

Third Saturday Seminar 2004-2005

**We Dig Deeper Into The Future
Challenges of Being Human**

Second Session

What Do You Mean When You Say, “Democracy?”

Curt Gibby

**Montgomery College
Conroe, Texas**

16 October 2004

Program for the First Session

- Introduction (@9:30)
- Current Events (20 Minutes +/-)
- “Democracy” What do we mean? Part 1
- Discussion
- Break - 10 minutes (@10:40)
- “Democracy” What do we mean? Part 2
- Discussion Continues
- Summary - Conclusion
- Closure – Feedback – Next Time

Disclaimer

The following presentation consists of material from many sources in addition to my own work and experience. I have tried to always give appropriate attribution for this material, but may have overlooked some. In many cases an Internet link to the source material is provided in order to allow you to better put these excerpts in context.

The inclusion of materials and the facts, opinions and ideas contained within them, does not in any way mean that I personally endorse or disavow any of them in whole or in part but that it is of importance to the discussion.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Curt Gibby <gcgconsult@n-star.com>

To Any Members of Law Enforcement

If there are any members of law enforcement here in any sort of official capacity and not in a uniform recognizable as one of law enforcement we ask that you identify yourself or selves, your agency, department or organization and your official reason for being here.

Rest assured that we are engaged in no illegal activity, but we are aware of, value and have faith in our Constitutional rights.

In any case you are welcome to stay and participate as a member or guest of the Third Saturday Seminar. But, if at any time you consider anything you see or hear happening or about to happen is or will be putting any one or all of us in jeopardy of breaking the law as you understand it, we request that you advise us of that situation .

This is consistent with your obligation as a peace officer or agent to protect and serve the people. Anything else will be a betrayal and you will be derelict in your duty. It will result in harm to those you are obligated to protect.

Before We Get Started

1. As tempting as it is, this is not a political rally for one side or another. It is a discussion of some very important real issues and questions which many, if not most of us share. Voting is your duty as a citizen. How you vote will be strictly up to you. But, don't let political differences if you know about them, affect your friendships. History will tell who was right (maybe). In the meantime we need good friends, especially those who can be candid and friends at the same time.
2. By participating, we will help ourselves as well as the other seminarians deal with these important issues as we approach the election. Nobody has the "right answer" except for themselves. We all owe it to each other to respect and support each other. We are all Americans or guests. We will all benefit from or have to live with the outcome.
3. Please keep your remarks brief and to the point.
4. Have faith -- in each other and yourselves. **Our republic has lasted over 200 years.** We are the oldest living Constitutional democracy. Our **Constitution** limits the power of the leaders and **guarantees the rights of its citizens.** That 200 years has not all been smooth sailing. From time to time, generally in "times of war", **leaders have** usurped the authority of the Congress, **violated the Constitution and the rights of the people** who rightly or wrongly have acquiesced, being promised security. Something has always brought us back from the brink, but I don't think we ever make a full recovery. Best we keep our rights and respect for each other intact in the first place. Let's not let anything we say or do be harmful to each other.
5. Have fun - We always do.

GOD LOVES YOU
and I'm trying ...

Current Events



CHENEY: Said Democrats mention Halliburton as a "smokescreen" to obscure essential issues.



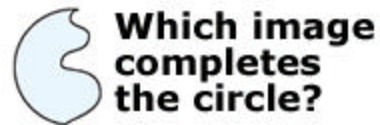
ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

EDWARDS: Criticized conduct of the war. "It's not just me that sees the mess in Iraq."

Cheney Cites “factcheck.com” ✍ “factcheck.org” Gets Ten Times Normal “Hits.”

(Public service announcement by FactCheck.org, 11 Oct 04)

Please bear with us while we work through technical problems brought on by our sudden popularity. Since Vice President Cheney's garbled mention of "factcheck.com" in the debate Oct. 5, the number of persons trying to reach us has spiked to levels roughly equivalent to that of MSNBC.com. Our volume has gone from an average of 30,000 unique visitors per day to more than 320,000 on Oct. 9, overwhelming the University of Pennsylvania's computer resources. Many of you were unable to reach our site for long periods. To accommodate this traffic we have switched the hosting of the site to Boot Networks, a California company with experience handling high-traffic websites. Service has improved since we made the switchover the afternoon of Oct. 7, and we are working on finalizing the conversion of the site as quickly as possible. Visitors should now be able to view our home page and get to our articles. We are restoring our streaming video and audio and hope we can maintain it without slowing access to the core content of the site. We thank you for your interest, apologize for the inconvenience, and promise you we will get these technical problems fixed as soon as possible. Brooks Jackson Director, FactCheck.org Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania



[NYTimes.com](#) > [Washington](#) > [Campaign 2004](#)

Nader Emerging as the Threat Democrats Feared

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

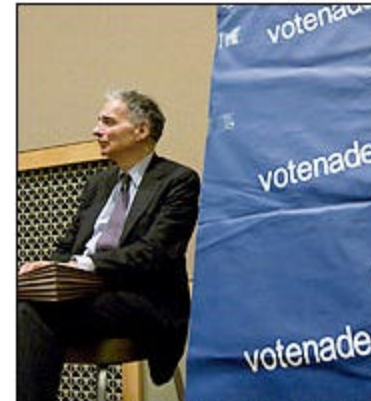
Published: October 15, 2004

WASHINGTON, Oct. 14 - With less than three weeks before the election, [Ralph Nader](#) is emerging as just the threat that Democrats feared, with a potential to tip the balance in up to nine states where [President Bush](#) and [Senator John Kerry](#) are running neck and neck.

