

# Our States, Our Rights

*Educate, Elect, Energize, Engage*

Part One

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# Agenda

- Problem Statement
- The Collapse of Federalism
- Washington: Where the Constitution is Ignored
- States' Rights: Our Last Hope
- Preview of Part Two: Conceptual Action Plan
- Next Steps
- Assignments
- Q & A

# Problem Statement

- American culture is changing from one of individual sovereignty and freedom to one of collective action and obedience to authority and “experts”
- Government is increasingly seen as the agent of this cultural shift rather than as the protector of life, liberty, and property
- Consequently, federal government spending and control are continually increasing
- We now live in a Post-Constitutional society in which a hyper-active bureaucracy in Washington has broken its chains.
- We need a viable strategy to recover our rights and freedoms

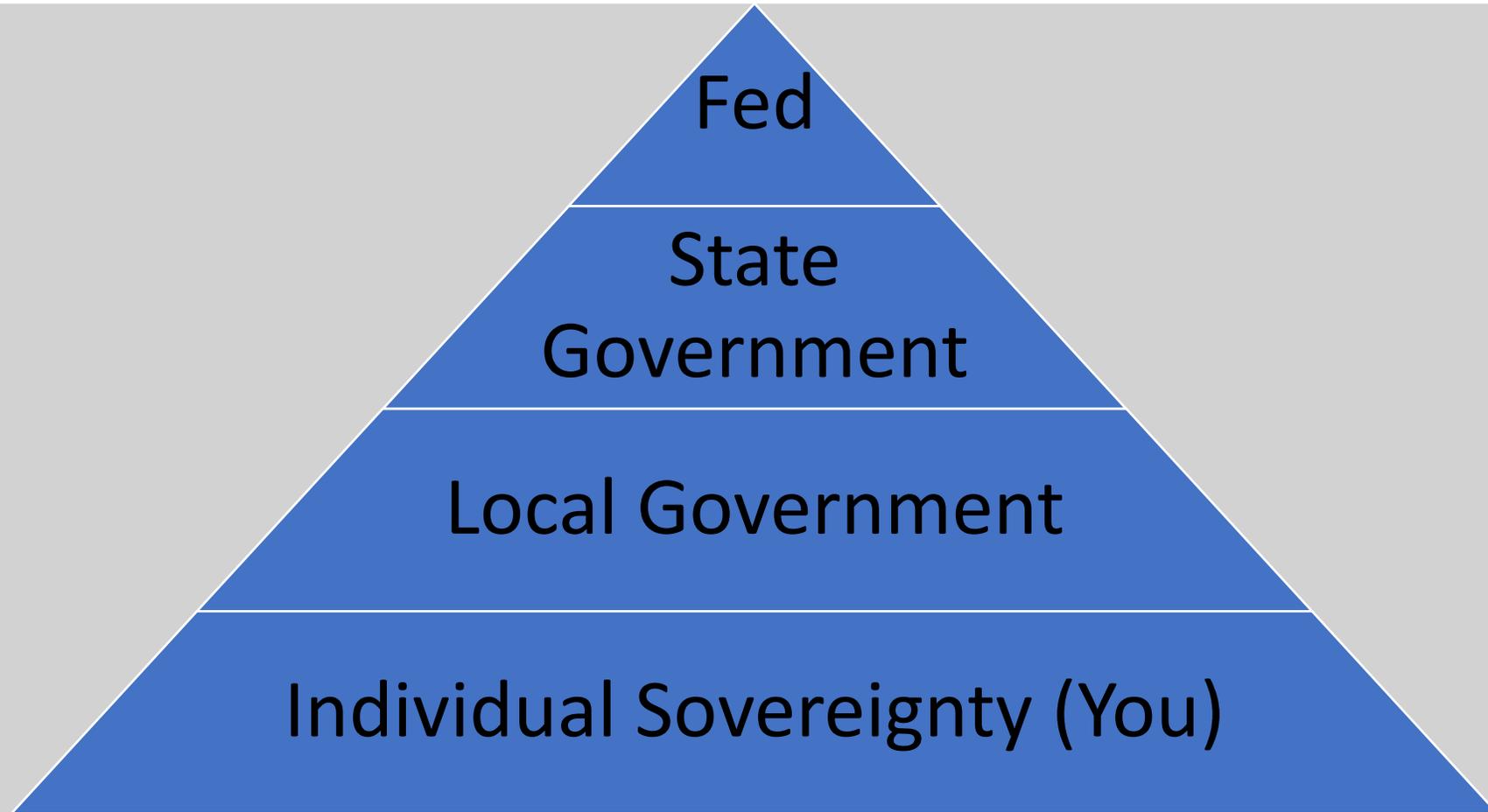
# The Big Issue the Founders Wrestled With

- Our revolution was not so much a physical one as a philosophical one:
  - The individual became the source and object of political power, rather than the government
  - We not only rejected the King and Parliament, we rejected all centralized control
- The Founders believed that the biggest threat to our new individual sovereignty was a strong central government
- The individual states, however, saw some value in uniting politically into a federation (Federalism):
  - Common defense
  - Engagement with foreign governments (treaties, ambassadors)
  - Facilitating commerce
  - Protection of liberty
- Thus, it was vital to find a way to protect the rights of individuals and states from a limited federal government

