

The Erosion of Our Founding Principles

James Keena

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Our Founding Principles are Under Assault

- It's not enough to just say "Yea Constitution!" anymore
- Entire generations have been programmed to shun it:
 - Written 200 years ago by old, white, slave-holding patriarchs
 - Irrelevant for today's issues and context
- We are losing the political culture war – badly!
 - Battles are being won by media, schools, Big Tech, and pop culture
 - Shifting from freedom from coercion to freedom from responsibility
- Need to move beyond flag-waving and slogans to deeper principles
- Today's discussion is about two of the most important principles

1. “We Hold These Truths to be Self-Evident”

- “We Hold These Truths to be Self-Evident” was the most profound political statement in history:
 - The birth of America: Not just a rebel uprising, but a revolution in political and moral thinking
 - Eight simple words shredded the entire sordid history of political philosophy
 - Eight simple words defined everything about the new American spirit
 - It introduced the concept of the Sovereign Individual
 - It rejected the subservience of common people to their governments
 - W. Cleon Skousen: “It was a 5,000-year leap”
- I’m going to break this phrase into four pieces and explain why Jefferson’s concise interpretation of Locke was so brilliant

“We”

- For the first time, common people formed a new nation
 - Not the kings, generals, or bishops
 - All earlier revolutions merely exchanged one set of tyrants for another
- “We” revolted against history’s fundamental political dictums:
 - That certain Elites have dominion over the rest of us
 - That common people are merely pawns for the Elites
- “We” announced ourselves as Sovereign Individuals:
 - We each own our lives and that which our lives produce
 - We declared our intention to govern ourselves
 - We didn’t ask for permission from any Elite
- “We” redefined government: “Of the people, by the people, and for the people.”

Where do “We” Stand Today?

- We stand in the shadow of a massive federal government
- Our lives are controlled by an unaccountable Administrative State
- Our Constitution is largely ignored by all branches of the government
- The Sovereign Individual is being crushed by a new culture of Collectivism
- Younger generations are comfortable submitting to the Elites
 - Climate Change
 - Social Justice
- Our government is now of the Elites, by the Elites, and for the Elites
- “We” are in big trouble.

“Hold”

- The 18th Century forged a new American mind and culture:
 - Faced the hardships of pioneering a harsh new continent
 - Observed the tyranny at home, around the world, and throughout history
 - Influenced by 100 years of new political thought emerging at home and abroad
- The 1776 revolution was not just a change in leadership, it was a clean slate upon which to **write our own vision** (Constitution)
- We came to **“hold”** the principles in the Declaration with passion:
 - We were Americans in heart, soul, and mind, not by blood or birth
 - Our ancestors risked their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor
- What we came to **“hold”** is called **“American Exceptionalism”**

What Do We “Hold” Today?

- American culture is brutally fractured:
 - Our True North principles are being replaced by moral relativism
 - Our Constitution is under siege by Leftists
 - Identity Politics and Class Warfare are destroying our unity
- We’re fragmenting into two separate nations:
 - Everyone is choosing sides (the media, the generations, etc.)
 - Our partisan politicians are unable to collaborate
 - There is blood in our streets
- The “glue” of American Exceptionalism has been replaced by:
 - Group Grievances stirred for political gain
 - Subversive forces in our society (BLM, Antifa, Socialism, Deep State)
 - A “cold” civil war?

“Truths”

- The Declaration was based on objective truths:
 - We blew the pixie dust of the Elites from our eyes
 - We shunned eons of traditions, mythologies, and ideologies
- It was guided by facts, reason, and logic, which all pointed to **Individual Sovereignty and Self-Government**
 - All people are created **equal**
 - We are endowed with the unalienable **rights** to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
 - To secure these rights, we institute governments that derive their powers only from our **consent**
 - If our governments become abusive, we can **alter or abolish** them
- Reduced to four words of “Truth”: **Equality, Rights, Consent, and Revolution**
- **New age of politics: Free minds, free markets, and free people.**

What are the “Truths” Today?

