
VIEWS LETTER

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AWD's Views, News & Items of Interest

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The Birth of a Nation

~By Gary Lantz

Philadelphia, May 25, 1787. *The summer promised to be hot and muggy—weather a somber group of merchants, planters and scholars dreaded as they sequestered themselves in the stuffy Pennsylvania state house. America's fledgling government was in disarray, and the nation's best political minds gathered in hopes of restoring order amid growing national chaos.*

A decade had passed since the Declaration of Independence. The Revolutionary War was history. Farmers were back in their fields. International trade seemed to offer potential. But for all the promising pieces, the puzzle just didn't seem to fit—somehow the loose organization of former colonies couldn't function as an entity, a strong nation capable of overcoming fiscal woes and political squabbles.

The Articles of confederation, pressed into service following independence, created a federation of states, each with a strong constitution of its own. These states, essentially small, independent nations, were loosely connected by a central Congress. Yet the Congress had little power to govern, leaving the states bound mostly by a league of friendship rather than a strong executive core.

This impotent central government had been granted authority to raise a national army. Yet

*Continued on page 2, see **BIRTH OF A NATION***

Whatever Happened to the Contract with America?

~By Dick Armeiy

Former Majority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives

Dick Armeiy is the chairman of "Freedom Works." He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Oklahoma and taught at the University of Montana, West Texas State University, Austin College, and the University of North Texas. Elected to Congress in 1984, he was the principal author of the Contract with America in 1994 and served as U.S. House Majority Leader from 1995-2003. Dr. Armeiy is the author of four books, including, most recently, Armeiy's Axioms: 40 Hard-Earned Truths from Politics, Faith, and Life.

The following is adapted from a speech delivered at Hillsdale College on January 27, 2008.

Both the creation of the Contract with America in 1994 and its subsequent abandonment can be explained in terms of the conflict in government between what I call legislative entrepreneurs and legislative bureaucrats. In 1994, when we wrote the Contract, entrepreneurs were strong. Today, as most of the time, bureaucrats are running things.

By legislative entrepreneur, I mean a person who has a set of principles and is willing to take risks on its behalf. A legislative bureaucrat, by contrast, seeks only to perpetuate the current situation with the motive of remaining safely in office. The fact that legislative bureaucrats are usually in command reminds me of Armeiy's Axiom Number One: "The market is rational. The government is dumb." I know the former to

*Continued on page 7 see **CONTRACT***

Love is the hardest lesson in Christianity; but, for that reason, it should be most our care to learn it.

~William Penn

BIRTH OF A NATION, *continued from page*

without the ability to tax, it had no means to pay and supply soldiers. The young nation's ambassadors were allowed to negotiate treaties, but ratification depended upon the whims of each of the states. As one European emissary asked with abundant sarcasm, did the Americans want one treaty or would it require 13?

Few among the foreign diplomatic corps believed that this rough amalgamation of extremely self-serving states could find the glue to stick together. Even the new nation's most cherished and respected citizens, George Washington among them, weren't immune to despair.

Washington, part of a faction known as Federalists for their desire for a stronger central government, could see the disarray. No money in the treasury. Little power to regulate commerce. An inability to arbitrate the constant quarreling between the states. Soaring inflation as the nation found itself flooded with paper money resulting in a \$100 price tag for a pound of tea.

And, even as the potential for agriculture exports grew, the nation's farmers also found themselves at odds with the system. Tax laws among the states varied, but with a common denominator of stiff levies on agriculture. Farm income was among the few taxable commodities in a young, agrarian nation. As a result, the states forced farmers to either pay what most considered exorbitant fees or face jail terms and the confiscation of their property.

As the rift grew between landowners and tax collectors, some of the farmers, many of them Revolutionary War veterans, turned to insurrection. In Massachusetts, rural residents in the western half of the state began to distance themselves from the Boston hierarchy. By 1786, these Massachusetts farmers were organizing to fight against what they considered to be a tax burden worse than the pre-Revolution policies of the British crown.