Despite a concerted effort by Democrats to derail his independent candidacy, as well as his being struck off the Pennsylvania ballot on Wednesday, Mr. Nader will be on the ballots in more than 30 states.

Polls show that he could influence the outcomes in nine by drawing support from Mr. Kerry. They are Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico and Wisconsin.

[Enlarge This Image](#)



Jake Schoellkopf/Associated Press

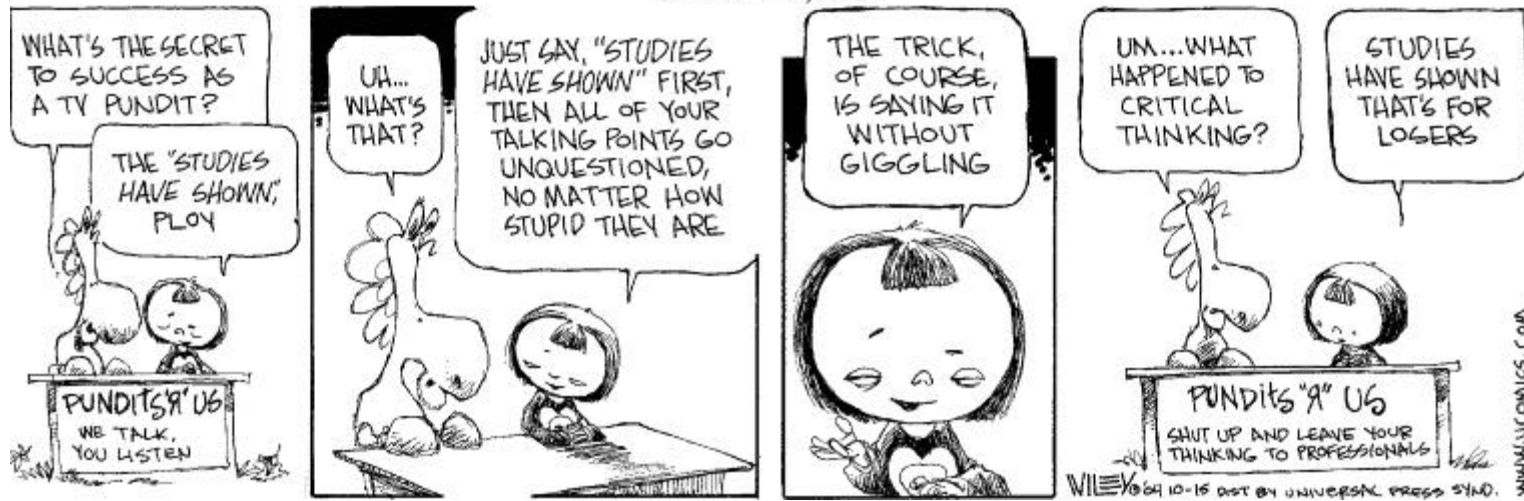
Ralph Nader in an appearance Thursday in Albuquerque to respond to the Bush-Kerry debates.

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Non Sequitur

October 15, 2004



Houston Chronicle – 15 October 04

Atomic Bunker Busters

Some of the bad guys' most lethal arsenals are assumed to be buried in deep, underground caverns -- places that America's current arsenal has trouble hitting. So the Bush Administration would like to build a nuclear bomb -- a "[Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator](#)" -- that burrows into the ground before unleashing all kinds of atomic hell. The *San Jose Mercury-News* [explained how it might work](#) in a story last year:

Nuclear Penetrator is built in the shape of a thin cylinder with a pointed nose. Dropped from an airplane, its weight and speed allow it to smash through the surface of the ground or puncture rock or concrete. It buries itself 20 to 30 feet deep before exploding, Fred Celec, the deputy assistant to the secretary of defense for nuclear matters, said. The power of the explosion "couples" with the earth to send shock waves down toward buried targets.

How a "Mini-Nuke" Could Be Used

The tactical weapon is aimed at underground targets. The weapon can destroy targets below ground or burst at high or medium altitudes. Underground detonation limit "collateral damage," or the number of deaths.



This graphic perpetrates the myth that a bunker-buster could destroy a deeply buried and hardened target without causing massive collateral damage.

Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator: Questions and Answers

What is the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP)?

