## November 7, 1012 The Beginning of the Downfall of America

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This is my five, well..., nine cents worth. I'm expressing my freedom of speech, and I've earned the right to say it because I served my county for 23 years as an Air Force Veteran. If you don't like it, you're welcome, because I and other veterans helped insure your right to dislike it. I'm just a simple little guy but I hope you understand where I'm coming from and take it to heart. I've never been accused of being the sharpest tool in the shed, but as I like to say, I didn't make it all the way through 3rd grade for nothin'. So here's my take on the state of our country.

America has chosen...poorly. Do you remember in "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" when the Grail Knight says "He chose poorly" after General Vogel drinks from the wrong cup and dies a quick and gruesome death? That's symbolic of what American has done with the re-election of Barack Obama. We will continue to have Government of the People, by Obama, for the People. We've gone from "Change We Can Believe In" to "Change We Can Live With" and we're now moving to "Change We Can't Live With." Barak Obama has and will continue to overstep his constitutional authority to push his political agenda. He has used Executive Privilege and set up an environment of plausible deniability to cover up an atrocious scandal called "Fast and Furious" where thousands of guns were illegally passed to Mexican criminals to make the case for more gun control in the US. He has used Executive Orders to circumvent Congress and has stacked the Judicial Branch with biased justices who believe our Constitution is due for significant re-interpretation. Our Constitution is definitely not subject to re-negotiation or revisionist re-interpretation! I'm genuinely disturbed at the course our nation is taking and deeply troubled at the America I'll leave to my children...an America that is saddling our children with debt beyond comprehension and unconstitutional government invasion into our private lives on a shameful scale. The worst part is our own tax dollars are funding this desecration. Our founding fathers wouldn't recognize our country and I'm glad our "Greatest Generation" is mostly passed on now...this is not the America they fought for, they would surely be disappointed. I barely recognize our America anymore. We need to get back to a fundamentally historical and American fact...you don't work, you don't eat. There are too many people who choose not to work because the government will take care of them. But guess who's first in line to get their free stuff from the government...that's because they don't have a job to get to like the rest of us. This is the very definition of a welfare state that rewards laziness yet stifles entrepreneurship and small business with excessive regulation and taxation. America is no longer the place to come to become something; it's fast becoming a place to become nothing. Make no mistake, American has chosen the path of socialism and it will take a miracle to turn back. My friends, we are on the road to Greece and Spain. I believe we are headed down a path of unbridled government invasion into our lives and social unrest that, unchecked, will lead to a governmental and constitutional crisis.

There are some fundamental questions we must each answer. Do we want more government or less, normalization of social deviancy or continued erosion of traditional family values and the sanctity of marriage...Practically all our social woes can be linked to the fundamental breakdown of the family, and a lack of faith in God and in each other. Do we look to our government to provide for us or provide opportunities for us? Do we trust our government to make the best fiscal decisions for us or do we hold them accountable for how they spend our tax dollars. Do we want a government that believes in the original interpretation of our Constitution or do we want a government that believes our Constitution is antiquated and needs re-interpreting and updating. Do we want a government that continues a perversion of the 1st Amendment Separation of Church and State to remove all religious influence from government, when it was fundamentally designed to keep government influence out of religion? Read the Federalist Papers and other writings of our founding fathers and see for yourself the framework our founding fathers wrote our Constitution from. Our Declaration of Independence and Constitution flow very naturally, both in verbiage and intent, from the personal writings of our founding fathers. Much of our current government leadership takes a radically different viewpoint than our founding fathers on key sections of the Constitution. The existence of the Federalist Papers and personal writings of the time prove quite an annoyance to those in our government who promote Liberalism and Social

Engineering...they would simply prefer you, and especially your children, not read them. I think some of the Federalist papers should be mandatory reading in high school civics classes. The following is an example of this framework I'm speaking of. In the Declaration of Independence it says,

"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 here is what James Madison, a key drafter of our Constitution, our Bill of Rights, and our 4th President, said - "Americans need never fear their government because of the advantage of being armed, which the Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation." I believe James Madison and his contemporaries said exactly what they meant, in their personal writings and in the writing of our Declaration of Independence and our Constitution. In 1759, before the American Revolution, Ben Franklin said, "Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote."

Our current administration's interpretation of the 2nd Amendment is very different and is moving to restrict and remove your 2nd Amendment Right to Bear Arms...Arms for hunting, sporting, self-defense, or to protect us from our government. Those of us who are gun owners generally understand this very clearly. If you're not a gun owner this may not seem like a problem to you, but it is an attempt to re-interpret the Constitution, so what's next...restrictions on the right to assemble, or the government requiring you have a doctor (oops, we already received that mandate). Any government that seeks to change its Constitution or re-invent itself must first secure itself against a rebellious population; therefore, dis-arming that population is the first order of business. About 250 years ago, our little collection of 13 colonies, each fiercely independent of the other, decided they had had enough of the British government and had to band together to save their way of life. Without going into a history lesson, they had very good cause, chief of which was religious freedom and growing an economy without unfair taxation from the British. The 13 colonies came together, drafted the Declaration of Independence, and decided to kick the British tails all the way back to Mayberry. So, the very first thing the British did was to attempt to confiscate the colonies' weapons, many of which were stored in community armories. Fortunately, we beat them to the punch...that time. And now we see history repeating itself; the point being is our 2nd Amendment is under attack. Understand our government is responsible and accountable, both fiscally and constitutionally, to us...WE THE PEOPLE. A disarmed people are Subjects of their government, an armed people are Citizens of their country. Will you be a Subject or a Citizen? How is it "We the People" might alter or abolish our government without the tools to do so? I most strongly encourage that you don't give up your guns, hold our elected officials accountable, and vote for candidates who believe in the Constitution, in America, and in each other. It's not too late to turn the tide.

Respectfully, John B. Sandifer, Major, USAF (ret) Constitutional Conservative, Christian, Simple little man who loves his family, American Patriot