Under the leadership of Daniel Shays, a decorated captain in the Revolutionary army, militant farmers blocked sessions of a state circuit court convened to hear tax cases and issue

notices of foreclosure. The rebels even threatened to raid the Springfield Armory, resulting in panic among Massachusetts businessmen and spurring a request for federal troops to put down what they felt was impending rebellion.

When the members of Congress debated sending the army, they realized they had no money to supply it. Eventually, the Massachusetts militia restored order. Yet a sense of angst remained amid Boston's men of commerce, many among them certain that absolute anarchy was primed to engulf the struggling nation.

Washington pondered the events from his Mount Vernon estate and wrote these words to his friend, James Madison: "Wisdom and good examples are necessary at this time to rescue the political machine from the impending storm." The shrewd Madison, a learned Virginian and student of all things political, vouched for the necessity of a strong central government that could provide national order stability.

It took promotion, meetings and no small amount of acrimony, but in time Madison and his friend, New Yorker Alexander Hamilton, managed to convince colleagues of the need for a national convention, one specifically designed to review and revise the Articles of Confederation. As the date drew near, Madison worried that few would attend, considering that many state leaders felt the gathering would be little more than an effort to restore monarchy and usurp state and local power.

Madison also believed the convention's success would hinge upon the presence of Washington, still the nation's most beloved hero. But when Washington received an invitation to come to Philadelphia, he had misgivings.

Like many of the nation's founders, Washington had been exhausted by the job of nation building. Rheumatism made it difficult for him to perform what had once been common physical tasks. The business of overseeing Mount Vernon, his Virginia plantation, was a full-time job. And, maybe more than anything else, he wasn't confident that self-serving, squabbling state

Continued on page 3 see. **BIRTH OF A NATION**

BIRTH OF A NATION, *continued from page 2*

leaders could agree on any plan that would diminish their current power under the Articles of Confederation.

But in the end, Washington relented and Madison was thrilled. The Virginian knew that the convention needed the validity that came with the presence of the original founders, and Jefferson and Adams were overseas, serving as diplomats. Benjamin Franklin, in his eighties and stricken with gout, agreed to lend his name and support to the sessions, but Revolutionary firebrand Patrick Henry flatly refused. "I smell a rat," he told the Federalist urging him to attend. Henry was certain that the push for a strong central government would erode the individual rights he'd risked his life for during the Revolution.

While Henry smelled his rat, some states sensed the end of their autonomous power if the Articles of Confederation were amended. Representatives from Rhode Island declined to attend, certain that the sovereignty of their small state would be lost amid the political shuffle. Of the 74 delegates appointed to the convention, 54 actually sat down to the task of creating a more workable government.

The cobblestone streets paralleling Pennsylvania's state house were muffled the morning delegates gathered to hear Washington address the convention's opening session. Maintenance crews labored to spread dirt on the stone, hoping to dull the sound of passing carriage wheels so the men inside could concentrate.

Madison, tireless advocate for constitutional change, seemed almost boyish at 36, aided by his diminutive stature of 5 feet, 4 inches and 100 pounds. The average age of the other delegates was 42, yet all were seasoned political veterans. Among the rising stars in attendance were New York's Alexander Hamilton, aide to Washington during the war, and George Mason of Virginia, author of the Virginia Bill of Rights. Weeks earlier, Mason had written to his son, "The eyes of

the United States are turned upon this assembly, and their expectations raised to a very anxious degree. May God grant that we may be able to gratify them by establishing a wise and just government."

The seemingly indefatigable Madison sat at his desk through every session, start to finish, taking reams of notes even though at times the high temperatures and humidity seemed unbearable. The fashion of the day silks, ruffles and woolens were more suited for a cool, English climate than an American summer. Even so, Madison stuck to his task, admitting only at the end that his dedication to duty almost killed him.

Fortunately, a nearby tavern stood ready to refresh sweaty delegates. All were bound to secrecy regarding the progress of their work, but the debate became somewhat public as the men sipped their pints and reviewed the pros and cons of each session, especially a proposal called the Virginia Plan.