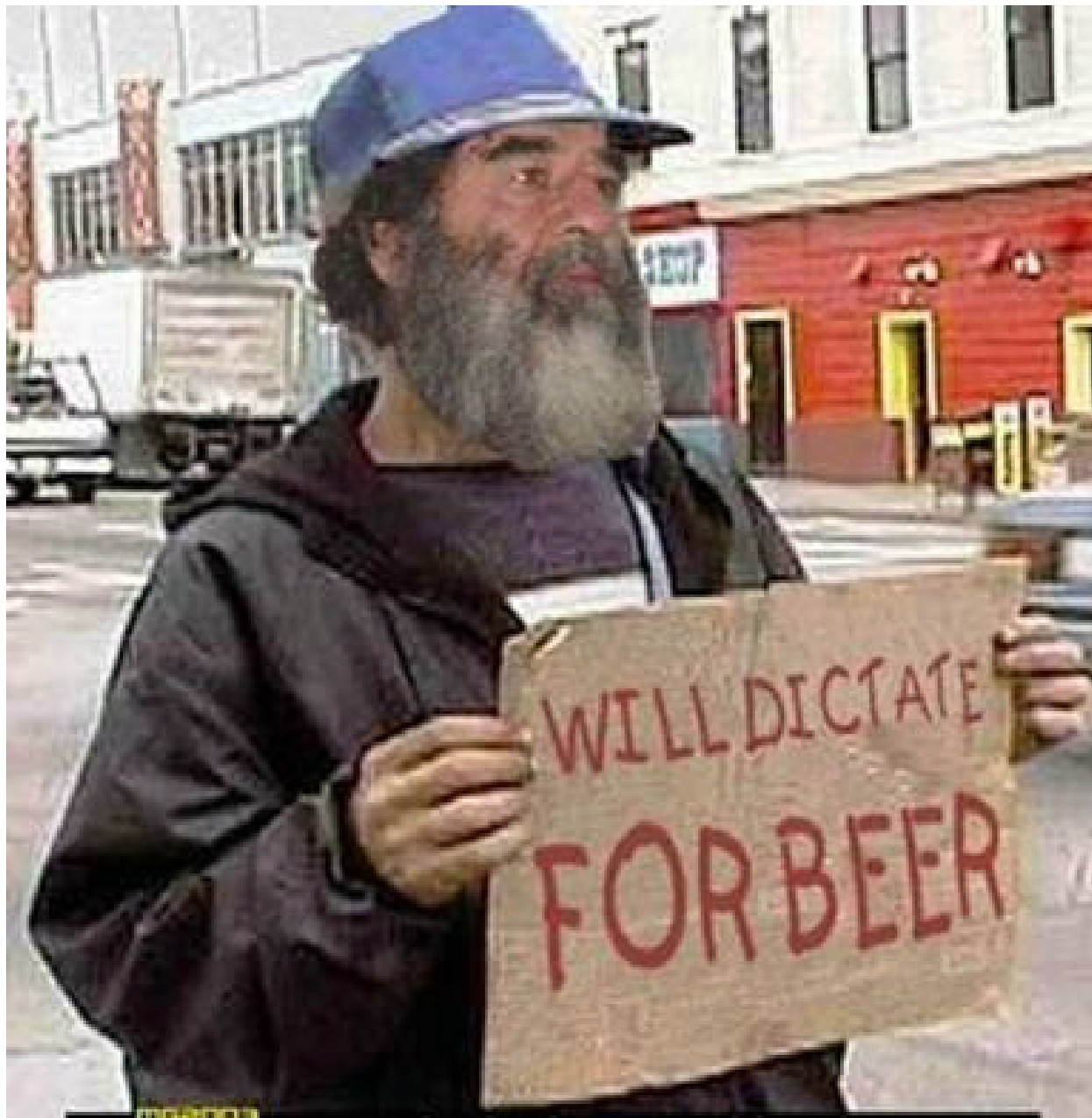
The Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP) is a proposed addition to the U.S. nuclear weapon arsenal. It would be designed to destroy hardened and deeply buried targets, such as underground bunkers containing chemical and biological weapons and military command centers.

Is the RNEP the same thing as a "mini-nuke"?

No. A "mini-nuke" is a term used for a low-yield nuclear weapon. Although both the RNEP and mini-nuke may be designed to burrow into the ground to destroy a bunker, these weapons are not the same. Mini-nukes are nuclear weapons with a yield of less than five kilotons. **The RNEP design has a yield up to a megaton, or around seventy times the force used on Hiroshima.**

Why does the Bush Administration want such a weapon?

Through the experiences of the Gulf War of 1991, U.S. military planners became increasingly concerned with the development of underground bunkers by potential adversaries. These bunkers could be used to hide chemical or biological weapons from intelligence or to protect them from aerial bombardment. Although many of these targets are vulnerable to attacks from conventional weapons, others are fortified below 100 to 300 feet of concrete. Defeat of hardened and deeply-buried targets emerged as a possible mission for nuclear weapons.



HEALTHCARE CRISIS



STATISTICS

a Forty-five million people in the United States lack health insurance; 6.6 million of them have chronic illnesses including asthma and diabetes.

a Eight-and-a-half million children in the United States are uninsured; 1 million of them live in Texas.

a Texas has the nation's highest rate of uninsured, with nearly 25 percent of adults lacking coverage. Forty percent of Texans under 65 had a gap in coverage in 2001 and 2002.

a Nearly 1 million people in Harris County are uninsured.

Sources: Economic Policy Institute; Health Care for All Texas

ED KASHI PHOTOS

FAMILY BOND: Alex Wessenberg snuggles up to mom Sheila, revealing the scar from her mastectomy. She and husband Bob of Coppell, Texas, once lived in a luxury townhouse until he lost his job and the family's health insurance.

Photo exhibit focuses on the tragedy
of Americans without health insurance

Families on the brink

Go to a Section

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INSPECTOR'S JUDGMENT

U.S. Report Finds Iraqis Eliminated Illicit Arms in 90's

By DOUGLAS JEHL

Published: October 7, 2004

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6 - Iraq had destroyed its illicit weapons stockpiles within months after the Persian Gulf war of 1991, and its ability to produce such weapons had significantly eroded by the time of the American invasion in 2003, the top American inspector for Iraq said in a report made public Wednesday.