# Solution: Constitutional Checks and Balances

- The Constitution is essentially a set of checks and balances crafted by the states to limit the power of the federal government:
  - Powers of the federal government are enumerated (and few)
  - Three separate branches: Legislature, Executive, Judicial
  - Bicameral legislature:
    - The House represents the interests of the general population
    - The Senate represents the interests of the states
  - Executive veto and override
  - Federalism (a federation of sovereign states)
  - Principle of Subsidiarity:
    - Individuals are sovereign and therefore the basis of all political power
    - Pyramid of Power diagram (next slide)

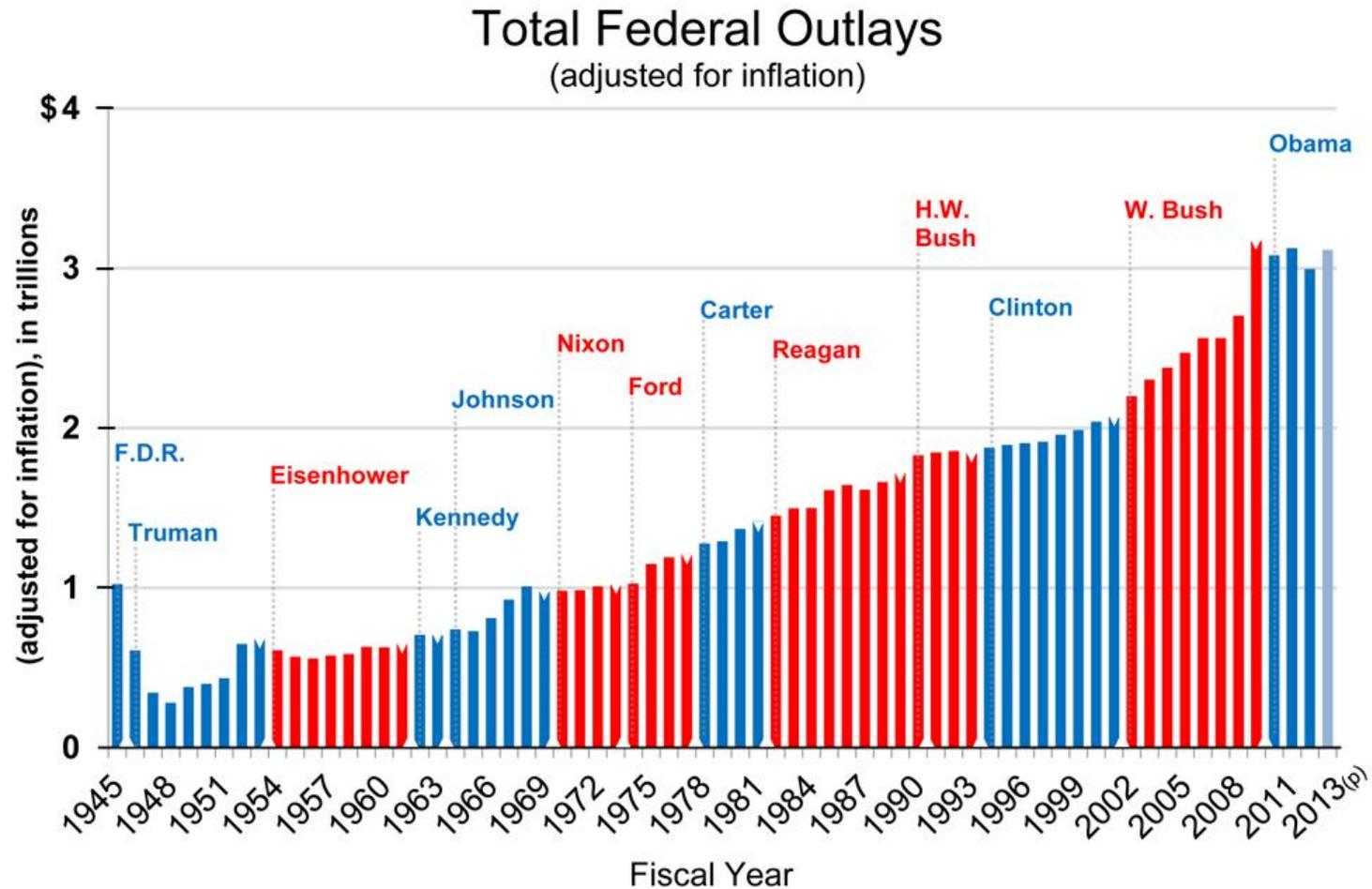
# Limited Government “Pyramid of Power”



# Unfortunately, the Checks and Balances Failed

- The federal government has grown exponentially over time
  - Its spending has skyrocketed
  - It has usurped enormous power from the states (and individuals)
  - See the following two slides