The plan called for three branches of government: legislative, executive and judicial. Each would be structured to check the powers of the other and allow for veto power over the states. As feared, authority granted to the states under the Articles of Confederation would decrease dramatically.

This was the sort of government that Patrick Henry feared and small states like Rhode Island considered the ruination of civil liberty. In response, the anti-federalist presented the New Jersey Resolution, basically a revision of the Articles of Confederation allowing additional powers for the existing Congress, especially power to raise revenue, regulate commerce and ratify treaties.

Yet following several days of debate, the New Jersey plan was rejected. Observers sensed that the convention was clearly leaning toward the creation of a new, strong, central government, much to the dismay of the states' rights advocates. Madison and his nationalists were beginning to take command of the country's destiny.

Continued on page 4

Force may make hypocrites, but it can never make converts.

~William Penn

Fear that the Federalists were simply striving to carve a toehold for a new monarchy wasn't completely unfounded. Rumors circulated in the press that aristocrats were raising money to bribe a son of England's King George into coming to America and reigning here. And Alexander Hamilton, claiming that England supported the "best government in the world," went before the convention to propose something similar, including an executive/monarch chosen to rule for life.

However, the war for independence was still fresh on the minds of the delegates, and the majority couldn't stomach the thought of a government like the one they'd fought so hard to overthrow. Hamilton and others who felt a king was inevitable couldn't overcome the harsh memories written in Revolutionary blood.

By the end of June, the delegates were wrangling over legislative representation, and the debate grew acrimonious at times. The smaller states wanted the same number of representatives as the larger states, something they enjoyed under the Articles of Confederation. The larger states

wanted representation based on population. When the debate grew more and more heated, Benjamin Franklin called for daily prayers that he hoped would temper the mood.

For a time it seems that the convention was on the verge of dissolution. One member commented it was "held together by the strength of a hair." The small states had lost: the House of Representatives would be based on population. A vote to create a Senate with equal representation from each state ended in a tie. George Washington, obviously frustrated, called opponents of a strong central government "narrow-minded politicians under the influence of local views."

There was also the problem of slavery. Southern states, with a number of slaves, wanted them counted for purpose of numerical representation. At the same time, since slave labor was forced without the benefit of compensation, it made little sense to consider slaves as tax-paying citizens.

Continued on page 5.

Fascism

Fascism is a religion of the state. It assumes the organic unity of the body politic and longs for a national leader attuned to the will of the people. It is totalitarian in that it views everything as political and holds that any action by the state is justified to achieve the common good. It takes responsibility for all aspects of life, including our health and well-being, and seeks to impose uniformity of thought and action, whether by force or through regulation and social pressure. Everything, including the economy and religion, must be aligned with its objectives. Any rival identity is part of the "problem" and therefore defined as the enemy. I will argue that contemporary American liberalism embodies all of these aspects of fascism.

~Jonah Goldberg

The question remains, how much longer before a complete fascist government rules America? How long will the American people remain ignorant and allow our Constitutional Republic to be destroyed? Are we Ignorant, or Stupid, or Both? ~AWD

At this point the delegates were growing tired and eager to compromise. The slave question was settled by granting three/fifths representation based on the number of "other persons," easing tensions throughout the convention, especially among those from the numerically challenged South. With the slavery issue behind them for the time being, and passage of a second vote allowing equal representation for each state in the Senate, spirits lightened somewhat and most of the delegates took a short vacation. At the same time, selected members settled in to their serious business of creating a government on paper—the first draft of the Constitution of the United States.

The Document was ready for review on Monday, Aug. 6, and once again the spirit of compromise evaporated. Provision for regulation of commerce incensed Southern planters who felt that Northern regulators might impose export taxes that would destroy their way of life. Then a delegate from Maryland suggested a tax on slave importation stirring up another outburst of debate.

