

The Cause of America

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A couple of years ago when I agreed to serve our organization for three years, our children each expressed their concern to my wife and me. Our children separately expressed the same general question, "Why would you take on the responsibility of an officer of AAPS for three years?"

Our sons, one of their grandfathers, three uncles, seven great uncles, numerous cousins, and other family members going back to the Revolutionary War have proudly served in our country's military. All four of our children know that rather than join the military of our country at the height of the Vietnam War, my parents had counseled me to serve our country by providing medical care to seniors, the poor, and the uninsured once I finished my residency.

My answer to my children was that our nation is in a battle from within, whether to continue to provide the highest quality of medical care in the world or to acquiesce to the socialists/communists in our nation who believe in free government "health care" for all. Socialized medicine has historically been proven to be substandard, dehumanizing, cruel, and purposefully underfunded. How can I not get involved? I simply want to help, as President Trump shouted after being shot in Butler, Pennsylvania, "Fight, Fight, Fight!"

As I mentioned in our journal earlier this year,¹ I have seen government medicine up close when I spent a short time in Kiev, Ukraine, in 2000. I know government care is inferior to private care. It always has been and always will be. I told our children there are a lot of things I cannot do, but this I can do: serve our patients, our AAPS members, and our country. As Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1979–1990, once said, "The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money."

As I write this, Democratic Socialists [communists] of America (DSA) have recently won three Democrat congressional seats in New York. The DSA candidates have also won Democratic primaries in California, Maine, and Colorado recently! According to Fox News during the week of July 6, 2026, their DSA policy platform includes the following:

1. Eliminate the United States Senate,
2. Replace the President and the Supreme Court with an executive and judiciary chosen by and subordinate to Congress,
3. Enact amnesty for all immigrants, and
4. Defund the Department of War.

What must we do?

President Reagan reminded us, "Freedom is not free!" After the Declaration of Independence was signed, Ben Franklin was asked what form of government did the Continental Congress establish, a monarchy or republic? He replied, "A republic, if you can keep it!" At this point, the new question is, CAN we continue

to keep it?

My wife and I were poll watchers in our local voting precinct in the fall of 2020. When we saw the poll workers repeatedly not bothering to compare the voter's name to their picture ID, we knew we were in trouble with the slack protocols of our election process here in Georgia.

Christopher Flannery recently wrote in *Imprimis*, "How to Think about the American Revolution." He quoted John Adams, who had written a letter to Hezekiah Niles on Feb 13, 1818: "The American Revolution took place in the minds and hearts of the people.... 'A radical Change in the Principles, Opinions, Sentiments, and Affections of the People' was the real American Revolution."²

Radical changes at an intense pace are occurring in our country now. Among them are transgender surgery, euthanasia and medical assistance in dying (MAiD) state laws, regulations placed on our profession that mandate "diversity, equity, and inclusion" (DEI) training in physician continuing medical education (CME) courses in California, medical licensure and hospital privileges tied to board certification, as well as prior authorizations required by some government and private health insurance plans that usurp the patient-physician relationships and judgments. These obstacles have all become impediments to the practice of medicine as well as to the exceptional medical care once valued in our country.

Thomas Paine wrote in his famous pamphlet, *Common Sense*, that in our nation's fight against tyranny, oppression, and destruction, "The Cause of America is in great Measure the Cause of all Mankind."^{3, p 38} Now in 2026, as the 250th Anniversary of our country's founding is being celebrated, the cause of America continues to be the cause of all mankind. Have we been negligent in teaching the invaluable wisdom of the Declaration of Independence? Have we forgotten that it irrefutably states that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed? Are we guilty of overlooking the hand of God in blessing our nation with the Declaration of Independence, which emphatically states: "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." In other words, with the absence of chains, we have the esteemed privilege of self-governance, which bears the fruit of freedom. That is the cause of America.

