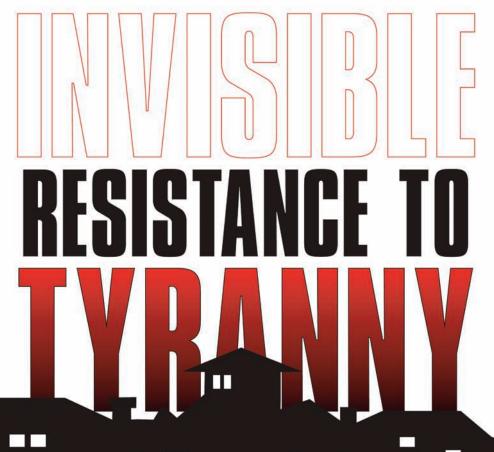
How to Lead a Secret Life of Insurgency in an Increasingly Unfree World



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CHAPTER 5

PLAYING POLITICS AND THE GOVERNMENT GAME

In modern America, the politicians who win elections are not honorable people. Indeed, our political process has deteriorated to the point where an honorable person cannot win political office, and the things that politicians must do to get elected guarantee that they are not honorable. The less one has to do with such people, the better.

Dealing with Politicians

Invisible resisters never treat a politician with the respect an honorable person deserves. They don't use titles of respect in private conversations about politicians. They talk about Willy Jeff Clinton, Al Gored, Butch Reno, and Junior Bushed. The only exception to this might be on those rare occasions when politicians are doing what the Constitution requires them to do,

such as the actions of President George W. Bush and Mayor Rudy Giuliani following the attacks of September 11, 2001, that directly related to the defense of U.S. citizens in the face of terrorist aggression. Other exceptions may be people like Ron Paul, the U.S. Representative from Texas, who valiantly tries to work to reduce government power from within the system, or more likely a local politician who works to keep government off your back rather than arrogantly throwing his weight around like some petty big shot tyrant.

Most of the time it is easy to avoid all contact with elected officials. They don't want to hear from you if you don't like the way they are doing their job. Even if someone agrees with what they do, they really only want to see ordinary people at their election rallies or when they collect donations so that they can continue to finance their political frauds.

Invisible resisters never, under any circumstances, give money to any politician, especially not to one who has any chance of getting elected. When they receive mail requesting a donation to help a politician get into office, they send the postage-paid envelope back empty. Better yet, they print up and insert a flyer explaining why they will not support such a fraudulent campaign.

When one of these despicable political creatures appears in front of a workplace or at a sporting event and sticks his hand out to an invisible resister to ask for his vote, the resister keeps his hand in his pocket and gets confrontational. He smiles and speaks politely, but in no more than a sentence or two he tells the politician why he would never vote for such a parasitic liar. Better yet, the resister asks an embarrassing question, like why the politician voted for a clearly unconstitutional piece of legislation or why he raised taxes. The invisible resister never makes any threats or says anything that could be interpreted to be threatening. He just makes the point that he considers the candidate beneath contempt and not worth the time it would take go to the polls. If this is done in front of fellow citizens as wit-

nesses, that's even better. It shows by example something that people in this country seem to have forgotten—that politicians are no different than you or me simply because they work for government, and it is perfectly okay to treat them with contempt, just like any other citizen.

The invisible resister will learn as much as possible about the dishonest character and the shenanigans of crooked politicians, then look for opportunities to spread such reports throughout his or her social and professional circles. If the general public is ever going to lose its blind faith in the promises of politicians, it will start by losing its respect for the politicians as decent human beings. Help that process along every chance you get.

The Big Lie: The political office deserves respect, even if the current incumbent doesn't.

The Truth: Freedom lovers care about individuals, not buildings, office space, titles, or social class. Political officeholders who lie to get elected, ignore the constitutional limitations of their oath of office, and use the office as a cover for crimes and immoral activities should be treated with disdain and disrespect. Those who vote for them and defend them should be treated in the same way.

