The background of the entire page is a silhouette of the United States Capitol building, specifically its dome and the Statue of Freedom on top. The building is set against a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with warm orange and yellow tones near the horizon and darker, purple-tinged clouds above. The text is overlaid on this image.

FORWARD OBSERVER

END OF AN ERA: Redoubts, Regionalism & the Balkanization of America

SUMMER 2014

REVISED & EXPANDED SECOND EDITION

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TACTICAL MANUAL
FOR POST COLLAPSE SURVIVAL



MAX VELOCITY

FORWARD OBSERVER

ISSUE 009 SUMMER 2014

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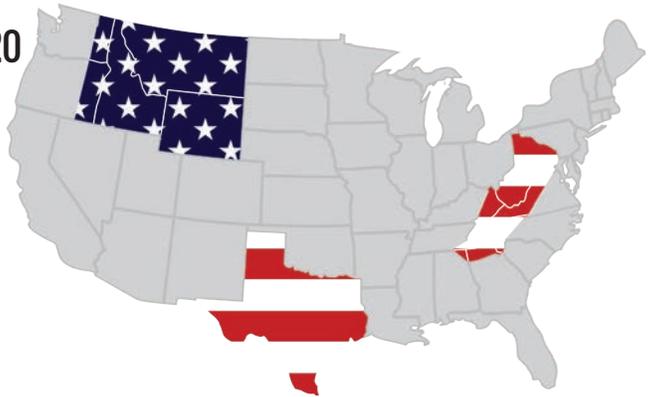
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Of all the pipe dreams and fantasies that fill the minds of some today, none can be so unrealistic as a restoration of the Republic through the vote. As you'll come to understand in these pages, if you don't already, is that the nation is gone. There will never be a coast to coast restoration of the Constitution and the rule of law because, plainly, not enough Americans want that for their nation. Now, whether or not these citizens are truly "Americans" or not is a debate for another page and time. But what they want matters, what they'll fight for matters, and as long as they remain in favor of a totalitarian dystopia where government rules all, our two sides will be at odds.

In the opinions of a growing number of Americans, our nation is headed for calamity. We're at risk of living in a failed state. But what's even more important than the potential collapse is what is birthed afterwards. It's there we have a chance to build back the Republic in which we deserve to live. That's the opportunity for which we should not neglect to prepare.

This magazine bleeds hard work, from our contributors to our designers. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Always Out Front,
Samuel Culper
Executive Editor

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STATE OF EMERGENCY



Why Americans Should Prepare for Terrorism in the 21st Century BY ROSS ELDER

My interest in the study of terrorism began in my teen years. Having been born during the height of the war in Vietnam, I lived through the turbulent 70s, when what was termed “Palestinian Terror” grew worldwide. Marxist terrorists were also active in many countries throughout Europe during that time. Whether it was the PLO, PFLP, PFLP-GC, Abu Nidal Group, PLF, the Euro groups such as the RAF, Red Brigades, Action Direct, ETA, or the IRA and the myriad of offshoot groups, terrorism was as frequent then as now.

The major difference in the older terrorism was their methods and ambitions. Most Palestinian groups sought to bring awareness as struggling refugees against Israel’s

“oppression.” Most Euro-terrorists sought to implement Marxism, or to secede and claim autonomy. There were bombings, kidnappings, assassinations, and the aircraft hijackings. The latter typically resulted in the plane sitting on a tarmac somewhere while the extremists made their demands and hammed for the media. The hostages would then be released and the psychopaths would miraculously escape—often thanks to a government taking the appeasement route rather than a combative one.

This is how the West was trained. And, unfortunately, this is how the hijackers of 9/11 were so successful. We couldn’t fathom a new breed of international bullies would weaponize travel aircraft. It was a tragic lesson to learn.



Much earlier, and several years prior to my enlistment in the armed forces, I began the scrutinize terrorism. My first assignment in the U.S. Army demanded that I stay abreast of the security concerns for U.S. forces in Europe. Although many in the West—the uninformed—thought the greatest threat was a USSR invasion, those in-the-know began to concentrate on a different peril: terrorism. Terrorism was changing. Intelligence reports about political combatants desiring a nuclear device began to surface. They were mostly speculative and lacked any real substance, but the idea had been planted as far back as the 80s.



Fast-forward to today and you'll notice that many of the groups previously mentioned no longer exist. Some were destroyed, some lost interest in their struggle, and some just faded away as lengthy prison sentences dwindled their membership. Today's terrorism is a completely different dynamic than those of the past. Attention is not their goal. A body count is. Total enemy destruction and geographical domination is their battle plan. It is no longer about having autonomy or statism. It's about supremacy and oppression.

Attacks—attempted and successful—on U.S. soil have increased steadily for the last twenty years. There are many factors involved in that increase (not the least of which is a lax immigration policy). Have we seen the worst that terrorism has to offer after surviving the horrific attacks of 9/11? Not at all. Can it get worse? Absolutely.