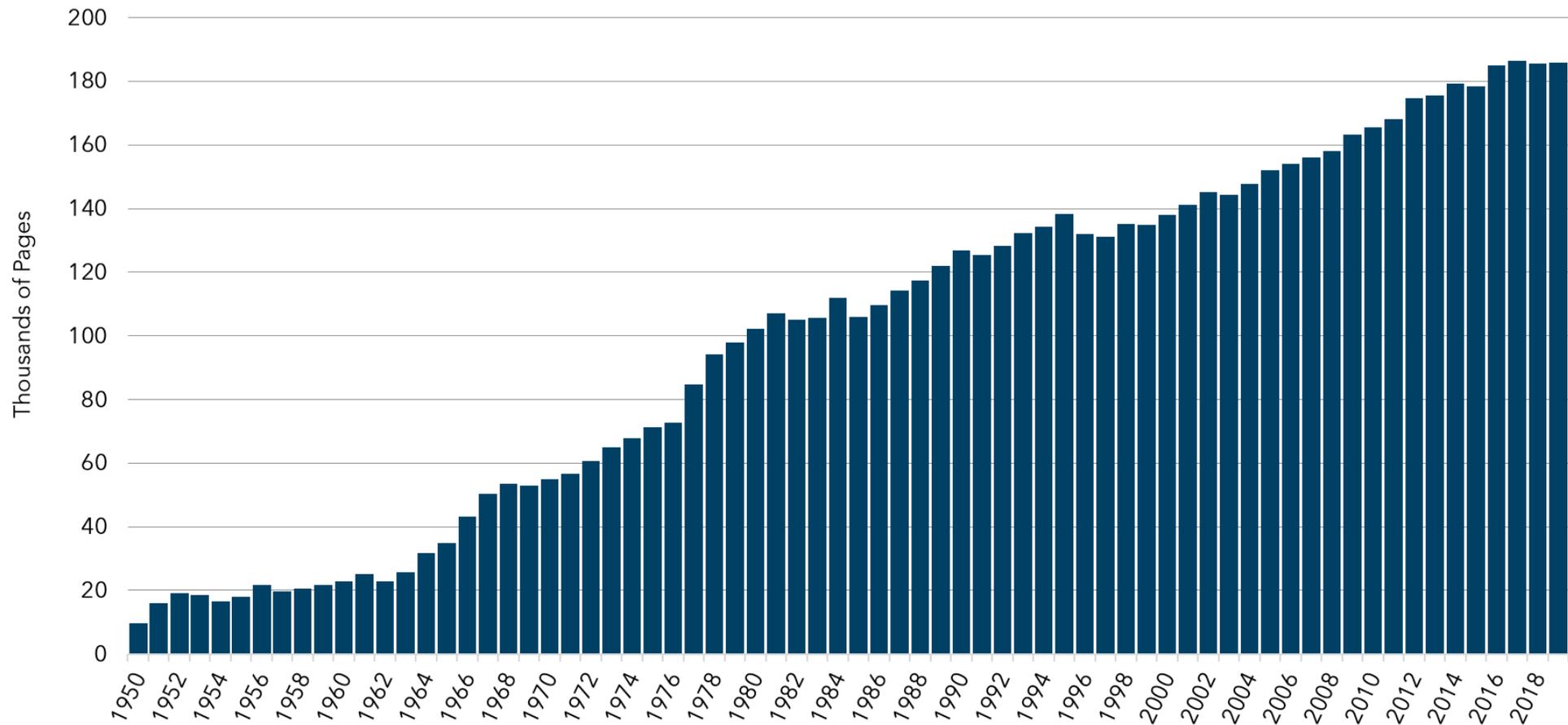
# Federal Spending since WWII



Source: Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Treasury Department.  
Data Note: All figures use real 2005 dollars, as calculated by the OMB.  
Produced by Veronique de Rugy, Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

# Federal Regulations since WWII

Total Pages Published in the Code of Federal Regulations  
(1950-2019)



# Key Milestones in the Growth of Federal Power

- The Civil War and Reconstruction dealt a harsh blow to state's rights
- Federal Reserve Act: Unlimited printing of money and QE
- 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment: Unlimited source of federal income
- FDR's New Deal: Dependence on federal hand-outs and programs
- Wickard Supreme Court Case: Regulation of all commerce
- LBJ's Great Society: More entitlements and programs
- Obamacare: More federal control and entitlements
- Covid-19: Individual rights mean nothing during a crisis
- Climate Change: Federal control over *everything*

# Key Points About this Growth

- Political power has a “ratchet function” – it only works in one direction, which is to augment itself
  - Lawmakers live to make laws
  - Politicians are funded by lobbyists and promise to spend taxpayer money on more government programs in exchange for votes
- This is the secret of Progressivism and the Achilles Heel of pure democracy
- Once the federal government is accepted as the fixer of all things, it controls all things
- Once the federal government controls all things, individuals and states control nothing
- The federal government can essentially do anything it pleases now
- Most of the Constitution has been defanged