The report by the inspector, Charles A. Duelfer, intended to offer a near-final judgment about Iraq and its weapons, said Iraq, while under pressure from the United Nations, had "essentially



Carol T. Powers for The New York Times
Charles A. Duelfer, left, with Brig. Gen. Joseph McMennamin of the Marine Corps.

Advertisement

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then there's Claritin® Clear.

Claritin® Clear means now you can get all-day allergy relief *without drowsiness.*

Thursday September 16, 5:05 PM

Teacher chops off ears of 17 students in Bangladesh
By Farid Ahmed, Indo-Asian News Service

ADVERTISEMENT

Dhaka, Sep 16 (IANS) A teacher in a madrassa in northern Bangladesh cut off the ears of 17 children with a pair of scissors because they were not reading their textbooks loudly.

Angry parents and guardians caught the teacher, Moulana Abdul Majid, from a nearby village in Bogra district and beat him up. Some elders rescued Majid and sent him to a nearby hospital.

The managing committee of the madrassa initially tried to hide the incident, which occurred Tuesday, but later admitted it and sacked Majid, the Bangla daily Prothom Alo reported Thursday.

Some 25 children, aged between five and eight and belonging to poor and middle-class families, study at the madrassa. The school's only room was used both for classes and as a living quarter.

The children said Majid whipped them mercilessly for not reading their lessons at the top of their voices after afternoon prayers Tuesday.

"But it did not reduce his anger and he cut off our ears with a pair of scissors," one of the students said.

The students attacked by Majid were taken to a local hospital for treatment.

“Black Boxes” for soldiers?

Pentagon Revives Memory Project

By [Noah Shachtman](#) | 02:00 AM Sep. 13, 2004 PT

It's been seven months since the Pentagon pulled the plug on LifeLog, its controversial project to archive almost everything about a person. But now, the Defense Department seems ready to revive large portions of the program under a new name.

Using a series of sensors embedded in a GI's gear, the [Advanced Soldier Sensor Information System and Technology](#), or ASSIST, project aims to collect what a soldier sees, says and does in a combat zone -- and then to weave those events into digital memories, so commanders can have a better sense of how the fight unfolded.

<http://www.wired.com/news/privacy/0,1848,64911,00.html>

A Spy Machine of DARPA's Dreams

By [Noah Shachtman](#) |

02:00 AM May. 20, 2003 PT

It's a memory aid! A robotic assistant! An epidemic detector! An all-seeing, ultra-intrusive spying program!

The Pentagon is about to embark on a stunningly ambitious research project designed to gather every conceivable bit of information about a person's life, index all the information and make it searchable.

What national security experts and civil libertarians want to know is, why would the Defense Department want to do such a thing?

The embryonic LifeLog program would dump everything an individual does into a giant database: every e-mail sent or received, every picture taken, every Web page surfed, every phone call made, every TV show watched, every magazine read.

All of this -- and more -- would combine with information gleaned from a variety of sources: a GPS transmitter to keep tabs on where that person went, audio-visual sensors to capture what he or she sees or says, and biomedical monitors to keep track of the individual's health.

This gigantic amalgamation of personal information could then be used to "trace the 'threads' of an individual's life," to see exactly how a relationship or events developed, according to a briefing from the Defense Advanced Projects Research Agency, LifeLog's sponsor.

http://www.wired.com/news/business/0,1367,58909,00.html?tw=wn_story_related

Sentenced to Be Raped

By **NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF**

Published: September 29, 2004

MEERWALA, Pakistan — I'm still trying to help out President Bush by tracking down Osama bin Laden. After poking through remote parts of Pakistan, asking for a tall Arab with a beard, I can't say I've earned that \$25 million reward.

But I did come across someone even more extraordinary than Osama.

Usually we journalists write about rogues, but Mukhtaran Bibi could not be more altruistic or brave, as the men who gang-raped her discovered. I firmly believe that the central moral challenge of this century, equivalent to the struggles against slavery in the 19th century or against totalitarianism in the 20th, will be to address sex inequality in the third world - and it's the stories of women like Ms. Mukhtaran that convince me this is so.

The plight of women in developing countries isn't addressed much in the West, and it certainly isn't a hot topic in the presidential campaign. But it's a life-and-death matter in villages like Meerwala, a 12-hour drive southeast from Islamabad.

In June 2002, the police say, members of a high-status tribe sexually abused one of Ms. Mukhtaran's brothers and then covered up their crime by falsely accusing him of having an affair with a high-status woman. The village's tribal council determined that the suitable punishment for the supposed affair was for high-status men to rape one of the boy's sisters, so the council sentenced Ms. Mukhtaran to be gang-raped.



Nicholas D. Kristof

Mukhtaran Bibi, a Pakistani woman whom a tribal council sentenced to be gang-raped.