The terrorism types that take place around the world—mall massacres, children's school attacks, VBIEDs explosions on busy



The militarization of the police has been on the rise. Armored vehicles like the Bearcat, MRAP and MATV are being purchased by or distributed to municipal law enforcement organizations hroughout the United States.

streets—can, and most likely will, happen here. It is just a matter of time. Experts on terrorism have been warning about this for decades. Not many have listened. The only answer is that we, as a country, have been very, very lucky.

Those attacks are easy to plan and execute (and cheap, at an average of \$150 of explosives). The average insurgent has no desire to survive the attack. The days of the dashing, international spy/terrorist of yesteryear are long gone. As long as they kill an acceptable number of infidels, today's radicals are happy for martyrdom to help them meet their maker. We can no longer entertain the thought, "They wouldn't do that." They can, they will, and they have. War-gaming terrorism today has to involve every possibility. Nothing is outside of the realm of possibility. We, as a society, are not helping the matter. Half of our country wants to engender Utopia by eliminating private firearm ownership. The other half cries "police state" at every new innovation in law enforcement techniques or equipment. We can be our own worst enemies.

Today's SWAT teams, for instance, are a far cry from those teams in the 70s, who were just beginning to learn tactics

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and procedures that could be called military in nature. Today, your average SWAT team looks more like a special operations unit from our armed forces. That's because they face a different threat than they did in those days. If you have traveled the world and observed police units in some European countries, you should be well aware that those police forces were decades ahead of our own in those areas. Why? Because they faced the threat of terrorism long before we did here in the U.S. France's premiere counter-terrorism force, the GIGN, is part of France's Police Forces, although they are also a part of the military. Germany's counterterrorism unit is the GSG9, which is also part of a specific police force: the border police —not their army. Oddly enough, those two forces are also the only two who have successfully performed a raid and hostage rescue on board an airliner.

Many experts have wondered openly for years why things such as car bombs, mass shootings, complicated hostage scenarios, and assassinations have not become commonplace here in the States. I too have wondered. There doesn't seem to be an answer as to why. It certainly isn't hard getting into our country. Procurement of weapons is also

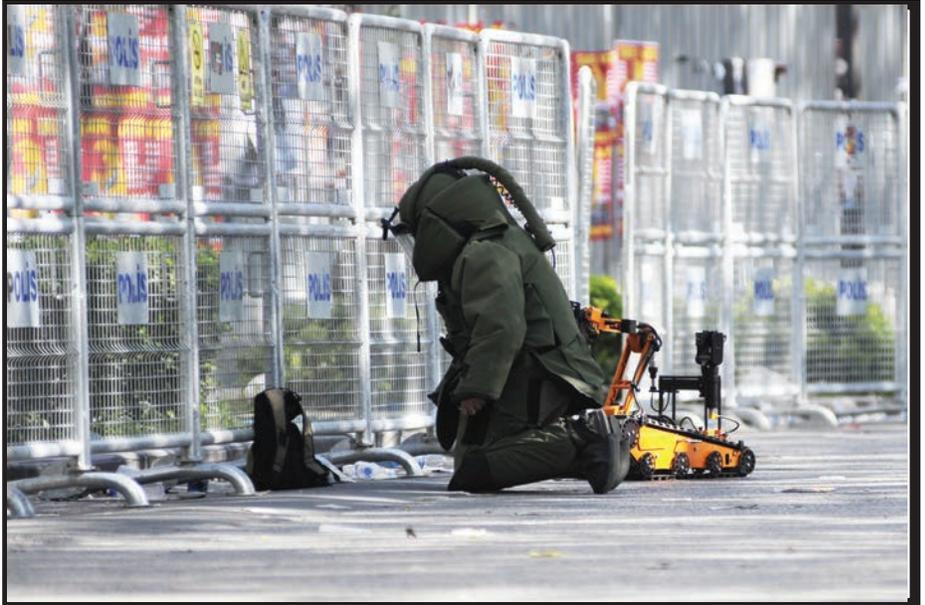
a simple thing in the black markets of our bustling cities. All of the components are here, waiting. Why large groups of fanatics aren't taking advantage is a mystery to me. But I think it will be a temporary mystery.

I foresee a future—perhaps far off, perhaps not—where our citizens understand terrorism on a level known only to our allies in Israel. Where the simple, rent-a-cop at the mall is heavily armed and trained in combat tactics and counter-terror practices; where school teachers have to be as well versed in defensive tactics and the protection of others as they are math and science; where police, firefighters, EMT's, and shop owners have to know the signs of an approaching attack and respond accordingly. It is the one thing about which I hope I am wrong. But, although I have been wrong before, I still operate on the basis of that possibility. I train, I teach, and I conduct myself in the same fashion I did so many years ago walking the streets of Munich or Barcelona. We let our guard down for far too many years. There may come a day when we are again awakened by a shock to the system.

Has our government overreached as a knee-jerk response to the terror of 9/11? I believe so, yes. Does a paradigm shift in our understanding and response to terrorism need to happen? Very much so. The citizens of the United States are the ones who need to be educated and trained. You, the average Joe and Jane, will be the first to encounter the threat. It may be up to you to stop an attack in progress, or prevent one from happening. Study. Train. Teach your family what to do in an emergency.

And hope I am wrong.