Some of the arguments brought up the morality of slavery, and a serious chasm between the Northern and Southern states began to widen. Once again it appeared that the question of slavery would extinguish the work done at the convention and possibly the convention itself. Finally, negotiators proposed that New Englanders accept a clause that assured the importation of slaves for another 20 years. In return, the Southern states caved on some of their concerns about navigation laws and exports. It was a tactical victory for both sides, but not a moral one. Samuel Hopkins of Connecticut, a Congregationalist minister and abolitionist, said flatly that the convention had sold out. "How does it appear . . . that these states, who have been fighting for liberty and consider themselves as the highest and most noble example of zeal for it, cannot agree in any political Constitution, unless it indulge and authorize them to enslave their fellow men . . . ? The answer to Hopkins'

question would be answered in less than a century during a nation-dividing Civil War.

By Aug. 31, George Mason had reached the bitter conclusion that he'd "rather chop off his right hand" than sign the Constitution as it stood. He urged that the nation adopt a Bill of Rights so that the individual liberties at the heart of the Revolutionary effort would be insured. While Mason agonized, the delegates sorted through options for electing a chief executive. Some suggested election by a vote of the people, others wanted a president chosen by state legislatures, some wanted a vote by state governors, while a few felt the national legislature should pick the best candidate.

Compromise arrived in the form of the Electoral College. The big states retained strength of numbers in delegates, state legislators were allowed the privilege of selecting the delegates, and the House of Representatives would have the task of choosing a president in case no candidate received a majority of electoral votes. At the same time, the man on the street became an integral part of the process with his individual vote.

The system may seem cumbersome today, but at the time it was an act of political genius by weary men who'd battled to build a government and were entering the final hour.

By Sept. 15, the Constitution had been edited and polished, and the delegates voted to accept it as written. Two days later, the men met for the final time. James Wilson read a speech written by Benjamin Franklin. In it, Franklin asked the delegates to unite behind their handiwork. He said, "I think it will astonish our enemies, who are waiting with confidence to hear that our councils are confounded like those of the builders of Babel; and that our states are on the point of separation, only to meet hereafter for the purpose of cutting one another's throats."

Afterwards, the delegates retired to their favorite tavern for a farewell dinner. A few blocks away, printers worked through the night to insure copies of the Constitution would be ready for the morning stage.

Continued on page 6.

Ratification by the states was the next step in the process, and at times the debate was as rancorous as that between the delegates in the Pennsylvania statehouse. Arguments pitted progressives against those who believed the new Constitution opened doors to additional taxation and meant the end of power at the state level. When Pennsylvania convened a ratifying convention and a quorum couldn't be reached due to a lack of members, an angry crowd pulled a pair of contrary representatives from their homes, dragged them to the state house and made them sit there while the vote was tallied.

As the ratification process continued, firebrands argued in newspapers across the states that the new Constitution was lacking a most important ingredient: a bill of rights guaranteeing deeply held principles including freedom of religion and speech. One anti-Constitution essayist, Samuel Bryan, wrote that "the United States are to be melted down," adding that the new government would be controlled by wealthy, established families and the culturally refined. He argued that the nation's freedom was about to be overwhelmed by the will of an authority indifferent to the common man. In essence, opponents preached that the Revolution had been fought in vain.

The Federalist fought back with editorials and essays of their own. In New York, Alexander Hamilton and John Jay appealed to James Madison for help in authoring a series of essays that would become known as the Federalist Papers. The first of a series of 85 appeared late in 1787. Thomas Jefferson, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence, would call the combined effort the "best commentary on the principles of government ever written."

Some newspapers resorted to yellow journalism to fight ratification. Stories, allegedly penned by anti-Federalist, proclaimed that pagans and deists would take over the government and use torture to punish federal crimes. Some predicted that the Pope would become president.

The ratification process was tumultuous, but by January 1788, five of the nine states needed for ratification had approved the Constitution. Essentially, the rest of the needed states would

follow when the Federalists agreed to amend the document by adding a guarantee of essential individual rights. Votes were close and some political pundits felt that the majority of citizens throughout the country were against the Constitution as proposed. It was the Bill of Rights that essentially sealed the deal and established the government that Americans too often take for granted.