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Columnist

Page: [Nicholas D. Kristof](#)

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Learning from Hurricanes to Deal With Terror

Hurricanes

- You can't prevent them but you can prepare for them.
- You can live in a solid house, in an area that doesn't flood.
- You can stay informed.
- You can stock up on food, water, batteries, medicine and fuel. And, have an evacuation plan and route and decision point.
- Pay attention to the authorities. Know what they are up to. They may help or hinder.
- Don't Panic**

Terror

- We can prevent most, but not all, of them if our government has an intelligent foreign policy. But that is not the case now and will take years.
- You can help by treating all those around you with respect and rejecting the leadership of those who advocate harm or hate.
- Even then, you can't prevent terror attacks, but you can prepare for them.
- You can live in a solid house, in an area that doesn't flood.
- You can stay informed.
- When you have reason, you can stock up on food, water and fuel. And, have an evacuation plan and route and decision point.
- Pay attention to the authorities. Know what they are up to. They may help or hinder.
- Don't panic.**

Don't Panic

Douglas Adams, Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy

**“What Do You Mean When
You Say, “Democracy?””**

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. --That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

The Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen Colonies

In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776

Ecclesiastes 3:11-13 He hath made every [thing] beautiful in his time:also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.

I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life.

And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God.

de·moc·ra·cy (d¹-m¹/₄k“r...-s¹) *n., pl.*

de·moc·ra·cies. **1.** Government by the people, exercised either directly or through elected representatives. **2.** A political or social unit that has such a government. **3.** The common people, considered as the primary source of political power. **4.** Majority rule. **5.** The principles of social equality and respect for the individual within a community. [French *démocratie*, from Late Latin *dēmocratia*, from Greek *dēmokratia* : *dēmos*, people; see **d³-** below + *-kratia*, *-cracy*.]

from Greek *dēmos*, people, land

sov·er·eign (s¹/_v“..r-¹n, s¹/_v“r¹n) *n.* *Abbr.* **sov.** **1.** One that exercises supreme, permanent authority, especially in a nation or other governmental unit, as: **a.** A king, queen, or other noble person who serves as chief of state; a ruler or monarch. **b.** A national governing council or committee. **2.** A nation that governs territory outside its borders. **3.** A gold coin formerly used in Great Britain. -- **sov·er·eign** *adj.* *Abbr.* **sov.** **1.** Self-governing; independent: *a sovereign state.* **2.** Having supreme rank or power: *a sovereign prince.* **3.** Paramount; supreme: *her sovereign virtue is compassion.* **4.a.** Of superlative strength or efficacy: *a sovereign remedy.* **b.** Unmitigated: *sovereign contempt.* [Middle English *soverain*, from Old French, from Vulgar Latin **super*³*nus*, from Latin *super*, above. See **uper** below.] --**sov"er·eign·ly** *adv.*

fear (fîr) *n.* **1.a.** A feeling of agitation and anxiety caused by the presence or imminence of danger. **b.** A state or condition marked by this feeling: *living in fear*. **2.** A feeling of disquiet or apprehension: *a fear of looking foolish*. **3.** Extreme reverence or awe, as toward a supreme power. **4.** A reason for dread or apprehension: *Being alone is my greatest fear*. --**fear** *v.* **feared, fear-ing, fears.** --*tr.* **1.** To be afraid or frightened of. **2.** To be uneasy or apprehensive about: *feared the test results*. **3.** To be in awe of; revere. **4.** To consider probable; expect: *I fear you are wrong. I fear I have bad news for you*. **5.** *Archaic.* To feel fear within (oneself). --*intr.* **1.** To be afraid. **2.** To be uneasy or apprehensive. [Middle English *fer*, from Old English *fÆr*, danger, sudden calamity. See **per**-³ below.] --**fear"er** *n.*

Human rights

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Human rights (natural rights) are rights which some hold to be "inalienable" and belonging to all humans, according to natural law. Such rights are believed, by proponents, to be necessary for freedom and the maintenance of a "reasonable" quality of life.

If a right is inalienable, that means it cannot be bestowed, granted, limited, bartered away, or sold away (e.g., one cannot sell oneself into slavery). The issue of which rights are inalienable and which are not (or whether any rights are inalienable rather than granted or bestowed) is an ancient and ongoing controversy.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights

Liberalism, a political philosophy that emphasizes individual freedom, arose in Europe in the period between the Reformation and the French Revolution. During the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries the medieval feudal order gradually gave way as Protestantism, the nation-state, commerce, science, cities, and a middle class of traders and industrialists developed. The new liberal order--drawing on Enlightenment thought--began to place human beings rather than God at the center of things. Humans, with their rational minds, could comprehend all things and could improve themselves and society through systematic and rational action.

Liberal thinking was hostile to the prerogatives of kings, aristocrats, and the church; it favored freedom--a natural right--from traditional restraints. These notions did much to precipitate the American and French revolutions and were important factors in various uprisings in the 19th century. Liberalism sought to expand civil liberties and to limit political authority in favor of constitutional representative government and promoted the rights to property and religious toleration. In the economic sphere, classical liberalism was opposed to direction by the state, arguing with Adam SMITH and David RICARDO that the forces of the marketplace were the best guide for the economy (see LAISSEZ-FAIRE)

In its full flower **in the 19th century, liberalism** stood for **limited government** with a separation of powers among different branches such as the **legislative, executive, and judicial** and for **economic free enterprise**.

Because of the reaction against the excesses of the French Revolution, however, liberalism shed some of its reliance on rationalism and began to base itself on utilitarianism. A link was thus forged between early revolutionary individualism and a new idealistic concern for the interests of society.