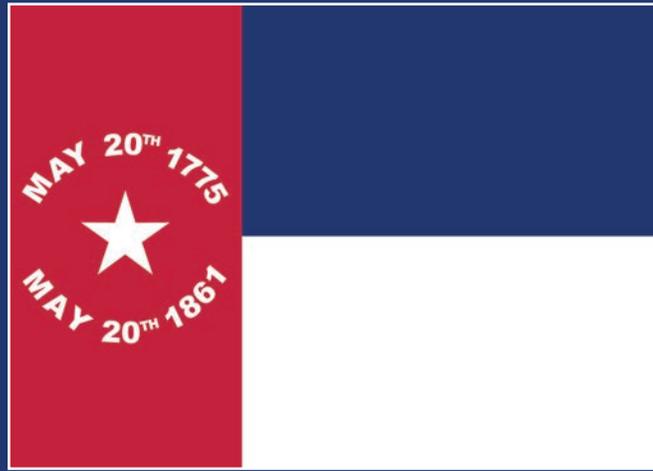
Ross Elder is a novelist, freelance journalist, and retired military professional who is passionate about survival and realistic preparedness. His writings can be found on his website, Ross-Elder.com, and in the pages of Soldier Of Fortune magazine.





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END OF AN ERA

The Balkanization of America?

BY SAMUEL CULPER

Starting in 1804, the Ottoman Empire defended against a series of nationalist revolts and wars of revolution, resulting in the autonomy of Serbia (1817), and the creation of a Greek state (1829) and later their independence (1832). The Ottoman Empire continued to decline economically, militarily, and territorially over the next nearly one-hundred years leading up to World War One, due in large part to ethnic nationalism and religious strife. By 1913, the Ottoman Empire had lost control of the Balkan Peninsula through multiple rounds of lost revolts and treaties.



“We have a sick man on our hands, a man gravely ill...”

- Tsar Nicholas I on the Ottoman Empire near the beginning of its quick decline

That sectarian and ethnic violence leading to the fragmentation of the Balkan Peninsula resulted in the term “Balkanization”. Today that term is used to describe the dissolution of nations or regions into smaller states fragmented along religious, ethnic or ideological lines. Might it be used once again to describe the future break up of the United States? I’m inclined to think so for three reasons: unrestrained government power, shifting demographics and pro-amnesty legislation, and the fiscal debt bomb.

First, the Statists are more Statist than ever. Those who support total or near-total government control, what we call totalitarianism, are in higher numbers and their support for government control of nearly everything from food supplies and healthcare to college loans and firearms seems to be at all-time highs. What was once unconscionable - that government essentially controls the healthcare industry - is now an acceptable program supported by as much as half the country. But the issue at hand isn’t healthcare, and it never really was. It’s about control. Government

control over the daily lives of Americans is intolerable, yet the government’s ability to usurp that power from the States and the People has never been stronger. There are those who will wield total power, and there are those who will not yield total power. If the Americans willing to resist or fight for their freedoms find a state that will support those ends, then secession becomes a real possibility in the coming years. And secession of a single state could lead to regional secession or secession of numerous states. Secession is a political solution to a political problem. All the key ingredients are there: existing and legitimate authority, political and popular support, established boundaries, permission as outlined in the Declaration of Independence, and a legal precedent.

Second, the demographics of America are changing significantly. For instance, roughly 9,000 Americans turn 65 each day in 2014. That daily number will increase until it peaks in 2025, when nearly 20 percent of the nation will be age 65 or older. By 2050, the US Census Bureau projects that nearly 40 percent

of all Americans will be 65 or older; double the number in 2012. That's a lot of additional healthcare for an already worsening healthcare system. In addition to growing older, Americans have less and less in savings and retirement, so they'll either be working longer, or living poorer. According to the US Census Bureau, the average savings of a 50-year old American is roughly \$47,000, at a time when he will need hundreds of thousands of dollars to finance his retirement from age 65 to 85. The total cost of a couple over 65 to pay for medical treatment over a 20 year span is \$215,000 in nominal costs in 2014. That doesn't take into account more realistic rises in health costs and inflation over the next 20 years. Further, they estimate that 63 percent of seniors who began work at age 25 are going to be dependent on "Social Security, friends, relatives or charity" after retirement. At a time of rampant inflation, many seniors in the next generation are going to be left with very little. Major increases in the cost of living and a reduced quality of life will likely provide an impetus for States with better economies, health-care systems and balance sheets to avoid being sunk. And at a time when Americans aged 55 and older control more than three-fourths of America's wealth, this largest voting demographic is much, much more likely to vote to preserve their illusory wealth than to plan for the success of the next generation. In short, the States best able to care for their aging populations will have a vested interest in keeping their healthcare systems working by keeping the federal government out.

