form, but we should be mindful when the secular world demands tolerance for all, tolerance for all means we cannot have standards of faith to live by, because those standards obviously require we be intolerant of sins this world has embraced."