By the 20th century, political and economic thinking among liberals had begun to shift in response to an expanding and complex economy. Liberals began to support the idea that the government can best promote individual dignity and freedom through intervention in the economy and by establishing a state concerned about the welfare of its people. With the rise of the WELFARE STATE, the new liberals also looked to government to correct some of the ills believed to be caused by unregulated capitalism

Utilitarianism is a theory in moral philosophy by which actions are judged to be **right or wrong** according to their **consequences**. A dictum made famous by the utilitarian Jeremy BENTHAM is that an individual should seek "**the greatest happiness of the greatest number.**" Utilitarianism represents an extension into moral theory of an experimental, scientific mode of reasoning because it involves the calculation of causal consequences. Utilitarians must explain which kinds of consequences are to be sought or avoided.

Empiricism is the name of a broad tradition in Western philosophy. The term comes from the Greek *empeiria*, meaning "experience"; the basic thesis of empiricism is that **legitimate human knowledge arises from** what is provided to the mind by the senses or by introspective awareness through **experience**. Most empiricists do not consider knowledge gained through the imagination, authority, tradition, or purely theoretical reasoning legitimate. Hence, they tend to regard **traditional claims to knowledge** in such fields as art, morality, religion, and metaphysics as **unverifiable**.

John Locke was an empiricist

na·tion·al·ism (n²sh“...n...l¹z”..m, n²sh“n...”) *n.* **1.** Devotion to the interests or culture of a particular nation. **2.** The belief that nations will benefit from acting independently rather than collectively, emphasizing national rather than international goals. **3.** Aspirations for national independence in a country under foreign domination. --**na¹tion·al·ist** *n.* --**na¹tion·al·is¹tic** *adj.* --**na¹tion·al·is¹ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

re·al·po·li·tik (r³-äl“p^{1/2}l¹-t¹[[k]”) *n.* A usually expansionist national policy having as its sole principle advancement of the national interest. [German : *real*, practical (from Late Latin *re³lis*, real; see REAL¹) + *Politik*, politics (from French *politique*, political, policy; see POLITIC).] --**re·al¹po¹li·tik¹er** *n.*

Civility is a characteristic of a self-respecting, confident culture.

Diplomacy sometimes is carried out with civility, but sometimes civility is a facade. We do well when we can recognize the difference. Tact is often a tactic

ci·vil·i·ty (s¹-v¹l¹-t¹) *n., pl. ci·vil·i·ties. 1.*

Courteous behavior; politeness. **2.** A courteous act or utterance.

di·plo·ma·cy (d¹-pl¹½m...s¹) *n. 1.* The art or practice of conducting international relations, as in negotiating alliances, treaties, and agreements. **2.** Tact and skill in dealing with people. See Synonyms at **tact.**

Right Makes Right vs. Categorical Imperative

No government exists without the consent of the governed.

"Live Free Or Die; Death Is Not The Worst of Evils." General John Stark 1809 From NH License Plates – Sent as a toast for a Battle of Bennington memorial event.

Do we go with Joshua or Jesus?

The failure of Liberalization during the Enlightenment

The Categorical Imperative

The philosophical concept of a categorical imperative is central to the moral philosophy of Immanuel Kant. In his philosophy, it denotes an absolute, unconditional requirement that allows no exceptions, and is both required and justified as an end in itself, not as a means to some other end. Most famously, he holds that all categorical imperatives can be derived from a single one, which is known as "the" Categorical Imperative.

Immorality

In Kant's view immorality occurs when the categorical imperative is not followed: when a person attempts to set a different standard for themselves than for the rest of humanity.

Socrates

... in the *Phaedrus*. Socrates likens the process of the assembly to attempting to convince someone that an ass is a horse. Here the analogy is much more pointed toward democracy.

Then when the orator who does not know what good and evil are, undertakes to persuade a state which is equally ignorant, not by praising 'the shadow of an ass' under the name of a horse, but by praising evil under the name of good, and having studied the opinions of the multitude persuading them to do evil instead of good, what harvest do you suppose his oratory will reap thereafter from the seed he has sown? (Stone, 74)

There are a few interesting things about this quotation. The first is simply a reprisal of what has already been said, that Socrates despises the rule of the many because that quickly descends into the **valuing of persuasion over truth** and that he **prefers the authoritarian rule of the "experts."** The second, however, leads us into our discussion of the universal definitions. Notice that the evil here is universally done. The harvest reaped will be bad for the persuader as well as those persuaded. We begin to see, though somewhat indirectly, that once Socrates makes the leap to universal definitions he simultaneously erases the separation between individual and group interest. Once this is established, that the individual and group interests always coincide, which is the logical result of universalizing positives and negatives like good/evil, justice/injustice, etc.; then **what is good for the ruler is also good for the people. Since the ruler is the expert and the people largely ignorant, authoritarianism becomes the only form of government possible.**

Steve Snyder

<http://www.elon.edu/sullivan/Snyder99.htm>

Do Kant and Socrates disagree?

re-pub-lic (r¹-p³/₄“l¹k) *n.* *Abbr.* **rep., Rep., Repub.** **1.a.** A political order whose head of state is not a monarch and in modern times is usually a president. **b.** A nation that has such a political order. **2.a.** A political order in which the supreme power lies in a body of citizens who are entitled to vote for officers and representatives responsible to them. **b.** A nation that has such a political order. **3.** Often **Republic.** A specific republican government of a nation: *the Fourth Republic of France.* **4.** An autonomous or partially autonomous political and territorial unit belonging to a sovereign federation.