The other major factor in demographics is not just ethnicity but voting patterns among illegal immigrants. The largest decade of American immigration lasted from 2000 to 2010 when 14 million immigrants came to America. According to Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) numbers, during fiscal year 2013 US authorities apprehended 420,789 illegal immigrants,

and CBP officials expect 290,000 illegal immigrants to cross the border in the next fiscal year. Most recent numbers show an estimated 11.2 million illegal immigrants in the US. There are not insignificant numbers of elected representatives who wish to grant amnesty to illegal immigrants living here. Even President Obama has recently threatened executive actions which may lead to amnesty. If these illegal immigrants receive amnesty or a pathway to citizenship, we shouldn't just expect 11.2 million new citizens. Instead we would expect see numbers ranging somewhere between 20 and 30 million when accounting for family members who will likely be joining their new American families. I couldn't care less about the race or ethnicity of these new citizens; what's more important to me is their voting patterns. Many of these new citizens will have immigrated from socialist countries where the government is considered and widely accepted to be the arbiter of wealth. Most of them will be voting for the Democrat Party.

According to a Department of Homeland Security report (2011), illegal immigrants represent six percent of the the total population of Texas; nearly four percent of Florida; and four percent of North Carolina. I only bring up the latter two because they're largely considered swing states, and six and four percent, respectively, will shape future elections. Obama won Florida in 2012 by roughly 73,000 votes (or 0.9%), and lost North Carolina by less than 100,000 (or 2.2%). Mitt Romney won Texas by 15.2 percent, but that number could be much, much closer in future elections as a result of amnesty.

It's not difficult to see how, in the next couple elections, the nation experiences a major shift in local, state and national politics. If amnesty occurs, I don't think America will see another Republican president. In 1860, Lincoln won the presidency without the help of a single Southern state - an event



which contributed to secession and the War Between the States. Following that election, with the exception of Andrew Johnson who became president when Lincoln was assassinated, the White House didn't change parties for over 20 years. What will citizens do and how will state governments react when their voting power is essentially stolen from them? Secession could be knocking.

Third, fiscal responsibility at the federal level is nonexistent. The national debt stands at \$17.6 trillion. That's not money you pay back with money you have; that's money that you pay back with money that you print. As numerous economists and investors have predicted, the power of the dollar is going to be decimated in the coming decades. Not only will be cost of borrowing additional money become more expensive, but also America's racked up a host of nations chomping at the bit to rid themselves of the dollar. Once the dollar loses favor as the global standard of trade, its purchasing power will be diminished, leaving the wealth of Americans in shambles.

The Post-World War Two British pound had felt similar effects. After the



1944 Bretton Woods agreement that pegged the pound to the dollar, the British had a series of fiscal and monetary maladies, ultimately causing them to devalue the pound by 30 percent in 1949. In fact, from the end of World War Two until 1975, the British pound lost 50 percent of its value against the US dollar. Britain's post-war inability to meet the financial obligations of repaying back loans played a part. The larger part was that the US dollar began to replace the pound as the global standard of trade. So the question is when will the US dollar be relieved of its global duty as being the most widely used currency, and just how devalued will the dollar become once replaced?

When the US dollar gets pinched, fiscally healthy states will have much greater reasons to adopt their own intra-state currencies, or secede altogether. A collapse of the federal government notwithstanding, the states are going to face tougher times themselves, with their own mounting

debts. States like California (\$778 billion in debt), New York (\$387 billion), and Illinois (\$321 billion) are facing a future where state leaders may have to hold their hats out to Uncle Sam. And these numbers don't even include those states' unfunded liabilities, which are also in the billions.

The federal government assuming state debts is not without precedent, although we have to go all the way back to 1790 to see it. After the American Revolution, the federal government agreed to assume the state debts accrued during the war, which was seen as unfair to states like Virginia and North Carolina (and others) who had already paid off their war debt.

Now imagine California in default - the eighth largest economy in the world. The federal government would essentially have to step in and spend taxpayer money to save the state. That's going to come with an enormous price tag that many Americans may not be