On **July 2, 1788**, word came that the ratification was official, and a committee set about the process of making the philosophical document a workable one. During the first session of Congress, James Madison, newly chosen representative from Virginia, worked diligently to ensure the creation and passage of the proposed Bill of Rights.

On October 2, 1789, President George Washington mailed each of the states a copy of 12 amendments adopted by Congress. By **December 15, 1791**, a majority of the states ratified 10 amendments to the new Constitution, the second of which protected the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

America's cherished Bill of Rights—the missing glue that sealed together quarreling states and citizens of varied beliefs from diverse walks of life, and guaranteed that the battle for independence had not been fought in vain—became a gospel this nation learned to cherish, a prayer born in controversy, a legacy that stands alone in liberty's shining light. 📖

Sad News

Camry Doudney Schnauzer Dog has passed away at the age of 13. She has been a wonderful pet with an awesome personality. We loved the way she would hop with one of her hind feet as she moved across the room. There is now a sense of loneliness for us when we have our evening popcorn. We used to share a bowl with her almost every evening. She never gave up on the joy of catching the kernels before they hit the floor. She, as the others, will be sorely missed. Linda says no more pets, as she can't take the heartbreak of losing them. But, I think she will come around, and probably, sooner than later.

🌸 AWD 🌸

be true as someone who has studied economics. I know the latter to be true as someone who spent a long time in Congress.

One of the greatest entrepreneurial moments in the history of human government was the writing of our Constitution. America's Founders understood clearly what it means to accomplish a goal on behalf of ideas and principles that rise above self-interest. George Washington might have become our king, but chose not to. His governing idea was that government is our servant because we are inherently free. It is an idea too many in government today forget.

In politics, every great enterprise eventually falls into the hands of what I call legislative bureaucrats. This explains the ongoing debate in Congress today over whether we even need to pay attention to the Constitution, and over whether the government's power should indeed be limited, as our Founders believed, to upholding liberty. It has fallen now to future legislative entrepreneurs on the conservative side of the aisle to revive that central concept of America.

There have been only three great moments of pro-Constitution entrepreneurship in my adult lifetime. The first of these was the presidential campaign of 1964, when Barry Goldwater tried courageously to remind the nation why our Founders thought it vital to limit government. Needless to say, Goldwater suffered a landslide electoral defeat. But he galvanized the modern conservative movement which rose from the ashes of his failed campaign.

The second great moment was Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign in 1980—this one wildly successful—which was run, like Goldwater's, on a consistently principled platform of limited government. Reagan's election inspired

me and many other conservatives to run for office. And, the eight years following can largely be characterized as a struggle between constitutionalists who wished to restore limits on government and the always more numerous bureaucrats, both in the executive departments and in Congress. Fortunately, for most of his presidency, Reagan and his allies prevailed. But when George H. W. Bush took office in 1989, riding Reagan's coattails, the bureaucrats began taking over again, and the Reagan Revolution had almost completely dissipated by the time Bill Clinton was elected in 1992.

The third great political moment in my lifetime was the Contract with America in 1994. In the run-up to the congressional elections that year, Hillary Clinton had been touting her government-run, command-and-control health care plan and scaring the devil out of the American people. The Republican leadership decided to capitalize on this terrible plan, seeking to seize power for the sake of implementing pro-Constitution policies. And the idea worked: Republicans took control of Congress that year in dramatic fashion, largely due to the Contract with America.

Those of us who signed on to the Contract were devoted to rolling back government as much as we could. The biggest success of those years—and a superb example of legislative entrepreneurship—was welfare reform. President Clinton vetoed it twice, but we saw it through, and it has worked marvelously well. It became such a great success, in fact, that Clinton eventually claimed it as the best idea he ever had! The lesson here for limited government conservatives is that they must not be afraid to dare.

Continued on page 7 see **CONTRACT**

Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.

-James Madison

CONTRACT, *Continued from page 7*

Ever since the successes of the Contract with America, the balance in our government has moved slowly but surely from entrepreneurship back to bureaucracy. One day I found myself in a House leadership meeting, and I realized that we were coming to town each week and doing things we weren't supposed to be doing. We justified this by telling ourselves that we needed to hold on to the majority in order to do the things we should be doing.

