

## ***PART I***

### ***WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT ALFIE?***

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### **Chapter One**

#### **BACK TO BASICS**

The whole purpose of this Reclamation Manifesto is to show We the People, what we have to do to reclaim our government. Why what we have to do has to be done and how it ought to be done. To accomplish this, one must revisit the beginning.

In the beginning we have the essence of all the basic elements and truths that must be considered and kept in the minds eye throughout the entire reading of this Manifesto and the ensuing process to develop and implement the requisite and necessary changes. Having said that, let us begin.

#### **We the People Come First**

We the People come before anything. Consider the following abstract:

But for We the People there is no need or excuse for a government. Ergo, We the People desirous of "*such and such*" must declare our intentions to the world at large and design a government to protect and ensure "*such and such*" on our behalf for posterity. In terms of the big picture, this is what *We* want the government to look like, this is what *We* want it to do and this is how *We* want it to do it. And, this is what it can't do. It cannot do anything to get around something that it is not permitted to do. It cannot infringe on the rights and freedoms of We the People in any way, manner, shape or form regardless of the reason. The people are free to go and to do and to be wherever, whatever, whoever, just so long as they do not infringe on the rights or freedoms of another person.

A government is set up to serve We the People. We the People are the primary customer of said government which is required by law to put the needs and desires of We the People before anything and everything. We the People come first, period!

#### **The Declaration of Independence**

The United States of America actually began when We the People declared our independence with a written document that begins with the words "When in the course of human events...."

Drafted by Thomas Jefferson between June 11 and June 28, 1776, the Declaration of Independence is at once the nation's most cherished symbol of liberty and Jefferson's most enduring monument. Here, in exalted and unforgettable phrases, Jefferson expressed the convictions in the minds and hearts of the American people. The political philosophy of the Declaration is not new; its ideals of individual liberty had already been expressed by John Locke and Continental (European) philosophers such as Rene Descartes. What Jefferson did was to summarize this philosophy in "self-evident truths" and set forth a list of grievances against the King of England in order to justify before the world the breaking of ties

between the colonies and the mother country. See Appendix I for the complete text of the Declaration of Independence.

The second paragraph of The Declaration contains certain statements and phrases that absolutely suggest the need for and the existence of this Reclamation Manifesto because of what our government has done, is doing, or is not doing as the case may be. Such ills as I am alluding to will be spelled out in the subsequent parts and chapters to come. Following is the second paragraph of the Declaration in its entirety (*italics are mine*):

“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.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, *deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed*, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, *it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it*, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. *But when a long train of abuses and usurpations*, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, *it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security*.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world”.

As you get further and further into this Reclamation Manifesto, you will see that it has actually become necessary for We the People to “Re-Declare our Independence” as a sovereign people, not from some foreign despot but, from our own government.

### **The Primacy of the Constitution**

According to Chief Justice John Marshal in 1821 --- “The people made the Constitution, and the people can unmake it. It is the creature of their will, and lives only by their will.”

When it comes to the precise nature and functioning of the United States of America, there is nothing more basic than the Constitution. The U.S. Constitution, a document of, by and for We the People is the indisputable primary law in this nation of, by and for We the People. See Appendix II for the complete text of the U.S. Constitution.

The Constitution, as such, is a document based upon Common Law, a legal jurisdiction that empowers We the People. It is a document that specifies yet other permissible legal jurisdictions which will be discussed later. It lays out the structure of the government and what the various branches can and cannot do. In subsequent chapters you will learn how the Constitution and the law have been misapplied and misinterpreted over the years and how such weaknesses can be strengthened.

Consider that it is by the grace of We the People that our American Political System is permitted to be as it is. We the People have created a Democratic Republic within which, We the People as citizens, are empowered by our Constitution which states our rights and places limits on our Government. The objective of our political system is to *protect* We the People, in the broadest sense of the word, from attack, both from without and from within, according to the rules set forth in the Constitution. Our political system is to function strictly according to the rules set forth in the Constitution. And, it is up to We the People, as the keeper of the seal, to police the political system. It is up to us to insure against it going off course in order to preserve *Our freedom, Our sovereignty and Our place*. As will be shown in succeeding chapters, our political system as it currently exists is corrupt and in this corrupt system, the voting booth alone is not the answer. Hence, this Reclamation Manifesto.