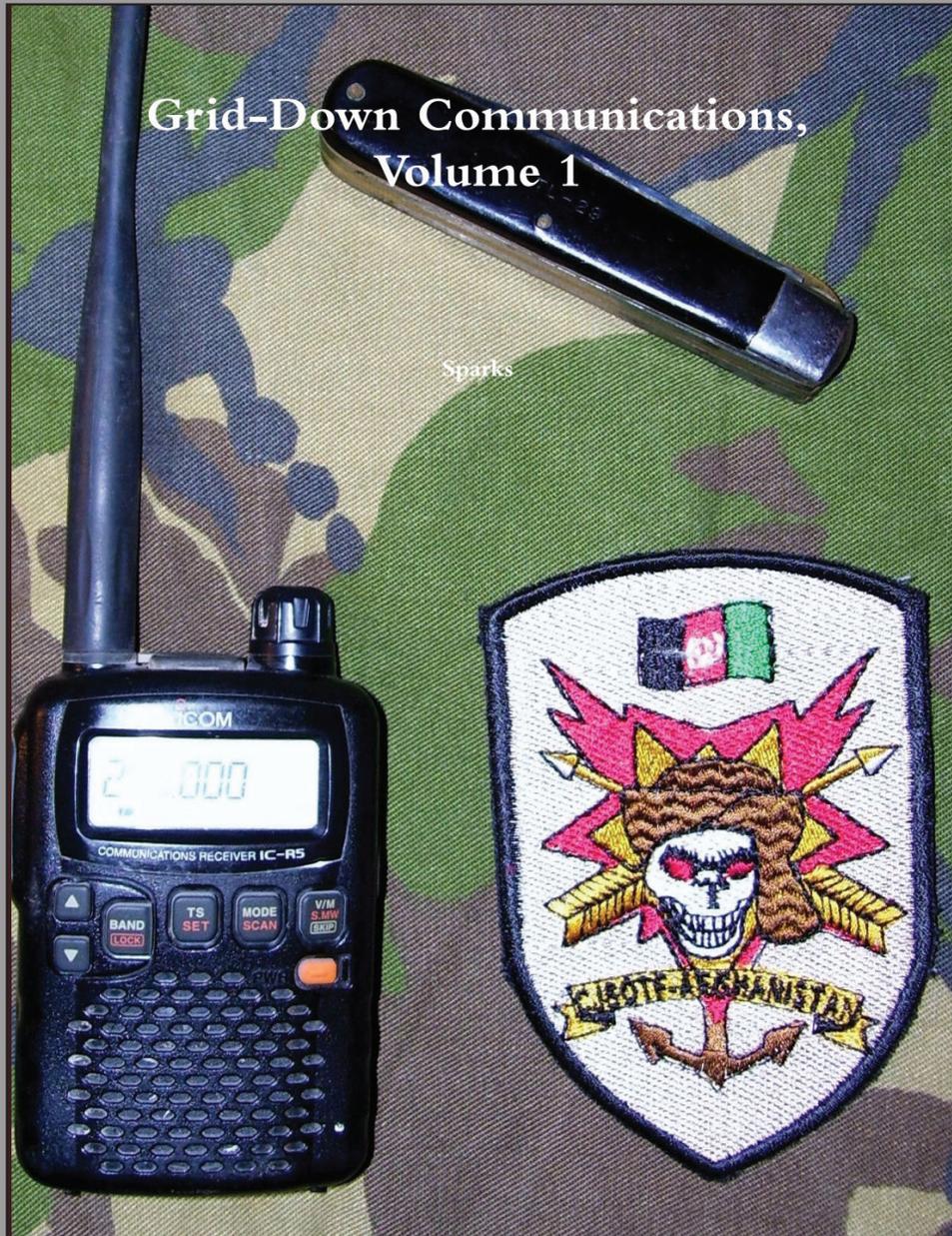
willing to pay.

The more we investigate these future scenarios, the more we see the likelihood of state and national devastation, politically and financially. The fiscal situation alone will likely be looked upon in history as the death knell of the American era. *We have a sick man on our hands, a man gravely ill...* This is the end of an era, and America will Balkanize as a result. The most serious question now is, will your new form of government be a republic or a dictatorship?

Samuel Culper is a former intelligence NCO, veteran of multiple tours to Iraq and Afghanistan, and a proud resident of the American Redoubt. He blogs regularly at <http://guerrillamerica.com>.

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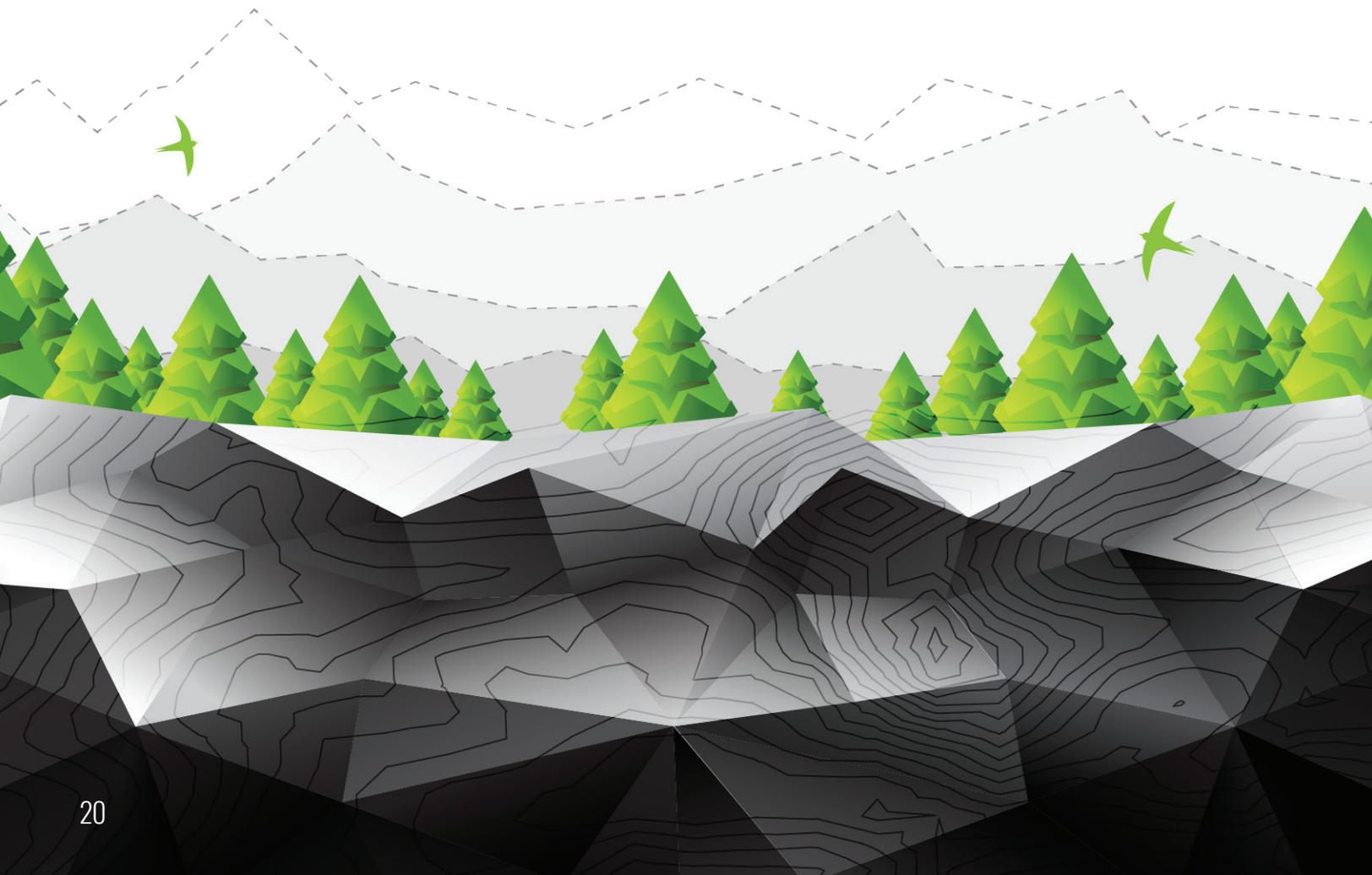
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REDOUBTS