- Truth has become tribalized:
 - Facts are interpreted in opposite ways by the two main tribes
 - When objective truth dies, people fall back to tribal assumptions
- Truth has become obscured by ideology:
 - The **Cancel Culture** is policing current ideological trends
 - **Critical Race Theory** is rewriting American history
 - **White Privilege** is intended to make us doubt our convictions
 - **“Science”** has become just another expression of partisan ideology
- This is being done intentionally:
 - To cast doubt on the old Truths of individual sovereignty and freedom
 - To pave the way for the new Truths of collectivism
 - **Because our traditional “Truths” are incompatible with Socialism**

“Self-Evident”

- To live safely, collaboratively, and freely, we do not need:
 - Elites and academicians who indoctrinate us with obtuse philosophies
 - Aristocrats and idols who awe us with their eminence and wealth
 - Charismatic leaders who dazzle us with partisan ideologies
- Our freedom comes from “the laws of Nature and Nature’s God”:
 - Our natural rights are self-evident through our own sense and reason
 - Reality can be readily understood by all people regardless of education
 - Jefferson: “It is universally obvious that people are not born with saddles on their backs, nor are others born booted and spurred to ride them.”
- The **results** created by the principles in our *Declaration* are so **obvious** that people from around the world risk their lives to join us

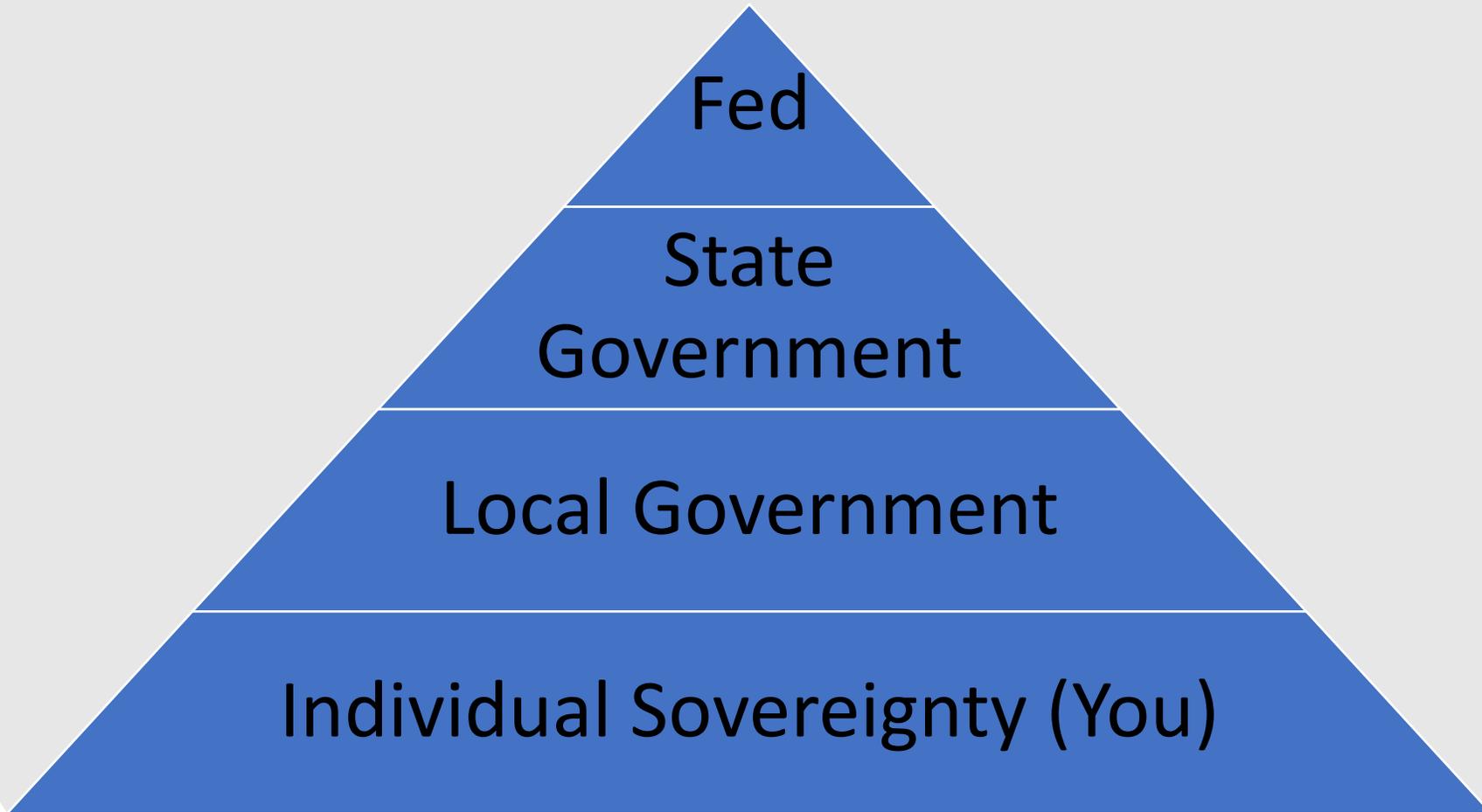
What is “Self-Evident” Now?