US BILL OF RIGHTS

I. FREEDOM OF RELIGION, PRESS, SPEECH

II. MILITIA - RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

III. NO SOLDIER QUARTERED WITHOUT CONSENT

**IV. SECURE IN PERSONS AND HOMES, PROBABLE
CAUSE.**

V. NOT DEPRIVED WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW

VI. CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS - FACE WITNESSES

VII. JURY FOR SUITS AT COMMON LAW

VIII. NO EXCESSIVE BAIL

IX. OTHER RIGHTS RETAINED BY PEOPLE

X. POWERS NOT DELEGATED TO US, RESERVED FOR
STATES AND PEOPLE

Legal code

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

A legal code is a moral code enforced by the law of a state. It implies an ethical code of court procedures and evidence rules that apply to jurists, i.e. to judges and lawyers. In its most general form a legal code is a compact restatement of the law that is designed to be clear, understandable by the lay person (one without a legal education). Legal codes can be of a general private law nature, or they may cover specific areas of law such as in the area of criminal law or certain kinds of statutory types of laws, i.e. traffic code.

Usually, the legal code serves the dual purpose of broadcasting a certain idea of public morality, and disclosing the retribution that the society, via the state, will visit on those who offend that morality.

For further predictability, a legal code usually includes a body of prior decisions or precedent, which with the law itself constitutes what is called a jurisprudence. A jurist is an individual who makes judgments that are incorporated into the jurisprudence, either as cases or as laws themselves.

To speed cases along and ensure uniform representation, many legal codes require a defendant or plaintiff to be represented by an attorney at law, whose responsibility is to take the client's case without prejudice, and to their best to minimize the penalties applied by law, including ideally the release of their client from any responsibility at all.

Example legal codes that rely heavily on precedent and the opinions of prior jurists include English common law and U.S. Constitutional Law. By contrast most implementations of Islamic Sharia. Napoleonic Code, Chinese Law and German Law, emphasize very specific philosophical principles rooted in Islam, French, Chinese, and German philosophy respectively - the role of precedent and prior jurists is much reduced and that of current judges enhanced - thus these can be seen as an ethical code which applies to the jurists themselves.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legal_code

Legal Codes

- **Chinese law**
- **Code of Hammurabi**
- **Halakha**
- **Napoleonic code**
- **Roman law**
- **Scots law**
- **Sharia**
- **Socialist law**
- **Soviet law**
- **Common Law**
- **The 10 commandments**
- Divisions within codes
 - **Civil & Contract**
 - **Criminal**
 - **Military**

Is there a connection between democracy and, “Please” and “Thank you?”

Human Rights or Human Entitlements

Is Victimhood a claim on the wealth of others?

- Yes, wealth should be shared with the less fortunate.
- No, because the guilty parties won't be the ones to pay, you will just do more damage.

What are the benefits that come to mind when you think of living in a “Democracy?”

What is necessary for life as we know it to go on successfully?

Is it necessary to have an actual “democracy” for life to go on and for people to be Happy?

Does having a democracy, guarantee and of those necessary things?

Notes from the Third Debate: (Right, Entitlement, A Problem?)

- Health Care(Don't they go to the emergency room anyway?)
- Minimum Wages
- Guest Worker Program
- Supreme Court – New Justices – Litmus Test
- Education – Federal support of (No child left behind)
- Extension of Unemployment benefits
- After School Programs – Federal support
- Re-activating the draft
- Doubling the number of Special Forces
- Foreign Policy – Treaties, International Law, Coalitions
- Ideological Squabbles – Locking the other party out of discussions.

An incompetent government will compensate with brutality and whining.

Human organizational paradigms

- Leader - Chief
- Councils
- Judges
- Head Knockers
- Worshippers
- Ideologue
- Mystics
- Sages
- Shamen

If you live in a democracy, what about ... ?

- Responsibility to protect the rights of people in other countries?
- Protect from evil leaders
- Protect for other ethnic or religious groups?
- UN bill of rights?

Rule by edict?

Usually in the guise of social justice?

Well meaning, but often ineffective, unenforcible laws

Concept of Private Property

You didn't make the land

Right to recover commercial property when public funds were used to purchase it and the intended use never happened.

To be a functioning member of a free democracy...

Vision of yourself, your community and your part in it.

Assertive - wise use of resources and space available to you.

does a deal struck with a government have validity if it does not remediate the damage actually done and make the people whole again. (Texaco in Ecuador)

Why do people stay poor in mineral rich countries.

BP offered to open its books - The government of Angola told it not to or it would be forced to leave.

1) Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself.

-- Mark Twain

2) I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.

-- Winston Churchill

3) A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.

-- George Bernard Shaw

4) A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man, which debt he proposes to pay off with your money.

-- G. Gordon Liddy

5) Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner.

-- James Bovard, Civil Libertarian (1994)

6) Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries.

-- Douglas Casey, Classmate of W.J. Clinton at
Georgetown U. (1992)

7) Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.

-- P.J. O'Rourke, Civil Libertarian

8) Government is the great fiction, through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else.

-- Frederic Bastiat, French Economist (1801-1850)

9) Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

-- Ronald Reagan (1986)

10) I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.

-- Will Rogers

11) If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free.