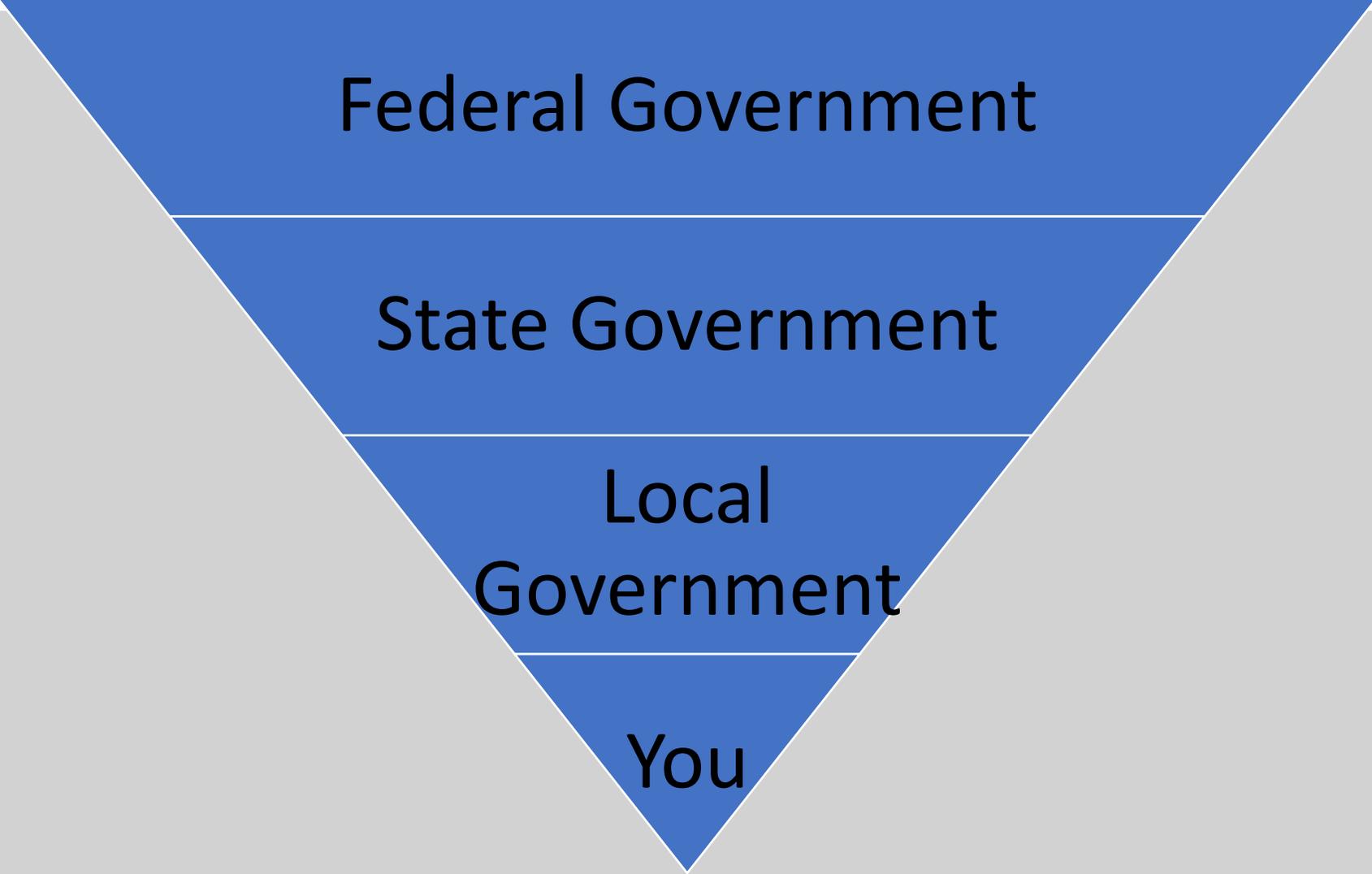
# Ways the Federal Government has Overstepped its Bounds

- Covid mandates, lockdowns, and control over care solutions
- Wealth transfers from state-to-state and person-to-person
- Education coercion: CRT, Common Core, Student loans
- National control of healthcare
- Block grants with coercive strings attached
- Interfering in interstate commerce (e.g., energy)
- Using the FBI and Homeland security to squelch internal dissent
- Extranational subservience (UN, Paris Climate Accord, WHO, IMF, World Bank, etc.)

# More Federal Over-Stepping Being Proposed

- Replacing the Electoral College with National Popular Vote
- Allocating Senators by population rather than by state
- Eliminating the filibuster
- Making DC and/or Puerto Rico states
- Reparations
- “Build Back Better”
- Federalizing election laws
- Voting rights for illegal immigrants
- Packing the Supreme Court
- More reliance on Executive Orders, unelected bureaucrats, and “experts” (“follow the government-approved scientists” rather than “follow the Constitution”)
- Free college, Medicare for All, and other equity-of-outcome programs
- The list of past, present, and future usurpations is endless