In the end, the Republican Congress—in the two or three years leading up to the Democratic victories in 2006—had utterly forsaken its commitment to liberty and limited government, with the often active acquiescence of the White House. This brings me to another one of Armeý's Axioms: "If it's only about power, you lose."

The Republican majority, having forgotten the lessons of 1994 and having committed themselves only to the next election, not only failed their country but lost their power.

Partisan politics aside, Dick Armeý is truly a entrepreneurial American with the future of America first and foremost in his mind and his agenda. What he says in the above brief speech is only slightly revealing of what is to come should a liberal, socialistic, bureaucrat occupy the White House.

"EXPELLED"

By AWD

The United States of America has been the recipient of many blessings showered down upon her by Almighty God. Our freedom and liberty in America is not something that our founding fathers conjured up, instead it was realized as God's gift to everyone who will accept it, strive for it, maintain it and through the principals of God's laws keep it secure.

Today as always slavery of one kind or

another is as common as rocks. One only needs to open their eyes and see. Humanity, being basically selfish, is in a constant struggle with any and everyone for domination. This basic sin indwells all of humanity. This truth is not only backed up by the scriptures but it should be evident to any **honest** man or woman with a measurable IQ.

The primary truth that is given us from the scripture is that "God Is." This is another truth that is obvious without the scriptures declaring it. The argument is not if there is a God, but is God a Creator or is he simply a god of chance. Either belief requires the element of faith. One requires a conjured-up-faith which has its base in self. The other faith is given to the believer as a gift and is self evident for anyone interested in truth.

The difficult thing for many to accept is the fact that according to scripture God is Love. And, that particular Love is not self-centered, but giving and sacrificial. An example for the world to follow—to love one's neighbor, to think of themselves last, to give without worry, to depend upon the Creator of the Universe for the provisions of this life, and to honor, love and respect Him.

The present trend is of self and sin. It is not something new. It has been in place since man chose to think for himself and to do as he pleased in complete disregard for God's directions, laws and principals.

In America today, there is a great struggle between truth and deceit. I am proud to say that the documentary film, "EXPELLED," exposes a tiny part of this struggle in a magnificent way. The producers along with primary character, Ben Stine, did their homework and produced a great film that has much to say in a very entertaining way.

I'm sure that by now you can rent or purchase a copy at "Blockbusters." Check it out! Truths that come out in this film could be a little frightening. However, don't allow fear to come in, instead go and love your neighbor. There is no fear in love. But, perfect love drives out fear.

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Men must be governed by God or they will be ruled by tyrants.

~William Penn

Book Report: "Combat Crew"

By AWD

The title is "Combat Crew" written by John Comer. I doubt that you can find a new copy of this book because the copyright date of the one that I read was dated 1988. However, I have seen them on the Amazon website, but they were paperbacks and used. The book that I read was loaned to me by a man whose father was a B-17 crew member in the 381st Bombardment Group at Ridgewell Air Base in England, the same Group that John Comer, the author of this book was in. They both flew 25 successful combat missions in the 'Flying Fortress.' The book is an awesome read. Being there and taking careful notes in his diary, the author was able to capture the emotions that these bomber crews felt and to translate those feelings into something that we can read and understand. However, unless you were there or have experienced combat, these emotions are impossible to comprehend in their entirety.

The chance of survival was one out of four, and the descriptions of the missions ran through a variety of emotions. Keep in mind that these young men, many in there late teens and early twenties had been rushed through training and sent right over to England and into combat. Some of the things that they faced on their arrival and in combat were: faulty oxygen equipment, temperatures of 60 degrees below zero, scary weather conditions, minimum fuel, the best fighter pilots in the Luftwaffe were continuously attacking them with cannons, rockets and machine-guns, and flak that sometimes seemed so thick that one might imagine walking on it. All this was done in an airplane that were open, without heaters, and unpressurized at altitudes where lack of oxygen for more than a few seconds meant total unconsciousness.