A Growing American Trend

BY JOHN JACOB SCHMIDT



Some are already beyond just contemplating. They're in stages of strategically relocating, and settling into their newly-found refuges. Why? Because the list of analysts (political, economic, and social) warning of an inevitable system collapse grows daily. And you don't have to be one of those analysts to see something isn't right. Regardless of whether it turns out to be a total or partial collapse, there are simply some places you just don't want to reside. As the adage goes, "stay away from the crowds."

It's hard to imagine that things could get so bad in our country that you would have to uproot your life, your possessions, and your family, and relocate to make it through whatever is coming. But you know in your gut something is coming.

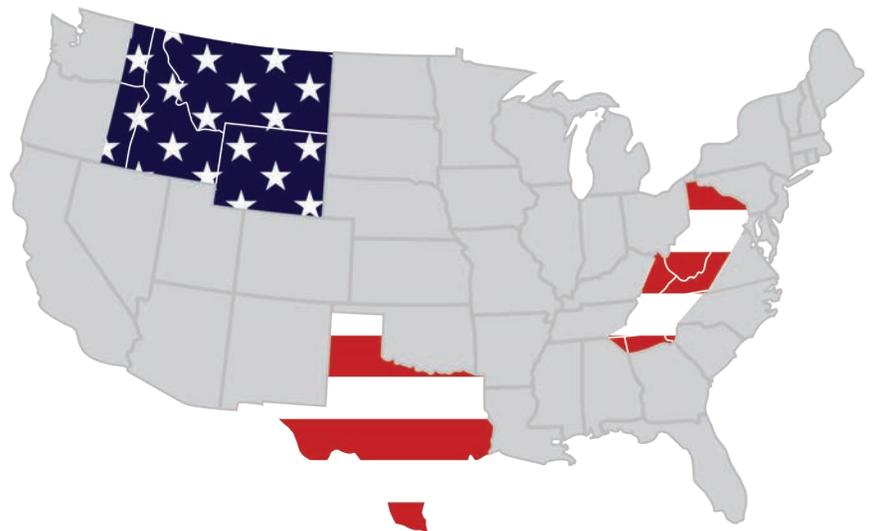
To assuage any inner turmoil you may have deciding what you're seeing is real, or just drummed-up paranoia on your part, let me reassure you: you're not crazy, and yes, things can really get that bad. Even our own government is planning, training, and preparing for a major collapse like there's—well, no tomorrow. So, shouldn't you? But there will be a tomorrow, and your perspective on what that looks like will be directly affected by where you are, geographically, when it does.

You're likely already aware of the condition our country is in, and more importantly, where that's taking us. The Redoubt option for Patriots is a two-fold prospect. On one hand, it's a worst-case scenario option. On the other hand, it's an "even worse" worst-case option.

The worst-case scenario is that despite your gallant efforts to resist the statist agenda and fight for Americanism, you find that for every battle you win, you suffer two defeats. You vote, write your congressman, attend your children's school board meetings and your local government board meetings and public hearings. You discover the culture in your community, region, or state is increasingly hostile to your patriotic, freedom-loving values. When you appeal to your commissioners, representatives, and senators, you discover that they're on board with this agenda and soon feel like you're the only sane one left. Chances are good that you're not the only Patriot left, but you're increasingly outnumbered. One has to face the reality and come to terms with the realization that he has become a foreigner in his own country; sometimes, in his own hometown or state.

That is what many Patriots are feeling and experiencing all across the continent. And they are the individuals and families (and businesses) taking the gap and strategically relocating to conservative regions in the United States.

