



American Spirit

PROTECT AMERICA



Is it the same for you when you travel around the world to be grateful to return home? Many of us take America's greatness for granted.

Our natural resources are so bountiful. Forests for lumber are in greater supply from the time the pioneers came through. Fertile land is in such abundance we are net exporters of food around the world. Our fishing industry has an enormous supply of fish, and our huge land ranges provide us with ample supply of animals. Gold mines of the past, and silver, coal mines, oil resources and other natural minerals are plentiful. We have powerful rivers to produce dams for electric power.

Our landscapes are the most spectacular vistas imaginable. Our east and west coasts, mountains, and valleys are magnificent. We are environmentally aware by enriching our soil, plant rotation, cleaning our streams and lakes, and limited hunting and fishing.

Our Founding Fathers unleashed the greatest society for freedom and independence. A man can set a goal and usually the only limit is his ability and his tenacity to reach his goal. A person from the lowest social status can reach the greatest heights in the political system. National origin, race, age and sex are not limits to a person's ambition. Diversity and culture are celebrated. Formal education is available to everyone and even loans and subsidies when there are special circumstances.

The United States has the greatest infrastructure system with telephones, super highways, bridges, tunnels, railroads and airports.

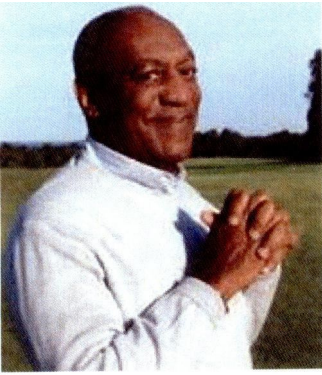
We are a kind and generous nation. Not only do we support our poor with medicine and housing but restore places of disaster in our country and around the world. The poor today, a relative concept, have households including refrigerators, televisions, automobiles, cell phones. and computers.

We can't continue to praise our country if we lack the leadership to guide our future well being. Our leaders must have core values which made our country great. The leaders must have incentives to live up to their ability. They must embrace and love America. We can only stop the looters from our greatness if we support good people of like mind. Our programs instill leaders with American stewardship. For this we need your help.

Robert J. Barbera

Chairman of the Board

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I'm 74 and I'm Tired

By Bill Cosby

I'm 74. Except for brief period in the 50's when I was doing my National Service, I've worked hard since I was 17. Except for some serious health challenges, I put in 50-hour weeks, and didn't call in sick in nearly 40 years. I made a reasonable salary, but I didn't inherit my job or my income, and I worked to get where I am. Given the economy, it looks as though retirement was a bad idea, and I'm tired. Very tired.

I'm tired of being told that I have to "spread the wealth" to people who don't have my work ethic. I'm tired of being told the government will take the money I earned, by force if necessary, and give it to people too lazy to earn it.

I'm tired of being told that Islam is a "Religion of Peace," when every day I can read dozens of stories of Muslim men killing their sisters, wives and daughters for their family "honour"; of Muslims rioting over some slight offense; of Muslims murdering Christian and Jews because they aren't "believers"; of Muslims burning schools for girls; of Muslims stoning teenage rape victims to death for "adultery"; of Muslims mutilating the genitals of little girls; all in the name of Allah, because the Qur'an and Shari'a law tells them to.

I'm tired of being told that out of "tolerance for other cultures" we must let Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries use our oil money to fund mosques and mandrassa Islamic schools to preach hate in Australia, New Zealand, UK, America and Canada, while no one from these countries are allowed to fund a church, synagogue or religious school in Saudi Arabia or any other Arab country to teach love and tolerance.

I'm tired of being told I must lower my living standard to fight global warming, which no one is allowed to debate.

I'm tired of being told that drug addicts have a disease, and I must help support and treat them, and pay for the damage they do. Did a giant germ rush out of a dark alley, grab them, and stuff white powder up their noses or stick a needle in their arm while they tried to fight it off?

I'm tired of hearing wealthy athletes, entertainers and politicians of all parties talking about innocent mistakes, stupid mistakes or youthful mistakes, when we all know they think their only mistake was getting caught. I'm tired of people with a sense of entitlement, rich or poor.

I'm really tired of people who don't take responsibility for their lives and actions I'm tired of hearing them blame the government, or discrimination or big-whatever for their problems. I'm also tired and fed up with seeing young men and women in their teens and early 20's with excuses.

