

The Fading American Dream

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FOREWORD

Our national debt is over \$16 trillion...Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and Veterans benefits have a deficit of more than \$130 trillion. People who want to work can't find satisfactory jobs, our debt increases by \$4 billion every day, waste in our health care system is larger than our defense budget, and we're paying thirteen cents out of every federal dollar spent for interest. Still, most American citizens show little concern because many news sources don't report those facts and too many citizens are apathetic and don't watch or read anyway. Many American citizens assume that the USA will remain the economic power in the world without needing to put any skin in the game.

It's time for Americans citizens to understand that our freedom, which was paid for by our revolutionary patriots as well as many defenders of freedom who followed, doesn't come free. Freedom provides opportunity for all, but it doesn't just happen. Freedom requires individual responsibility and participation from all citizens or it cannot survive...the alternative is serfdom. If Americans continue to believe that Washington, DC will, or even can, solve America's problems, which they created, America will end in default.

America is bankrupt and hovering near defaulting on its debt, while Congress is impotent. The USA has evolved into a welfare state no different than France, Portugal, Greece, and Italy...yet many Americans seem to be

blinded by the promise of free stuff and don't understand how it will cause the end of America as a free nation. Maybe we'll learn something from Rome and Detroit.

This work acknowledges those old-time anonymous poets who published their work on restroom and outhouse walls in the form of poetry. It's unlikely you will see this poetry on restroom walls, but American citizens might understand the reasons for America's plight, and prosper more, if they were published there. Buy this book and paste your favorite ones on your own think-tank wall.

This book of witticisms is my effort to inform people by using some humor and pocketbook shock. I want to draw attention to the true financial condition of the USA and the reasons for it. It is my hope that enough Americans will be informed to make a difference. Some will never understand because they refuse to look...but 51 percent is enough.

AUTHOR BIO

Hello, my name is K Edwin Brandon, nicknamed Geezil. I'm an 82-year-old retired businessman who spent the last twenty years of my working life operating a tool design and manufacturing business that I started with a home-made drawing board and a \$500 limit credit card. That business grew into a successful enterprise, employing twenty-five to thirty people. Prior to that I was employed by a medium-sized tool and manufacturing company as manufacturing manager.

I have five years of military experience, serving one and a half years in the National Guard and over three years in the US Army, which included eighteen months in the Korean War. I attended business school at night for two years on the GI bill while working to support a family during the day. During that time I worked as an assembly line laborer at several companies.

During my working career I've had experiences with several labor unions. That experience, on both sides, has convinced me that union leaders have played a major role in bankrupting our nation. I have watched the demise of the USA economically and morally over the span of my lifetime, which was caused by ignoring the principles that our country was founded on. Ignoring and distorting our constitution allowed the destruction of fair competition in markets and the growth of central government way beyond the necessary services it was

originally charged with. Uncontrolled human greed has perverted our political system and has culminated in debt that will only be passed on to our grandchildren. Greed in Washington DC has caused America to return to a caste system of a ruling class that has destroyed many of our liberties.

I'm not a writer or poet, but my frustrations and concern for my country, and my grandchildren's future, have driven me to attempt to find a unique venue to help-inform many citizens who, unwittingly, are destroying America.

Contents

FOREWORD	i
AUTHOR BIO	iii
CONTENTS	v
INTRODUCTION	vii
2012 ELECTION IMPACT	1
THE AMERICAN DREAM	3
THE RULING CLASS	7
THE SKY <i>IS</i> FALLING	9
THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM (THE FED)	11
INFLATION	13
TAXATION	15
FICA	18
GOVERNMENT WASTE	20
LOBBYISTS	22
LIMITED GOVERNMENT	24
COMPETITION	26
ENERGY	28
ECONOMY	30
POLITICS	32
CAMPAIGN VOMIT	35
STOCK MARKET	37
HEALTHCARE	39
HIGHER ED	41
DEFAULT	43
LEADERSHIP	45
VOTER FRAUD	47
THE DRUG WAR	49
NEWS MEDIA	51
COMPUTERS	53

INTEGRITY	57
HISTORY	59
LIBERTY	61
SELF-DISCIPLINE	63
MEMORIAL DAY	65
LONG DIVISION	67
THE COST OF FEAR	69
THE "EXTREME COURT"	71
CITIZEN LIMERICKS	73
THE ARGUMENT FOR AMERICA	76
CONCLUSION	78

INTRODUCTION

My original plan was to publish this work in July 2012 with the hope that it might be informative to voters during the campaign season, but time constraints and limited finances intervened. The outcome of the election has removed any uncertainty as to what governmental policy will be over the next four years, which means there is still a major concern for our economy and our freedoms. I feel even more compelled to publish this work to help save us from ourselves.

The election of 2012 made it very clear that the balance of power has shifted, just as Thomas Jefferson feared it might when future politicians discover that they can use the public treasury to buy votes. We're seeing the result...more than 50 percent of the populace feeding at the trough. It's impossible for that to continue because a minority will eventually refuse to support the majority...mainly because it cannot. The result is a degrading economy that, unless we wake up, will end in default and force the USA into a long-term depression.

The most unfortunate outcome over the last four years of campaigning for reelection, which included policies to take our country further as a welfare state, is the fact that our nation's economy has been held hostage while wasting tremendous sums from our treasury. The need to deal with very urgent and important matters of economics was kicked down the road to make way for a

first priority...reelection. That probably will occur with any administration because everybody wants to be re-elected, but the last four years were extreme.

The United States has the largest economy in the world, but the debt that has been amassed makes us very vulnerable. If we do not change government policy to reduce costs for the producers in our society, we will default and take the rest of the free world down with us. **THERE IS NO FREE LUNCH!**