# Unlimited Government “Pyramid of Power”



Federal Government

State Government

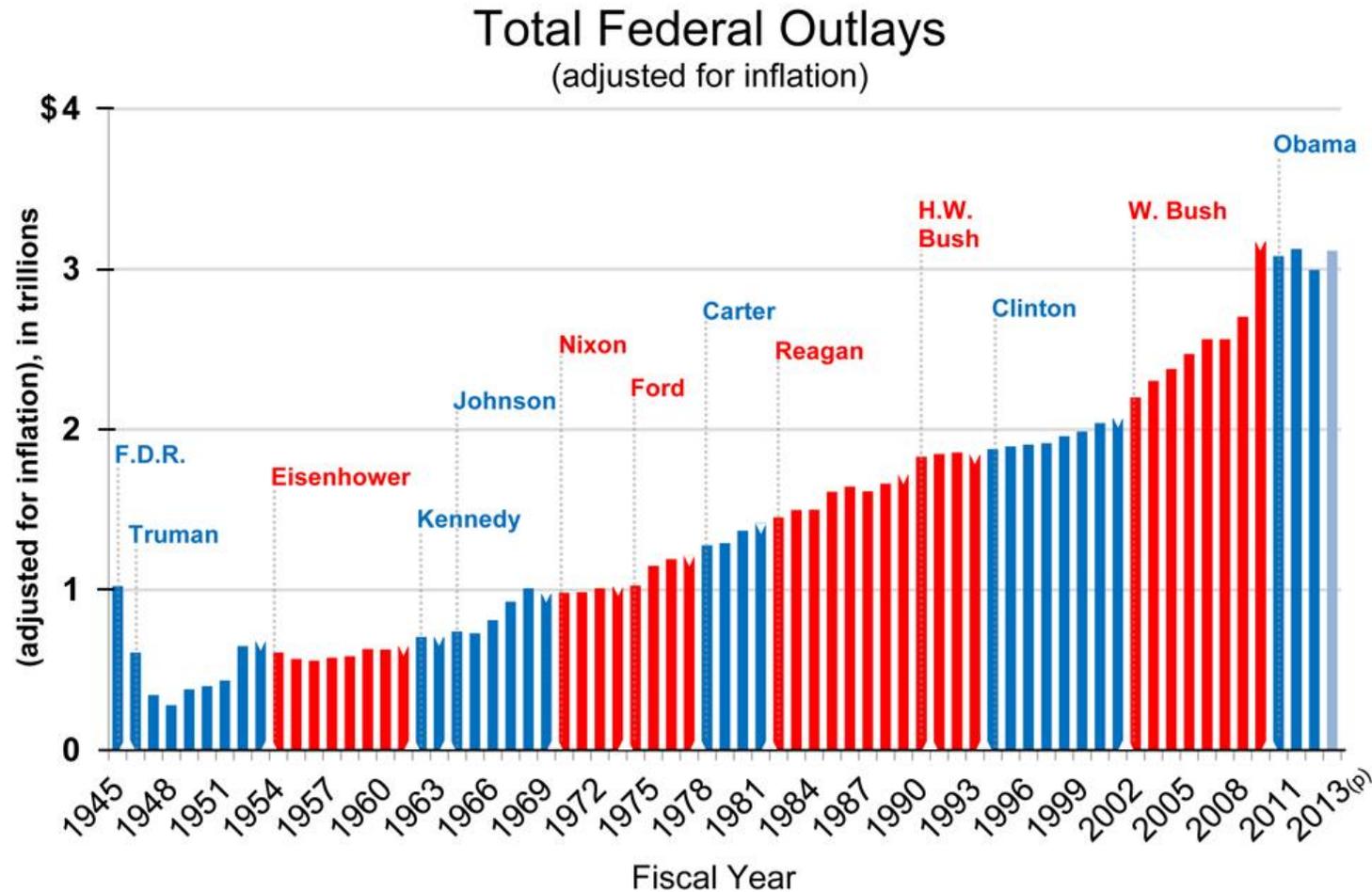
Local  
Government

You

# Merely Electing “R’s” in Washington Won’t Fix the Problem

- Most of the national candidates from both parties are:
  - Beholden to the Elites and their corporate and cultural allies that orbit DC
  - Mired in the Swamp as part of the problem rather than as part of the solution
  - It is difficult to believe anything that comes out of Washington now
- Electing national Republicans might slow the demise, but...
  - They won’t stop it or reverse it
  - When “R’s” have national power, they tread water (the Ratchet Effect)
  - We have to break out of the Ratchet Effect with a real solution at some point
  - The Republican timidity after the Tea Party movement was gut-wrenching
- Let’s look at two earlier graphs again to see if electing national Republicans makes any difference...