Never forget: *We the People* of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union....” Never forget that this is *Our* show folks. And never forget that *Our* system of jurisprudence, our legal system, is the glue that ties this whole thing together. This is the mechanism by which equal justice and civility is supposed to prevail and whereby We the People are supposed to be protected first and foremost as we are the foundation of this system. This system of jurisprudence, like everything else, stems from *Our* Constitution which, in turn, is rooted in English Common Law.

### **Problem Resolution**

As with everything in this world of ours; be it business, sports, politics, the arts, literature, whatever; whenever things start going wrong or seem overly complex, the solution is always found by returning to basics. A return to basics in any forum always simplifies, clarifies and provides problem resolution if and when necessary.

Solving a problem means first determining what purpose is being served and who or what is the “customer.” Getting back to basics simply means that one must determine who exactly their “customer” is and what is necessary to serve that “customer” first and foremost. Consider that any business which does not serve its customer, first and foremost, will not be in business very long. This is not rocket science; no customer, no business. And, first and foremost does not mean indirectly or out of left field. Good customer service of the highest quality is an absolute necessity.

When it comes to all activities in and about the United States of America, there is but one “customer” and that is We the People, individually and severally. And, We the People not only expect, but deserve, the absolute best customer service from our elected officials.

I am sure you have heard people say that solving problems is all about asking the right question(s). While that is true, asking the right question requires the proper perspective. And to gain the proper perspective, the big picture must be in view. When you have the proper perspective and view things the right way, the solution is simple, obvious and makes sense. This is common sense and common sense must be used when viewing and considering the most basic of documents supporting this nation: The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

### **The Big Picture**

Let us consider the big picture with regard to the United States of America. The United States of America is a form of system. All things in existence are actually some form of system. A system is nothing more than a way of doing things, the way things work. The United States is a system that consists of many different interrelated systems such as a political system, an economic system, a social system, a legal system, etc. These systems in turn consist of other interrelated and subordinate systems and so on. As you can see, we are moving in the direction of smaller as opposed to larger. Consider that the United States is actually part of a still bigger system, the global community for one, and so on.

When something does not work in a particular system, the problem does not necessarily lie within that system. It may lie with a subordinate or interrelated system and the actual problem being manifest is nothing more than a symptom of the real problem. I call this the ripple effect and the ripple effect is why you must view things from a higher perspective in order to see the bigger picture so as to properly identify and solve the problem.

Let us say someone keeps getting a horrible rash. That rash is obviously a problem so let us treat it with some kind of salve. The salve clears it up for a while and then it comes back. The bottom line is that the rash is the result of some other problem. Fix the other problem, otherwise known as the root problem, and the rash goes away. The rash is therefore a symptom of this other problem. You need to look at the bigger picture. Jaundice, a yellowing of the eyes and the skin is the symptom of a problem.

There are many ways to describe the big or bigger picture. There is bigger versus smaller, macro versus micro and my favorite, the forest versus the tree.

### **Generalization versus Specialization**

The primary reason for going back to basics is to realign one's perspective. It is to help you get your mind off the tree that you have been stuck on and to once again gaze upon the forest, the bigger picture.

There are many reasons for the myriad of ills that have beset this nation. One of the more esoteric has been our over-reliance on specialization. Most everything has accelerated downhill since the age of specialization began in the 1970's. The specialist is the tree. The generalist, the forest, has been pushed aside and ignored. Specialization is the argument that has precluded real solutions.