To Vote or Not to Vote

Probably the least useful thing anyone can do when it comes to changing government is to vote. The current political system is so corrupt that voting is *always* a bad choice between two evils. Even if there were a perfect candidate for a freedom lover on the ballot, your or my vote won't make any difference in who gets elected or how he or she governs. At most, it is a feel-good exercise for the individual. If voting makes you feel good, do it. If you have something more interesting to do on election day, don't feel guilty because you didn't get to the polls.

Those who wish to be visibly involved in campaigning for freedom would be better advised to take their campaign to the

streets in public demonstrations demanding no gun control, lower taxes, less government, and more freedom. They will find that politicians are more afraid of noise in the streets than the votes of minor third parties. This has been demonstrated by the effective street protests of the group Tyranny Response Team against gun control in Colorado and elsewhere as well as the recent successful assault by Tennessee taxpayers against the state capital when their "representatives" tried to secretly pass a tax increase. In the Tennessee case, motorists circled the building and blared their horns in protest, while others demonstrated loudly but peacefully outside. The measure did not pass.

Those who prefer to be invisible resisters should concentrate on educating others about why the political system has become so corrupt that voting only contributes to the corruption and helping the tyranny grow.

The Big Lie: Those who don't vote have no right to complain about politicians who win.

The Truth: Those who are threatened with violence and fraud not only have a right to complain but the right to resist. Just because we don't help choose the criminals who will rob us doesn't mean we have no right to fight back.

What about Telephone Calls, Letters, and E-mail to Congress?

Telephoning, sending e-mail, or writing letters to congressional representatives or state legislators has about as much impact as a single vote on election day—that is, not much. Elected politicians are more interested in the polls and the street noise than they are in totaling up the letters that flood their offices in support or opposition to various pieces of legislation. The elected official almost never even sees the letter, which is instead answered by staff assistants with a prewritten form letter.

A major reason why letters demanding more freedom don't have any impact on the legislator's thinking is that they are in

such a small minority of the total numbers of messages from constituents. Almost all voter correspondence contains a request for help in getting some kind of government benefit or a demand for new laws granting such benefits. The occasional letter demanding less government, lower taxes, or an end to privileges for special interest groups won't have any impact on the elected official as long as so many more people are clamoring for a place at the trough of government plunder.

Anonymous letters threatening elected officials may have more impact on political parasites than carefully drafted letters from freedom-loving citizens demanding less government. Of course it is illegal to do this, not to mention difficult and dangerous, and anyone who does write such a letter will find himself under investigation and, if caught, charged with a crime. Even so, members of Congress with reputations for especially vicious support for gun control, ridiculously higher taxes, and harsh drug control laws do receive large amounts of hate mail. While they claim it doesn't affect their political positions on such subjects, one can wonder what the impact would be if there was a flood of such mail with postmarks from their congressional districts or, in the case of senators, their states.

At this time, it is much more useful to spend time and effort trying to convince those we know why our elected representatives are frauds and charlatans and worth neither respect nor honor than it is in trying to influence the representatives directly.

Who Really Influences The Political Process?

Contrary to the popular mythology, politicians are not controlled by the monetary donations of corporations and big businesses. Business enterprises do donate lots of money to political campaigns, but that money would better be called extortion, paid to keep government regulators off their backs. Those who don't pay enough are likely to find themselves in the kind of jam Microsoft CEO Bill Gates was in while this book was being writ-

ten. That's why many business enterprises donate large sums of political tribute to *both* major political parties.

Almost always it is a fool's enterprise. The politicians take the money and continue to enact laws that hurt the ability of entrepreneurs and businessmen to provide what we as customers want to buy. Savvy businessmen and entrepreneurs will instead spend their money on educating the public on how government extortion is destroying freedom and the economy.

Those who most influence elections and legislators are those who control large numbers of votes. They are the leaders of the special interest and single-issue political groups. Such groups include all labor unions, political action committees, race-based groups like the NAACP, organizations like the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) representing the elderly and retired, many religiously oriented groups, manufacturing and trade associations, consumer groups, and dozens of different activist groups ranging from environmentalists and animal rightists to anti-death-penalty and prisoner rights advocates. The leaders of such organizations can deliver voters to the polls and provide hefty political contributions to those who promise to support their interests. Often, a special interest group leader can put thousands of people on the streets in protests demanding more supreme government on their behalf.