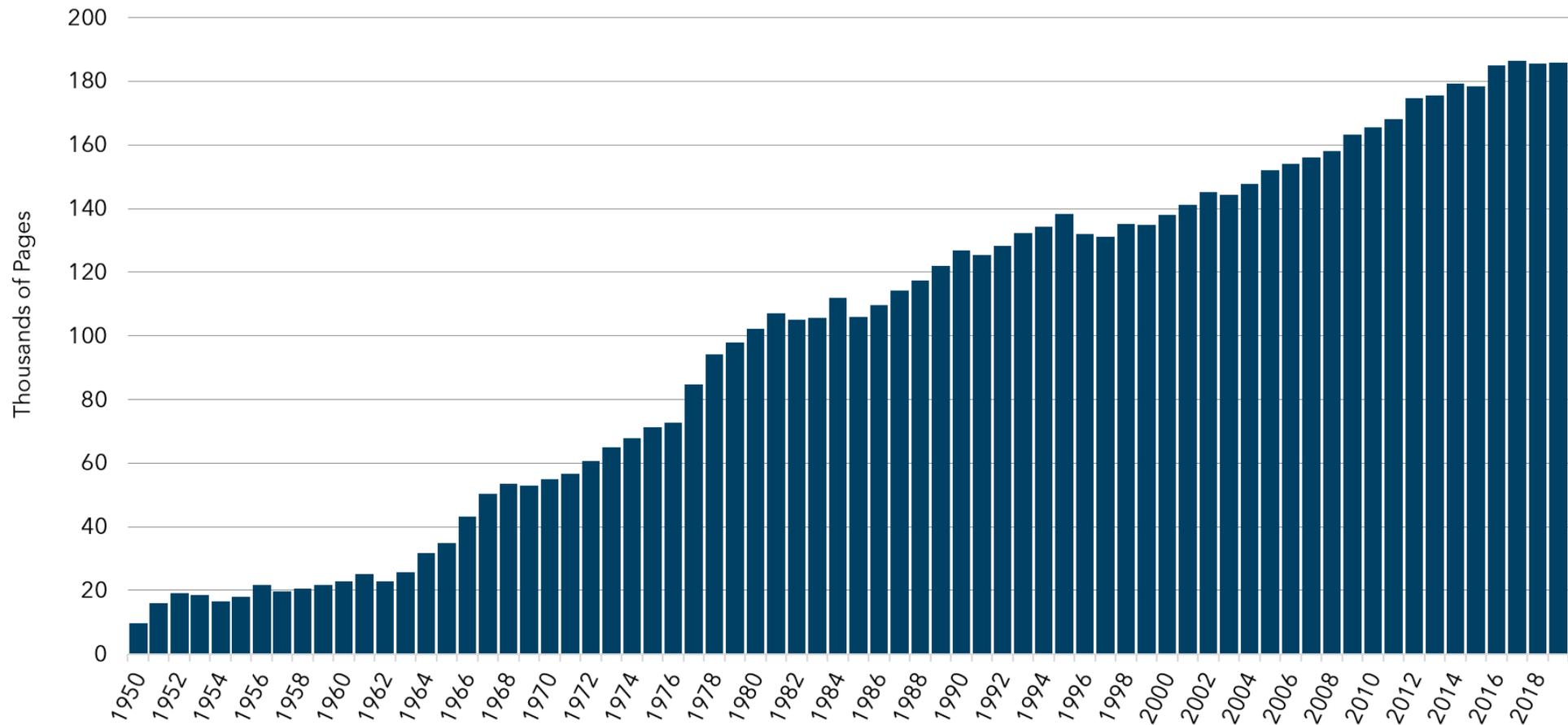
# Spending: Difference Between “R’s” and “D’s”?



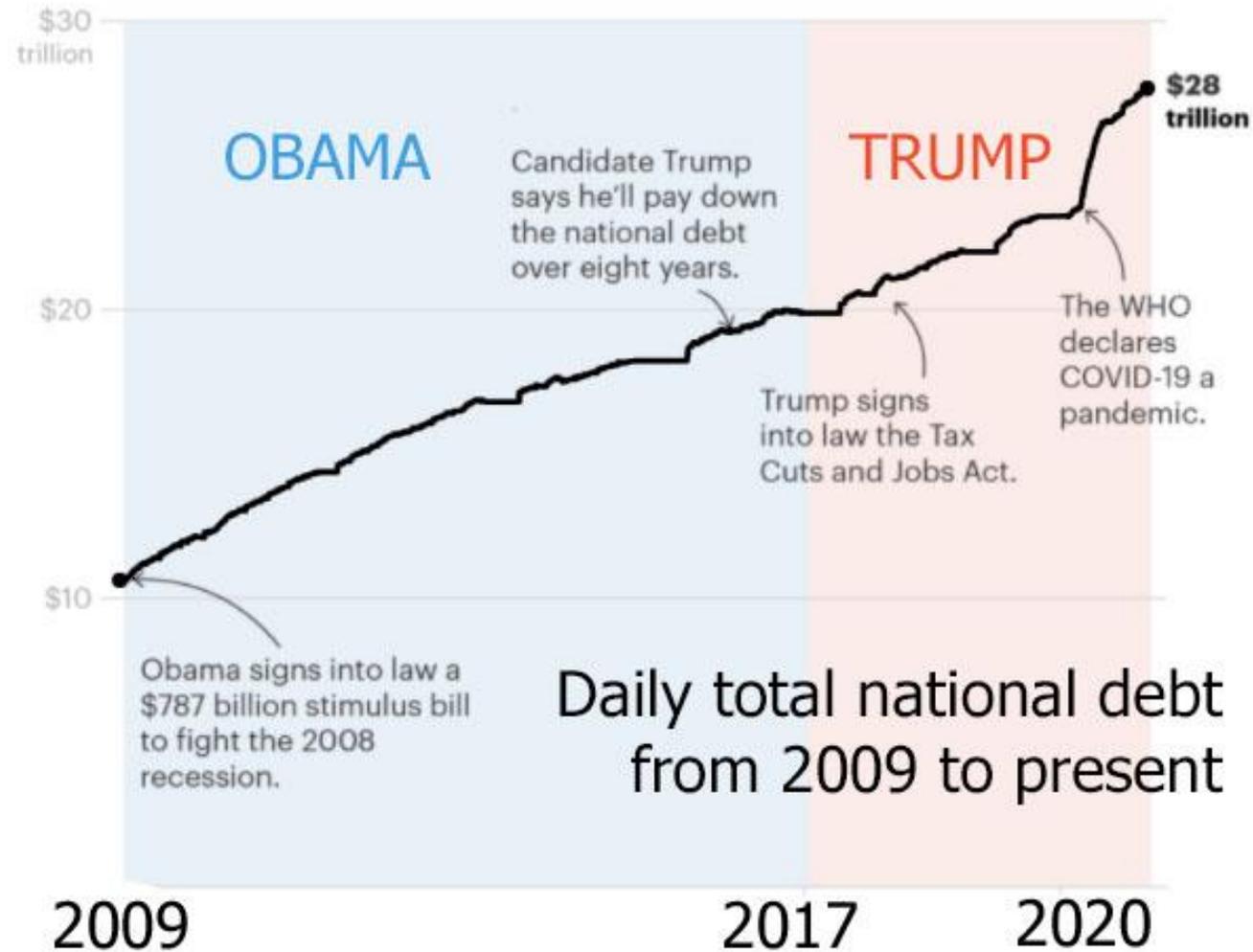
Source: Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Treasury Department.  
Data Note: All figures use real 2005 dollars, as calculated by the OMB.  
Produced by Veronique de Rugy, Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