Cal State Northridge's Nationally Ranked Forensics Program

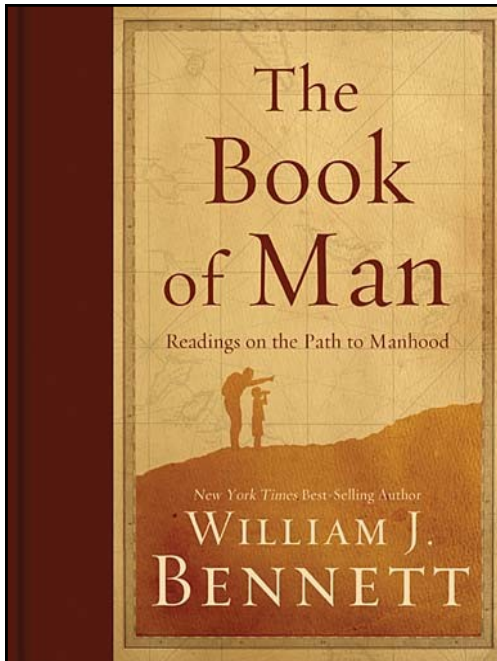


The *Americanism Educational Leaders* held its most recent Luncheon at California State University Northridge hosted for the benefit of the Forensics/Debate team which we are proud supporters. It is one of the most prominent Forensic/Debate Departments throughout the nation. Striving to excel in a broad range of competitive speaking events, from dramatic interpretation to limited preparation speeches to parliamentary debate and policy debate. They have grown tremendously under the director of the program, John M. Kephart (pictured above right), who *AEL* works closely with to sponsor international debates which have proven to be very successful.

Through the Forensics Program students are able to build skills in civil discourse and debate. The program empowers under-graduates from across the campus with ability to best present themselves, their ideas and points of view.

Book Review: The Book of Man By William Bennett

Review by Mike Robinson



Conservative leader William Bennett employs anecdotes, essays, historical illustrations, and current outlines in order to teach the reader what it is to be a real man. Forming a man from a boy is more difficult now than ever; numerous men live their lives pursuing vain, empty, and purposeless activities as they often neglect the deep profound things that make one a true man. And in *The Book of Man* Bennett patiently admonishes American men concerning their identity predicament: “We need to bring that word ‘virtues’ back and put the word ‘values’ on the shelf. We have a man problem in American society, and we need to address it.”

The Book of Man aims to help teach boys and men crucial lessons on the route to becoming a man.

Bennett employs statistics to make his point: The proportion of women to men at the start of college (55% female, 45 % male) rises by the time of graduation to 62 % female, 38 % male; additionally the difficulty is worse at black colleges, where the graduation proportion is 70 % female, and 30 % male. Men ought to aim to live a more robust life: intellectually, spiritually, and in leadership roles.

This is a very handsome book, large and lovely, that addresses a needed topic in a very practical and readable way. Great for pastors, fathers, mothers, and teachers.

Life Is Choices

By Robert Barbera

The past has a way of repeating itself Whatever has happened will return in another way and perhaps in another name.

Fortunately, there are choices to be made. Choices are opportunities which result in a positive or negative outcome. The end result will likely be repeated providing the conditions and the choices are the same.

The reaction to a choice requires a universal test which is how others are affected. The hopeful expectation is harmony.

Core values enrich society. Acts of sincere kindness, gracious generosity, and respect for others builds character.

Patience and tolerance with reasonable expectations need to be mutually respected.

Productive activity such as learning, planning, organizing, fabricating when consistent, brings its just reward.

Combining independence with interdependence is a positive relationship for accomplishment.

Preparing for the future to alleviate difficult consequences for yourself and others leads to contentment.

Accepting the conditions and circumstances of others will alleviate one's frustration.

Advice given can best be accepted when the advisor is credible by his actions and choices.

Understanding yourself and maximizing wise choices brings peace of mind.



The Tipping Point

By William A. Borst, Ph.D.

According to blogger Henry Makow, the more America becomes liberal, the more it becomes susceptible to solipsism. This word was coined in 1874 from the Latin word *solus*, which means alone and *ipse*, which means self. In common usage it means a self-created reality that has little or no connection with Truth. As American society has turned more to the left, its political and religious leaders have increasingly strayed from the real world of responsibility and fatal consequence.

Some leaders of our country have shown little pride in American heritage and a great deal of disdain. Conservative columnist Charles Krauthammer, who analyzed the ideology in the speech *The New Liberalism the End of American Ascendancy*, asserts that America's power is rooted in a conviction that America is so intrinsically flawed and congenitally sinful that it cannot be trusted with, and does not merit, the possession of overarching world power. Liberal fiscal policies of punitive taxation, profligate spending and erosion of cultural mores with regard to sex, marriage, drug use, illegal immigration, and health care have already exacted a high toll on American culture. These policies have mired the country in the throes of an optical illusion that has distorted the American reality. They have created an unrecognizable America that has turned its back on freedom and responsibility.

In the last three years, feckless leadership and with a belligerent attitude toward the eternal values that once reigned in the United States, our decline has accelerated. Americans are waking up to the fact that this solipsistic leadership wants America to be more like Europe. Most Americans flatly reject the ideas of European Social Democracy. They refuse to follow the European Union down the same tumultuous path and become more like France or even worse, Sweden.

America has reached its tipping point. The gravity of the financial situation has created a new American crucible, making it clear that the 2012 election will be the greatest test America has seen since 1787. The 1st Great Debate, after our country was established, which took approximately 112 years, deliberated over what kind of country American would be—a strong nation with a big government, or a modest country with a small government.