All such special interest groups are against freedom. Their agendas always demand new laws, regulations, taxes, and discriminatory government action that will limit the freedom of the rest of us. These are the people who demand that politicians take away our guns, force us to bus our children to government schools on the other side of town, limit the way we can use our own property, stop us from buying cheaper and better products from foreign suppliers, force us to pay wages so high they put us out of business, continue to support the great retirement Ponzi scheme with our taxes, and whatever else serves their selfish special purposes.

While the leaders of single-issue advocacy groups all claim to be serving the best interests of those who support them with donations, those who provide the money and the votes gain only minimal benefits in return for their contributions, even when they win political concessions. Often they gain nothing at all. Many members of special interest groups may even lose more than they gain. For example, teachers who are much more competent than their colleagues or have special expertise that should demand higher salaries can only earn the negotiated union salary based on years served and additional education credits tallied. Meanwhile, their less competent, lazier co-workers are rewarded for doing their jobs poorly.

On the other hand, the leaders of special interest groups gain great personal profit, prestige, and political influence by their activism. Often they are self-appointed rather than elected. They can control millions of dollars in funds with little or no accounting. They live off the same fraud that supports modern political leaders—the idea that supreme government can solve the problems of those who elect their candidates to office. They deserve no more respect or prestige than the political hacks they influence and often control. They are the primary supporters of government supremacy and therefore true enemies of freedom. Jesse Jackson, Sarah Brady, Ralph Nader, Al Sharpton, and Jerry Falwell are examples of such enemies of individual freedom.

No invisible resister will provide support or encouragement to any of these handmaidens of tyranny. Instead they will point out the fraudulent message of such special interest groups in their efforts to educate others about freedom and its benefits. Invisible resisters will also employ the same tactics used against politicians when dealing with such groups in public confrontations or while responding to their junk mail solicitations for funds.

The Big Lie: If someone does not like our government system, they should work within the system to change it.

The Truth: The system has been so totally corrupted that it corrupts all those working within it.

The Chain Reaction of Freedom as a New Kind of Special Interest Group

The purpose of building a chain reaction of freedom as discussed in Chapter 3 is to counter and eventually terminate the political power now held by the leaders of the major parties and special interest groups. Once enough of us have developed our own circle of friends who support freedom-based solutions to society's problems, collectively we will influence numbers much larger than ourselves, all of whom will begin to question the motives of those who love supreme government or use it to enrich and empower themselves. We become a single-issue group for freedom and limited government. Unlike typical single-issue groups, we will have no leaders to support with large donations and no public figures for government supremacists to target with false accusations, IRS audits, or police surveillance.

A free and just nation begins with free individuals. It must be built from the ground up, one individual at a time. Such a society cannot be ordered from the top down. If you want a free country, you have to start with yourself. That's what the previous two chapters and this chapter are all about—the concrete steps that each individual can take to start the process. A free and just nation must have a foundation of people who demand the right to control all aspects of their own lives and who grant that same right to all others.

Everyone in the nation doesn't have to be that kind of person. A majority of the population doesn't even have to think that way. Human nature is such that all societies will always have the indolent and lazy who beg for a living, those who want someone else to make all their decisions and keep them safe from every harm, and those who pander to such people in order to gain the power to rule them.

Even so, whenever a nation has enough freedom-loving people to reach a critical mass of self-governing and self-sufficient human beings who insist on being free, that nation will be a free

nation. We don't have that critical mass yet. But if we start with our ourselves, then our children, and then our friends and begin building personal networks of freedom, we can multiply our numbers until we have the critical mass necessary to demand change and regain the American ideal.

There is no guarantee that we have enough time to succeed before the current crop of government supremacists drag the nation into tyranny. So while we try to get our freedom back through self-help, education, and peaceful resistance, we must also prepare for the possibility that one of these days we will have to fight to win our freedom. But first we need to look at how the final slide into total tyranny might happen.