Near the end of the book there is a conversation between the author and some of his buddies just a day or so after completing his 25th and final mission. He was shipping out the following day. In the excerpt below is some of that conversation.

Jim looked at me, "we have talked often about mental attitude—about fear. Tell me something honestly, John—have you overcome fear in combat?"

"No. I doubt if anyone ever does completely. But starting with the way it was

when we arrived here, I have gone seventy to eighty percent of the way toward controlling it. That damn flak still bothers me at times."

"I haven't done near that well," said George. "I doubt if I have gone fifty percent of the way."

"It depends on what you mean by fear," I answered. "How do you tell when it starts and when it ends?"

"I don't follow you," Balmore said. "I'm either scared or I'm not."

"Look at it this way: you are flying along knowing that fighters are going to hit you. When? Where are they? Hope we see them in time. You build up anxiety, the first stage of fear. I wish the escort would get here before they do! We got to be careful and not let them slip in on us out of the sun! Tension builds up. There they are! About sixty of them. Where's the escort? The sensation of fear wells up. Here they come! Look at those cannon flashes! You pour burst at them and excitement crowds out fear. The adrenalin is flowing. At two hundred yards, your bursts get longer and closer together. Excitement increases. The fighters are now at one hundred yards using their full assortment of weapons at you from close range. Your bursts are three times as long as they taught you at gunners school. You do not care if the barrels burn out. You are keyed up to your maximum performance—Exhilaration! It's an emotional high that is a heady sensation unlike any other emotion you have ever experienced. A gunner could become addicted to it with enough experience. In time he may crave the kill-or-be-killed thrill as some people crave strong drugs. Maybe that's why some men become professional soldiers of fortune. Civilian life is too tame for them after years of combat and high excitement that goes with it."

There was silence for a while and Wilson said, "You're getting close, John."

This is an awesome read. I recommend reading each and every word. It describes what many of this "The Greatest Generation" went through and how many more of them didn't survive through to the end.

Two of the men that he was talking to were killed the following day. John Comer went back to the states for a while as an instructor, becoming board with that, later volunteered for more combat duty in Italy. ~ ~→

To live without risk is to risk not living. ~Brennan Manning

Do Not Be Anxious

In the middle of His Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6: 25-33 ESV, Jesus said:

“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Lack of angst in our lives is one of the great blessings of being one of Abba's born again children. It is only by faith that we receive this blessing. In America many of us have had too much stuff for too long, therefore, it may seem difficult, even for born again Christians to totally abandon the cares of this world and be totally

dependent upon our Heavenly Father. After all, He cares for and feeds the birds of the air and clothes the flowers of the field. What an enormous blessing it is to have and know a Heavenly Father who is so very fond of you and me, and knows us so intimately. In the devotional below Oswald Chambers states the not so obvious truth in a direct and simple way.

CAREFUL INFIDELITY

"Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body what ye shall put on." Matthew 6:25 KJV

Jesus sums up common-sense carefulness in a disciple as infidelity. If we have received the Spirit of God, He will press through and say - Now where does God come in in this relationship, in this mapped out holiday, in these new books? He always presses the point until we learn to make Him our first consideration. Whenever we put other things first, there is confusion.

"Take no thought . . ." don't take the pressure of forethought upon yourself. It is not only wrong to worry, it is infidelity, because worrying means that we do not think that God can look after the practical details of our lives, and it is never any thing else that worries us. Have you ever noticed what Jesus said would choke the word He puts in? The devil? No, the cares of this world. It is the little worries always. I will not trust where I cannot see, that is where infidelity begins. The only cure for infidelity is obedience to the Spirit.

The great word of Jesus to His disciples.
~Oswald Chambers

Although all men are born free, slavery has been the general lot of the human race. Ignorant—they have been cheated; asleep—they have been surprised; Divided—the yoke has been forced upon them. But what is the lesson?the people ought to be enlightened, to be awakened, to be united, that after establishing a government they should watch over it. . . .It is universally admitted that a well-instructed people alone can be permanently free.

~James Madison