- Our information sources are disinforming and censoring us:
 - The Big Tech companies are clouding reality with:
 - Search engine manipulation
 - Censorship (e.g., Prager U)
 - Shadow banning
 - “Fact-checking” that is really partisan contortion
 - Flushing uncomfortable truth down the Orwellian Memory Hole
 - The Big Media push fake news, misleading stats, and altered images
 - Leftist politicians blatantly lie, because Big Media will cover for them
 - The public schools are indoctrinating our children with falsehoods
 - The universities are charging \$50K/year to brainwash our kids
 - It’s getting very hard to latch onto reality. This is by design.

2. Balance of Powers

- This issue defines the framework of the Constitution
- Limiting the power of government and Elites is the biggest challenge of humankind:
 - There is a perpetual urge for the Elite Few to grab power from the Rest
- The Founders feared Tyranny **and** Pure Democracy:
 - Pure Democracy is the Tyranny of the Majority
 - Minorities and individuals (the smallest minority) are helpless against it
 - The word “Democracy” is never mentioned in the *Declaration* or the *Constitution*
 - America is a Constitutional Republic
 - It is not anarchy (some power must be given to government)
- The Balance of Powers begins with Subsidiarity and Individual Sovereignty (see next slide)

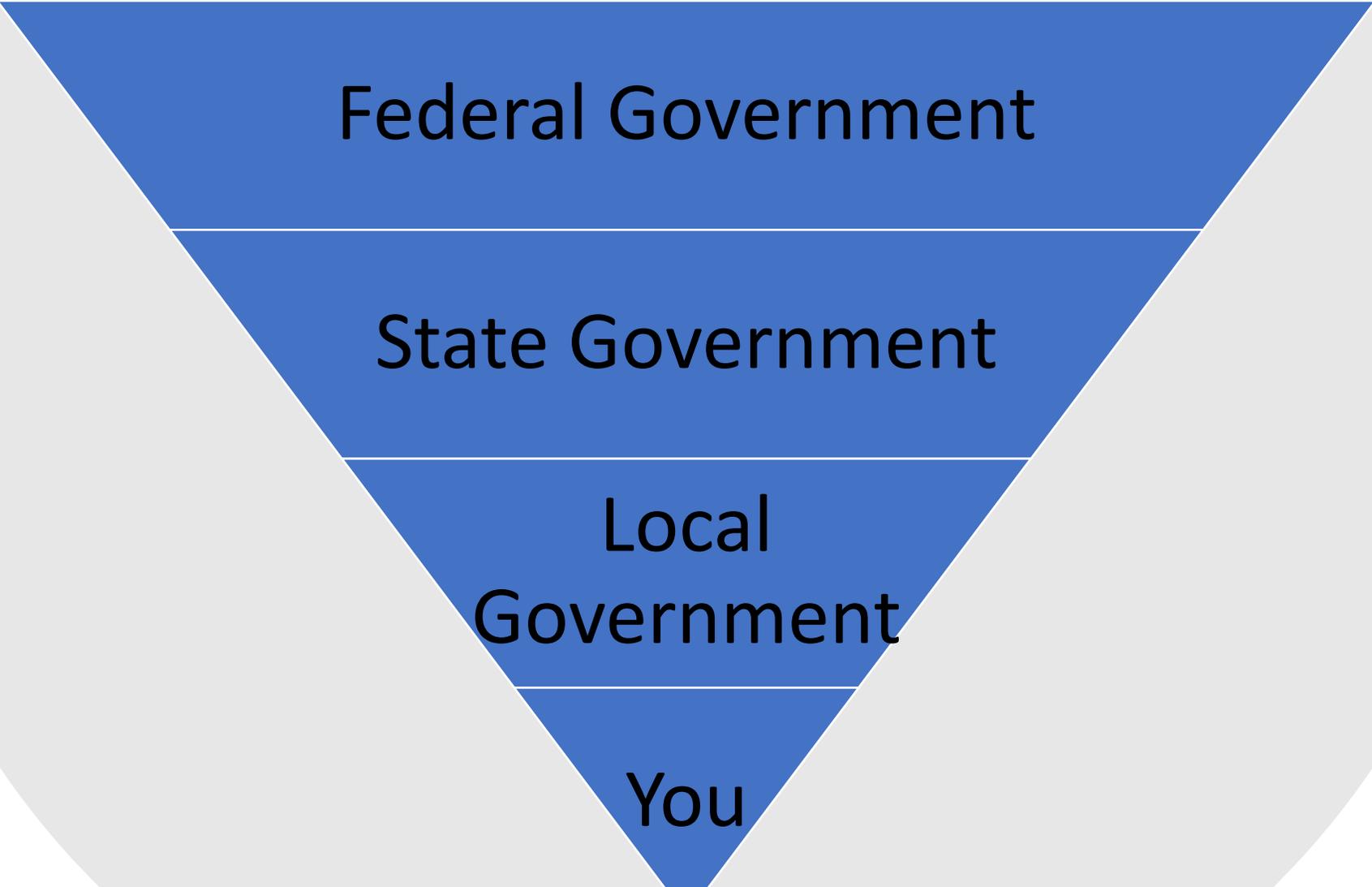
“Limited Government” Pyramid of Power



How the Founders Balanced Power

- Written Constitution with limits on government, not people
- Federalism (States Rights with limited federal power)
- Three co-equal branches of government (checks and balances)
- Bicameral Legislature (House and Senate) – two “gates” for new laws
- Filibuster power in the Senate (supermajority) – another “gate”
- Veto power of the President – another “gate”
- Independent Judiciary with lifetime appointments (not beholden to voters or appointers) to judge laws against the Constitution
- Ultimate powers of the people:
 - Elections (the right to change course within the social compact)
 - Constitutional Amendments (the right to alter the social compact)
 - Revolution (the right to abolish the social compact)

Today's Pyramid of Power (Unfortunately)



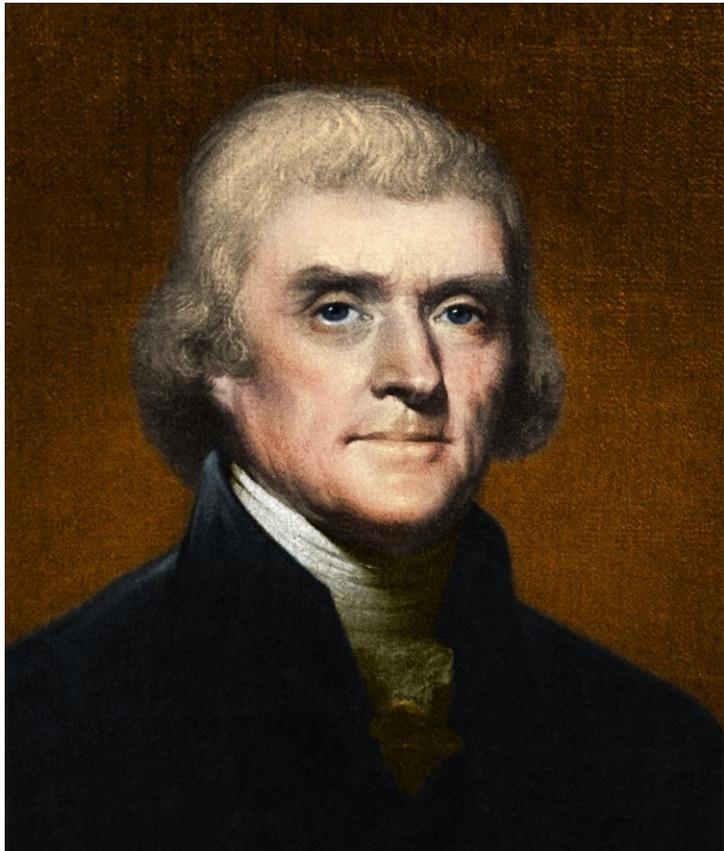
Federal Government

State Government

Local
Government

You

We're Losing...But It's Not Over



- **Bill Clinton:** “We have won the great culture war that has divided America for 40 years.”
- **Thomas Jefferson:** “A little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical.”
- What would the **Founders** be contemplating right about now?