# Regulations: Any Difference Between “R’s” and “D’s”?

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# But What About Trump?



# “DC” is the Problem, Regardless of “R” or “D”

- The establishment in Washington is now a class entirely unto itself – it is a political cancer living off the rest of us
- With its corporate, academic, media, and cultural allies, and with its unelected bureaucracy that has lifetime tenure, it has evolved into the *Elites versus Everyone Else*
- Hard-working people in the states fund the Elites, who take their cut and then return a fraction back to us with strings attached
- It has become a monolithic creature so big and powerful that reformation is no longer possible:
  - It can print money out of thin air
  - It can tax everything
  - It is no longer constrained by the checks and balances of the Constitution

# The Only Remaining “Check” is States’ Rights

- The other Checks and Balances are controlled by the DC establishment
- ***The states created the federal government***, and are the ultimate agents of the people
- Citizens have more direct control over state government than the federal government
- States have geographic, economic, and operational resources that political parties or networks of angry individuals do not
- It is much harder for the cabal of Elites to corrupt 50 states than to corrupt one swamp in Washington
- An alliance of independent-minded states willing to confront Washington (or separate from it) can have tremendous power and influence
- We are not obligated to humbly submit to Washington. Their only real power over us comes through intimidation and peer pressure. ***We the People*** in the states outnumber the Elites by hundreds of millions. They get their money from us.

# What Does “States’ Rights” Mean?

- Tenth Amendment:
  - “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.”
  - In simpler terms, it means that we retain our sovereignty as states, and the federal government only has the powers that are specifically granted in our Constitution.
- Ninth Amendment:
  - “The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.”
  - In simpler terms, it means that we retain our sovereignty as people, and that even though our Constitution mentions certain rights that we have, we retain all other rights not mentioned.
- Deeper meaning of the two amendments combined:
  - We the People in the states created the federal government and crafted the Constitution to limit the federal government and to protect our inalienable rights as individuals
  - We the People retain ultimate political power in our society
  - We do not have to tolerate usurpers in Washington
  - Governors DeSantis (FL), Abbott (TX), and Noem (SD) are pointing the way

# The Importance of Keeping Power at the State Level

- Each state has unique challenges and resources – cookie-cutter solutions from Washington are unlikely to be optimal locally
- 50 state “laboratories” experimenting with solutions is better than one mandated federal solution
- Each state has greater political sensitivity to local issues, cultures, and values
- Principle of Subsidiarity – keeping power closer to the people makes politicians more accountable and increases individual influence
- If all power is nationalized, the populous states will control everything
- 49 options for refuge if your current state becomes tyrannical – no options for refuge if an all-powerful federal government becomes tyrannical
- Patrick Henry: State sovereignty is the only safeguard against the “infinite” of the Constitution

# Where do Conservatives have Power Today?

- Not at the Federal Level:
  - Senate is controlled by D's
  - House is controlled by D's
  - Executive is controlled by D's
  - Thus, the entire bureaucracy is controlled by D's
- However, at the State Level:
  - 27 R Governors versus 23 D
  - 61 R Legislative Chambers versus 39 D
  - 23 R "Trifectas" versus 15 D