Whether it's the American Redoubt, the Appalachian Redoubt, Texas or other regions, Patriots are taking a hard look at potential fall-back positions.



The American Redoubt



*American Redoubt - Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, eastern Oregon, and eastern Washington.
For more information, goto: <http://survivalblog.com/redoubt.html>*

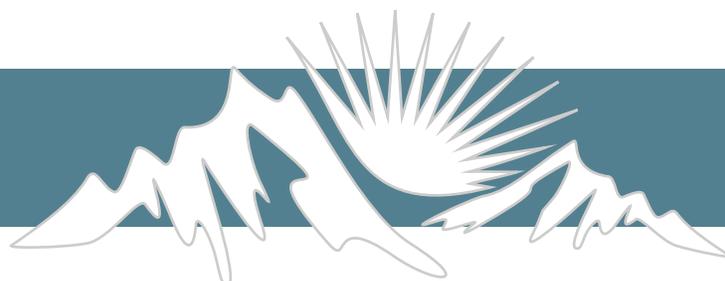
The Redoubt option is becoming a viable one for growing numbers of Patriots who want to take the initiative... You choose, proactively, to relocate as a matter of strategy, as opposed to someone else's terms, reactively.

They're uprooting their lives, and planting new ones in areas where they're the majority demographic group, politically, religiously and culturally. By and large, Redoubters are Christian Patriots.

Despite the aggressive agenda of the left against conservative regions, and the occasional victory they may enjoy, the conservative regions continue to strengthen. As we've seen across the American Redoubt in recent elections, the compounding numbers of Patriots moving in from Occupied America are having a stunning effect on the left-wing Republican

establishment. And I mean they are stunned.

Now for the "even worse" worst-case scenario in America—a total or partial collapse of the political, economic, and social system. There are some for whom the Redoubt movement has no appeal. They're not in the least bit interested in relocating from where they live, work, and have deep roots. That's understandable, and it may be that it works out for them. But most of the Jews in Poland had no inclination to move either. Whether in Sudan, Serbia, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Poland,



Burma, Laos, China, Cuba, Darfur, Kosovo (I could go on and on), sometimes the bad guys come—often government or quasi-government forces. Regardless of what you prefer, relocating is sometimes a matter of making sure you're not the last branch in your family tree. For many throughout history, it wasn't until they were hunted that they realized the necessity of a safe haven and place of refuge. Many can agree that we're living under a somewhat "mild" form of tyranny in America. But a tyrant's thirst for power and control is never quenched. The more the tyrant obtains, the larger the appetite he has for more. And even more is on the way.

The Redoubt option is becoming a viable one for growing numbers of Patriots who want to take the initiative. That means you make your move on your terms. You're in control of the decision process. You choose, proactively, to relocate as a matter of strategy, as opposed to someone else's terms, reactively. As James Rawles of Survivalblog has said many times, "Never, ever be a refugee." It's one thing to be taken by surprise by an event, such as a catastrophic hurricane, or foreign invasion. But when you see the developing and deteriorating conditions in our own country, against the backdrop of countless historical examples to draw from, you can begin to see the possibility of where this could all take us when events fully run their course.

If the histories of all other empires are any indicator, we can reasonably project that the borders on the North

American continent will not be the same as they are now. While the timeline may be debatable, the clock is ticking. When an empire comes to its end, smaller nation-states emerge and new borders are drawn. And what type of system emerges within each of those borders is a direct reflection of the demographic majority within those boundaries: if you are in a region where the majority demographic is an amoral, Euro-style socialist culture, or a Christian-Patriot Founding-Father-centric culture, then that's the system that will rise and dominate within those boundaries.

Now would be a good time to make an assessment of the political, social, and religious culture where you live. What is dominant? Which social structure and values set are gaining ground? Are your values losing ground? What are the strongest trends? Do you feel outnumbered? Can you change it? Yes? Stay where you are. No? Consider strategically relocating.

This isn't a nihilistic approach to our condition; it's simply a matter of facing the reality that sometimes what we want to happen simply doesn't happen. That always leaves you with three choices: accept the conditions, change the conditions, or get off the X.

Redoubting isn't for everyone. It's a serious decision and I correspond with people all the time who are in various stages of relocating. I'm not going to try to convince everyone they should move to a Redoubt.

I'm only offering another option to consider. When my countrymen who are in the fight for liberty are exhausted, and they're outnumbered, and they keep taking one step forward and two steps back, maybe considering moving to a conservative region might be right for you. I know, there are countless variables. There's the career in the city that one can't duplicate anywhere else, or those who have aging parents to care for, or a non-supportive spouse who refuses to move, or climate conditions (too hot, too cold) that one just can't tolerate. The circumstances are too numerous to list. Just know that if it's right for you, or when it's right for you, there are burgeoning communities of Christian Patriots willing to resist tyranny and uphold the fundamental religious and political freedoms upon which this nation was founded.

John Jacob Schmidt is the primary voice behind the microphone at Radio Free Redoubt. He most recently served as a military contractor, previous law enforcement, and served with Army Special Operations (Desert Storm).

An Interview with...