In the ensuing 112 years America has seen its power, its future and its reputation slowly diminished by both internal influences and philosophical thinking that runs counter to its original vision. America's politicians have squandered the values and the constitutional principles that characterized American exceptionalism. The 2nd Great Debate now underscores the unenviable choice between the forces of entitlement and fiscal unsustainability and a dedication to reasonable and responsible government.

In the present course of using executive orders the creation of dozens of personal Czars and the use of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to legislate the ominous Cap and Trade bill makes it imperative to make a change or, America will more than likely sink to the ocean floor of history with the other failed hegemony of history such as Greece, imperial Rome and Great Britain.

Higher Education, Great Books and the Understanding of America



As unfashionable as it may be in higher education, I take it for granted in this short piece that there are such things as *great books* and that we have much to learn from the reading and discussion of these books. By *great books* I mean those books which have helped form and shape Western civilization, which have stood the test of time, and which touch profoundly and eloquently on the questions which all men and women face no matter when or where they live. My intention here is to give a few illustrations of how such books can help us better understand and more deeply appreciate America.

Let us begin with AEL's commitment *"to instill in our students the core principles that guided America's Founding Fathers in the establishment of the Republic."* A careful study of modern political philosophers like Hobbes and Locke, whose work was influential in the founding, can help us understand the important role of *rights* in the formation of our country. The study of the founding documents themselves, including the *Declaration*, the *Articles of Confederation*, the *Constitution*, and many of the *Federalist Papers* reminds us of the importance of limited government and of an educated and virtuous citizen. Alexander Hamilton, for example, wrote in *Federalist 68* that *"nothing is more to be desired [in the appointment of the chief executive] than that every practicable obstacle should be opposed to cabal, intrigue, and corruption ... the most deadly adversaries of republican government ... "*

The speeches of Abraham Lincoln are very much worth studying and shed considerable light on the nature of the American republic. Notable among them are the *Cooper Union Address*, the *House Divided Speech*, the *First and Second Inaugurals*, the *Gettysburg Address*, and the sixth and seventh of Lincoln's debates with Stephen Douglas.

Much can be learned about America by considering the great tradition of moral and political philosophy left to us by the Greeks, Romans, and medieval philosophers and theologians. Plato's monumental work on the nature of justice and the fragility of our political arrangements—the *Republic*—is of fundamental importance, as are Aristotle's transcendently great moral and political works, in which he argued for the benefits of a *"mixed regime"* much like our own, a regime combining democratic, aristocratic, and monarchical elements. The study of Plato and Aristotle prepares the way for the study of Aquinas and his conviction that the divine and natural laws are the only appropriate basis for human law and government.

Recognizing this important truth, Jefferson himself wrote in the Declaration, *"When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political*

bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them ... " and, further, *"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 ... "*

Returning for a moment to Lincoln, his agreement with the thought of Aquinas is evident from certain of his writings and speeches. Discussing the basic principles of republican society, he wrote in 1847: *"In the early days of the world, the Almighty said to the first of our race 'In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread,' " and since then "no good thing has been, or can be enjoyed by us, without having first cost labor." It followed that "[all] such things of right belong to those whose labor has produced them."* Lincoln continued, *"throughout history some have labored, and others have, without labor, enjoyed a large proportion of the fruits. This is wrong, and should not continue. "*

Mindful of Jefferson's words in the Declaration, Lincoln went on to write, *"If the negro is a man, why then my ancient faith teaches me that 'all men are created equal ': and that there can be no more moral right in connection with one man's making a slave of another ... "* The natural law tendency of Lincoln's thought is perhaps clearest in this excerpt from one of his debates with Douglas in 1858. Arguing against Douglas' claim that the doctrine of popular sovereignty implies that individuals have a right to slaves if they want them, Lincoln said, *"So they have if it is not a wrong. But if it is a wrong, he cannot say people have a right to do wrong."*

In addition to the great thinkers already mentioned, the Roman histories of Livy, Tacitus, and Plutarch provide us with inspiring accounts of how a republican form of government can come to be, but also with sobering accounts of how a republican form of government can slowly become tyrannical and finally be lost altogether.

I must say, too, that to better understand the times in which we live, it is important to study modern thinkers with a more collectivist orientation, like Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, Marx and Engels so that we might be better equipped for the vital task of understanding and responding to the political and philosophical challenges we face today

Many other examples could be given of how great books can help us understand America and the ways in which America is exceptional. Great books education is education in citizenship and, as such, is vital to the preservation of our Republic. In these days of cultural relativism and the general weakening of educational standards and expectations, great books education should be fostered and preserved wherever possible.

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Transportation Terminal at Ground Zero, NY



America's greatness is adequately expressed at Ground Zero. New structures are replacing the Twin Towers including commercial structures, memorial sites, and this soaring design envisioned for the future railroad terminal.

The new design so aptly expresses the wings of an eagle to soar higher and higher for America's triumph.

Designed by Santiago Calatrava