# People are Voting with Their Feet...

- Net migration between states from 4/20 through 6/21:
  - Florida + 264,000 (R Gov, R Legislature)
  - Texas + 211,000 (R Gov, R Legislature)
  - Arizona + 119,000 (R Gov, R Legislature)
  - N. Carolina + 107,000 (D Gov, R Legislature)
  - S. Carolina +79,000 (R Gov, R Legislature)
  - Tennessee +73,000 (R Gov, R Legislature)
  - Georgia +59,000 (R Gov, R Legislature)
  - Idaho +56,000 (R Gov, R Legislature)
  - Utah +36,000 (R Gov, R Legislature)
  - Michigan -15,000 (D Gov, R Legislature)
  - Illinois -152,000 (D Gov, D Legislature)
  - New York -406,000 (D Gov, D Legislature)
  - California -429,000 (D Gov, D Legislature)
- America is gradually sorting itself into the two countries it really is

# States are Viable Sovereign Entities

- Each state is a viable political, geographic, and operational entity, just like a country (and just like before the creation of the federal government)
- They each have Executives, Legislatures, Judiciaries, and functional administrations
- They have more economic power (GDP) than most people realize:
  - If California was a country, it would have the 5<sup>th</sup> highest GDP in the world (greater than India's or the UK's)
  - Texas's GDP is greater than Canada's
  - New York's GDP is greater than Russia's
  - Florida's GDP is greater than Mexico's
  - Michigan's GDP is greater than Austria's or Norway's
- The states would be better off if they kept their wealth rather than filtering it through Washington
- We can (and should) resist the Elitist cabal in DC

# End of Part One. What's Next?

- Part Two will be presented in February's meeting:
  - "4E" concept going forward: ***Educate, Elect, Energize, and Engage***
  - Specific tactics and actions that we can take
  - Short term vision: Identify and support States' Rights candidates in 2022 elections (and beyond)
  - Long term vision: Build an effective alliance between independent-minded states willing to resist the usurpers in Washington
- In the meantime, we will work on:
  - Developing "***Our States, Our Rights***" social media presence
  - Networking with other conservative groups and social media sites
  - Preparing a video and PDF of today's presentation for online distribution
  - Drafting "States' Rights" vetting questions for 2022 Michigan candidates

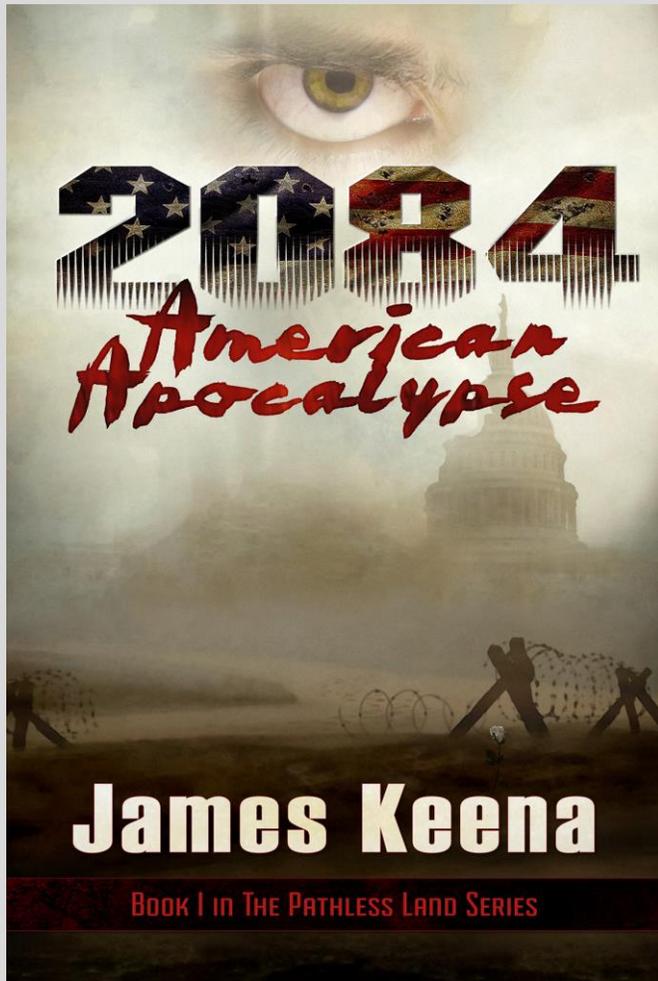
# Assignments (For Those who are Willing)

- Bring a friend or two to the February meeting
- Fill out a contact card today if you:
  - want ongoing information
  - want to get involved
- Identify your top three States' Rights concerns on cards handed out today

# Closing Thoughts

- Local issues are important in state elections, but the biggest issue of all is what to do about the 800-pound gorilla in Washington – it can usurp anything the states are trying to do
- Wisdom from Thomas Jefferson:
  - “A little rebellion is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms are in the physical.”
  - “Whenever any form of government becomes destructive, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government.”
- The aim of “Our States, Our Rights” is to ignite a movement that spreads like wildfire to other states
- Gandhi: “Be the change you want to see in the world”

# 2084: American Apocalypse



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# Trailer for “2084: American Apocalypse”





# Questions and Answers