The specialist has blinders on. He/she does not see the forest for the tree. All too often the specialist treats a symptom and not the real problem. It is called the band-aid approach, just like putting salve on a rash. That is not the way to solve a problem, certainly not the real problem. As you will see throughout this Reclamation Manifesto, our government specializes in band-aid approaches and ignores the ripple effect, something that is obvious to the generalist, the big picture person.

### **The Ripple Effect**

All of existence tends towards equilibrium or balance. Tweak or change something here, it affects something there. That is the ripple effect. Take money from the people, they have less to spend, they buy less and a marginally profitable enterprise goes out of business. Companies go out of business and the

economy suffers and people lose jobs and so on. That is an example of the ripple effect. That is why proper problem resolution requires that the big picture be in view.

To be fair to the government, there has been the occasional instance when the government does step up and look at the bigger picture. But, while one step up is a bigger picture, the necessary bigger picture is often several steps up and unfortunately, the nature of politics often precludes the ability to step up to a higher perspective let alone a still higher perspective. One of the key elements of creative problem solving is the ability to think outside of the box; consider the box to be the tree.

### **The Beacon**

The United States has been viewed as a beacon for liberty by the world at large. Indeed, as evinced by what has come to be known as the “Arab Spring,” the concept, the reality of liberty and freedom is desirable. It is so desirable that people are willing to die for it. And yet, many of We the People, in light of recent events are willing give up some of our freedoms for the sake of a little more security, *the perception* of a little more security. I am talking about the Patriot Act and we will discuss that in Book II, Part 3 of this Manifesto.

The people of the world, in general, like Our Liberty and Freedom and our seeming willingness to die for the liberty and freedom of others. Unfortunately, there is much that they don’t like. Our government tends to display a bit too much hubris when it comes to our failings which have unfortunately clouded our beacon.

### **The Absolute Betterment of the Human Condition**

How do we achieve the “Absolute Betterment of the Human Condition?” By getting back to basics and creating a high-quality functional model, a new beacon. Given all the ills that exist in the global society and sovereign nations, it is absolutely time to have a crystal clear beacon for all to see and follow. *That* is what this Reclamation Manifesto is all about Alfie.

For the United States of America to be recreated in a way that serves as the beacon for the rest of humanity, then We the People---using this Manifesto as a guide---must begin the process. The first step requires that you digest this complete book. By “digest,” I mean read all the points presented, let them play over in your mind and give them time to sink in. Sleep on it for a few days. When you do, you will have gained a sense of the big picture. Your mind will put it all together for you without conscious effort and you will understand how everything ties together. Some of you may even experience a kind of awakening.

Look at this awakening the way you would the Manifesto itself---as a growth process. Consider that certain information that, at first blush, may have seemed absolutely incredible, drawing reactions like “they would never” and “there is no way...,” Consider that it will all become obvious as the enormity of the situation sinks into your reality. You’ll be saying, “Of course they would; of course they could!”

## **The Establishment Exists for the Preservation of the Establishment**

Never lose sight of the fact that those in the government of these United States do not represent your best interests, let alone the best interests of We the People. As things stand today, *the establishment exists for the preservation of the establishment*. And, We the People are all pawns. They use us and abuse us and throw us the occasional bone.

As Ayn Rand wrote: "The U.S. Constitution is a limitation on the government, not on private individuals ... it does not prescribe the conduct of private individuals, only the conduct of the government ... it is not a charter for government power, but a charter of the citizen's protection against the government."

Remaking the United States requires a new perspective, a new structure and fresh new guidelines. Empowered by We the People and guided by the U.S. Constitution, we will then become a true democratic republic, a federation of sovereign states supported by a sovereign people.

The remaking of the United States also requires that we adopt a higher morality and enforce high ethical standards. These are things the nation in general and the government in particular seems to have lost. And, while morality and ethics are basic issues, they are also core issues which make them important enough to command their own chapter, Chapter 2 - Morality, Ethics & Common Sense.

How do we get to where we want to be? Well, how does one eat an elephant? One bite at a time! The chapters that follow explain the steps we ought to take "one bite at a time," and folks, there is a lot to chew on.