-- P.J. O'Rourke

12) If you want government to intervene domestically, you're a liberal. If you want government to intervene overseas, you're a conservative. If you want government to intervene everywhere, you're a moderate. If you don't want government to intervene anywhere, you're an extremist.

-- Joseph Sobran, Editor of the National Review at one time (1995)

13) In general, the art of government consists in taking as much money as possible from one party of the citizens to give to the other.

-- Voltaire (1764)

14) Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.

- 15) No man's life, liberty, or property are safe while the legislature is in session.
-- Mark Twain (1866)
- 16) Talk is cheap-except when Congress does it.
-- (Unknown)
- 17) The government is like a baby's alimentary canal, with a happy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other.
-- Ronald Reagan
- 18) The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of the blessings. The inherent blessing of socialism is the equal sharing of misery.
-- Winston Churchill
- 19) The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is the taxidermist leaves the skin.
-- Mark Twain
- 20) The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools.
-- Herbert Spencer, English Philosopher (1820-1903)
- 21) There is no distinctly native American criminal class save Congress.**
-- Mark Twain
- 22) What this country needs are more unemployed politicians.**
-- Edward Langley, Artist (1928 - 1995)

California spend 44 million dollars to construct super max facility Pelican Bay to house 1000 violent prisoners. (\$44,000/cell)

They spend \$50,000/prisoner/year to maintain

The prisoner is allowed nothing to occupy himself or to do anything useful.

We take violent prisoners and destroy their humanity sometimes their minds.

See also: The Crime of Punishment, Pelican Bay Maximum Security Prison, by Corey Weinstein and Eric Cummins, from the book, *Criminal Injustice*, edited by Elihu Rosenblatt, South End Press, 1996

http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Prison_System/CrimePunish_Pelican.html

The Arrogance of Righteousness - Or Punishment will never repay a debt to society. Usually just the opposite.

Many thinking people, and, I have to think, many more unthinking, people in American and other civilized societies, seem to think it necessary to punish , at whatever cost to society any and all of it wrongdoers. The result is predictable: Bitter, de-socialized, victimized former felons are released back into society where they do more damage and eventually wind up on death row or incarcerated for life; leaving in their wake a trail of more innocent victims.

It's true that some are incorrigible and will never be candidates to return to the free world, but does that mean that we have to demean our society as well as the inmate by never letting him do anything of value for society, even though realistically he will never leave the Department of Corrections.

Can you really call that justice for anybody in society.

A good working democracy does not rely on the unquestioned trust of its leaders or members.

Rather, that everyone agrees on the rules and follows them.

When those rules, written or unwritten, are violated then there must be efficient redress

For a law to succeed it must:

- Be Fair
- Anticipate Unintended Consequences
- Not force an unpopular agenda or issue
- Benefit all equally.
- Be complied with willingly by all to which it applies.

What you see is just the prelude – Get Ready for the next 20-40 years.

FEAR and RESPECT are NOT THE SAME.

The person that fears you cannot be trusted or relied on.

An Idea for Next Meeting

Hi Curt: I may not be able to attend on the 16th, so I'll put this in an email. I've been thinking about what can be done to correct the polarization in our country, so I make this proposal. **Could this seminar benefit if it took the time to discuss what the members want the President and Congress to accomplish in the next 4 years? After the elections are over, we might all be able to rationally discuss the issues and determine how close we are on major topics, such as the War, medical care issues, education, jobs, etc.** We might find more agreement among ourselves than seems to be apparent during this election season. We might reach some understanding of why we think as we do, and why certain issues are of intense interest to each of us. Just a suggestion.

Best regards Bob Berge rberge@sbcglobal.net

Another Idea -- Are we finally starting to run out resources?

- When China and India become 21st century consumers will there be enough stuff to go around?
- What changes might we expect in our lifestyle, if any?
- What if the people in the mineral rich countries decide they want the good life too.
- Birth Rates.
- Disease.
- De-globalization?
- Remember why Japan started the war in the Pacific.
- Is this good or bad.
- When gets to share the good stuff?
- What happens to everyone else?

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,3-315250,00.html> The Times (London) June 3, 2002 Terror war must target 60 nations, says Bush

From James Doran in Washington

The United States must be prepared to take the War on Terror to up to 60 countries if weapons of mass destruction are to be kept out of terrorists' hands, President Bush said at the weekend. His impassioned speech to 1,000 graduates of West Point Military Academy in New York State on Saturday marks a watershed in the Administration's foreign policy.

Other countries could face US military action

Up to 50 states are on blacklist, says Cheney

Ewen MacAskill, diplomatic editor

Saturday November 17, 2001

[The Guardian](#)

The US vice-president, Dick Cheney, warned yesterday that after the Afghanistan campaign is over, America could use military action in a second wave of attacks directed against states which harbour terrorists. Mr. Cheney said that up to 50 states could be targeted for a range of action, from financial and diplomatic to military, on the grounds that they had al-Qaida networks operating there.

Paul Wolfowitz, the US deputy defense secretary, recently told the Hong Kong-based Far Eastern Economic Review that he saw a clear need to confront al-Qaida in Indonesia: "Going after al- Qaida in Indonesia is not something that should wait until after al-Qaida has been uprooted from Afghanistan."

Precedent: Japan went to war with the US to protect their access to Oil and resources in the Pacific