How Do We Fix This?

- Term limits for all politicians at all levels
- Limit corruption of politicians:
 - Audit their personal finances before, during, and after office
 - Ban all politicians from soliciting or lobbying after office
- Hard Limit on the Federal budget – 10% of GDP?
- Defang the **Fourth** Branch (the Administrative State)
 - Starve it of money
 - Term limits for bureaucrats
- Defang the **Fifth** Branch (complicit sectors of society)
 - Big Tech – Break up the monopolies and make them publishers, not platforms
 - Big Media – Boycott traditional media and support alternative media
 - **Public Schools – See next slide**

First Step: Radically Change Education

- The public schools and universities are a generational breeding ground for this cultural disaster
- Need to end the statist/elitist control of K-12 education:
 - Eliminate the federal Department of Education
 - End the coercive power of the Teachers Unions and related tenure
 - Let the funding follow the student to wherever the parents decide
 - Remove all obstacles to private schooling and home schooling
 - Eliminate Common Core and any other national/ideological programs
- End government subsidies for college education (including loans):
 - The subsidies skew the cost/benefit of college and the degrees
 - Re-emphasize technical degrees and skilled trades
 - Move toward online (distributed) education – break up the hot spots of indoctrination



TRUTH

IT'S THE NEW HATE SPEECH

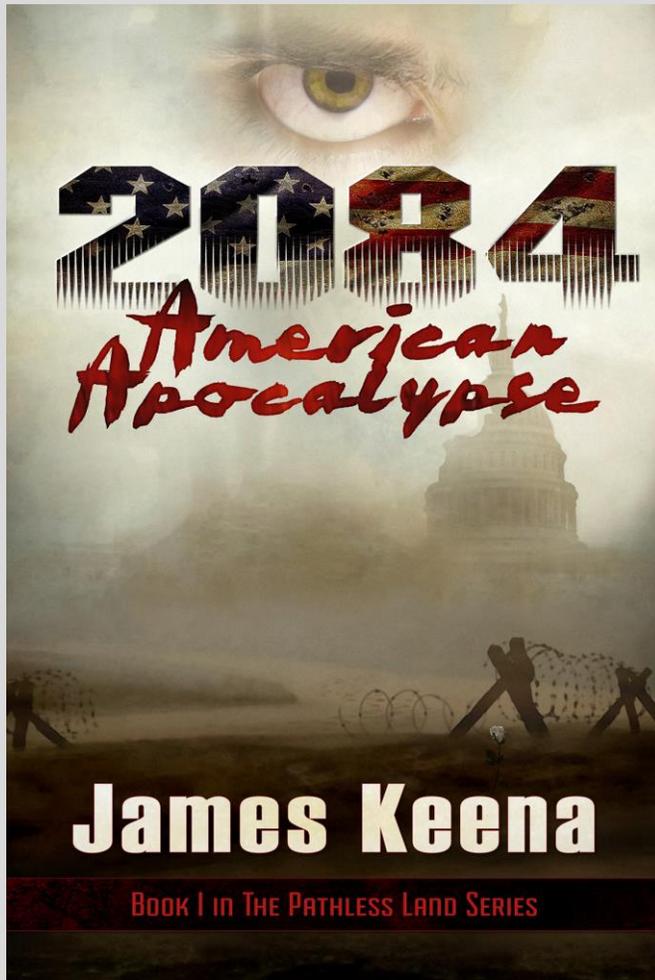
“DURING TIMES OF
UNIVERSAL DECEIT...”

“...TELLING THE TRUTH BECOMES A
REVOLUTIONARY ACT.”

The Media
won't help,
so it's up to
us

Silence is
Surrender

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 - www.jameskeena.com
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