On July 4, 1986, President Reagan said of those who signed the Declaration of Independence, "...their courage created a nation built on a universal claim to human dignity, on the proposition that every man, woman, and child had a right to a future of freedom."^{3, p xiv}

In 1764, the Massachusetts Assembly leader James Otis,

Jr., composed the first major pamphlet of the resolute patriot movement, "The Right of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved." This pamphlet set the tone for early American protests. Regarding the rights of free men, he charged in the same publication, "No man can take my property from me without my consent; if he does, he deprives me of my liberty and makes me a slave."^{3, p 8}

The DSA candidates are espousing free medical care, free housing, free college education, and free childcare. They, of course, say they will tax the wealthy to pay for all of the entitlements, but do not give an explicit definition of what "wealthy" means. What is dulling their senses? As Confucius reportedly said, "To study and not think is a waste. To think and not study is dangerous." History is shouting to those who will listen! People flee socialist/communist countries to come to the United States of America. There is a major disconnect between what the DSA candidates are proposing and the reality of their demoralizing political ideology as well as its devastating economic, social, moral, and political consequences.

Thomas Paine coined a simple phrase in his 1776 *Common Sense* pamphlet: "human liberty." Americans have enjoyed "human liberty" as our nation has experienced many trials and tribulations in its 250 years. Reconciliation with those who would take our liberty from us has always been historically questionable. Paine wrote about the individuals in his day who espoused reconciliation with British King George. "They are interested men who are not to be trusted, weak men who cannot see, prejudiced men who will not see, and a certain set of moderated men who think better of the European world than it deserves."^{3, p 33} Sound familiar?

Unfortunately, our country is currently dealing with pied pipers who play with such an enticing sound a universally orchestrated melody whose end is destruction. They are devious wolves in sheep's clothing. We have those men today in our country who promise the gullible among us unlimited benefits from government but in the end will only oppress and ensnare them, as Marx, Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, Castro, and others have done in the past to their unarmed and unprotected citizens. Such men then methodically strip the people of their God-given rights. The cause of America is in great measure the cause of all mankind.

President John Adams was asked to speak in Washington, D.C., in 1826 at our nation's 50th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Although he was unable to attend due to health reasons, he was able to give a toast to the July 4th ceremony Celebration Committee. When the committee members arrived at his home on June 30, 1826, his toast was, "I will give you, 'Independence Forever!'"²

Fifty years ago, Harry Jaffa wrote in his book regarding the 200th Declaration of Independence Anniversary celebration, "How to Think about the American Revolution" by stating that "nothing threatens the future of human freedom more than the failure to keep alive the understanding of, and attachment to, its principles."²

History is a valiant pathway of truth and error. A prudent man (nation) will glean the wisdom of understanding what truly benefits the individual and cultivates genuine freedom.

As Flannery points out, our country is aspiring to be worthy of divine approval and still striving to perfect the earthly work of American freedom, which is always unfinished. We have, since 1776, experienced many more "signal interpositions of providence in favour of the American cause." "So long as we continue in good conscience to appeal, as we did in our beginning, 'to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions,' we may 'with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence,' like Americans of all preceding generations, with good heart 'pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor' in this greatest of earthly causes."² We have work to do as our forefathers have so nobly done.

When my wife and I were younger, she once gave me a vivid description of raising our four active wonderful children all under the age of five: "The days are long, but the years are short!" This is a time-tested reality. Likewise, we physicians must not become discouraged or complacent regarding what has been divinely entrusted to us. Freedom is not free!

These inspiring ideas were not without cost over our past 250 years as a nation, and in the future will not be without cost as well. What gives me confident assurance about all of this is found in Philippians 4:5-9: "Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you."⁴

Our families and our fellow citizens can continue to have freedom, the cause of America, as our forefathers wrote in the Declaration of Independence. It will not survive through our waywardness, complacency, or naivety, but only through our recognition that this is a major frontline political battle in a war for our country. It requires our dedicated service to our fellow man with God's divine protection. We cannot and we must not ignore the lessons of history.

I look forward to seeing you in September at our annual meeting in Alpharetta, Georgia. God bless you all as you endeavor to serve your patients daily.

Omnia Pro Aegroto!

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