JAMES WESLEY
RAWLES

BY IAN HAWTHORNE

James Rawles is an author of many books, including the *Survivors* series, a former Army intelligence officer, and the senior editor of *Survivalblog*. In 2011, he first proposed the American Redoubt. He answers our questions about the Redoubt movements, secession, Balkanization, the restoration of the Republic, and survival...

John Jacob Schmidt's podcast, Radio Free Redoubt, is solely and 100% inspired by your works. How has it contributed to the Redoubt movement?

Well, I think it's done a great job. I think that John has done a yeoman's service. He's obviously not some profiteer. He is genuinely interested in seeing the American Redoubt flourish, seeing God-fearing people relocate to this region, and to shift the demographics—which was the goal of the Redoubt plan from the very beginning. So, I certainly support what he's done. I've provided him some free advertising in my own blog, because I've been so happy with what he did. Quite frankly, I was dubious, when, a few years ago, he mentioned he wanted to start a podcast out of the blue—.

Did he contact you directly?

Yes, he did. I waited a few months to see how it went before I gave it my full endorsement, and gave him the free advertising. But I've been very impressed with what he's done; both with the AmRON Radio Network, and with the news coverage that he's provided for the Redoubt, and just general inspiration he's provided for people to go ahead and take the gap and move.

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I can understand why you would not want to put your stamp on something like this because you want to guard what you've created.

I don't claim to own the term "American Redoubt," I was just the originator. And it's essentially a liberty model that is like a wind-up toy. You set it down on the floor, and now I'm watching it go. So I don't really claim any ownership for the name, and I don't pretend to speak for everyone that uses the term "American Redoubt." There are a lot of people who have used the term—including a few racists (laughs). It's inevitably when you start a relocation movement that other people want to put their own imprimatur on it. And there are a few racists out there, and neo-Nazis, and general malcontents who I'd rather not see involved in the movement at all, but, again, I can't control people's use of the term.

I'm glad you brought that up, because if you go to the Wikipedia page for the Patriot movement, you see that it's slandered, and written by anti-Patriots. It makes us all out to be skin-heads and all the things you'll see on MSNBC. It's really sad. To me, the movement needs a Public Relations agent, if you will.



(Laughs) Worse luck, it's an anonymous congregation of people from all over the country, each with their own agenda. And just like the term "survivalist," it's been ruined by the mass media. The term "Tea party," the term "Patriot movement," have all been demonized by the mass media, which has a very strong leftist and anti-religious bias. So, it's just par for the course, and we have to do the best that we can under the circumstances, and to clarify, frequently and vociferously, that we, who represent the vast majority of the people in the Patriot movement and the American Re-doubt movement, that we're not racists, we're not anti-Semites, we're not a bunch of bigots; we're just God-fearing men and women who want to see people do the right thing.

How do you feel about Jarad and Amanda Miller, the Vegas shooters, who claimed they were part of the Patriot movement?

Well yes, I can figure that was a false flag, because it's just recently been revealed they were police informants, and that they had infiltrated the Bundy Ranch situation on behalf of at least one police department. I don't know if it was a mind-control thing, or (laughs) just a case of poor medication on their part, but they certainly did not represent the Tea Party movement, they don't represent the Patriot movement, whatsoever. And for the mass media to associate them with the Patriot movement was a huge disservice. It's also been revealed that at least the woman involved was a Satanist. And she was truly a Satan worshiper. There have been pictures of her published in front of a pentagram and the whole works. Be that as it may, there are always going to be Fifth Columnists, or whoever, that are going to try to either to infiltrate or pass themselves off as part of the Patriot movement to discredit it.

There is probably several who are willing to start a violent revolution—to be the ones to start, as some people call it, the American Revolution II, or the Civil War II, or something similar. What are your thoughts on that?

I think that in the long term, a restoration of our constitutional government is inevitable. How that's going to come about—whether it comes about peacefully, through the current

political process, or through the development of a third party, or through other means, has yet to be determined. All that's clear to me is that the trolley car of our government is definitely off the tracks. They've lost their constitutional path, and they no longer represent the will of the American people or the intent of our Founding Fathers. So, some sort of change is inevitable, just how and when that will happen is not clear. But I trust in God, and God's providence, and His hand of protection over the American people; perhaps not as an entire nation, but at least individually, as families, and communities, I think that God will continue to bless America, and that inevitably, we will

see a restoration of constitutional government. And that's what I've portrayed in my Patriots novel series. And that's one of the reasons that I started the American Redoubt. You know, I'm not trying to foment a revolution. I'm not even trying to, necessarily, call for the secession or partition of states from the United States. I don't think it's realistic to think that could happen, under the current political order.

Probably not.

That was tried in the 1860s, and it failed (laughs). Secession just doesn't work, and the new political order that began in the late 1860s made it abun-

dantly clear that they were going to have no tolerance for that whatsoever. And I don't think anything less than a total socio-economic collapse would usher in a secession movement that would succeed.

Some people call secession a Balkanization movement. What's your view on the potential on that?

No, I don't think it's impossible at all. There's an old Japanese proverb which is "the nail that sticks up gets nailed down." And I think that we're in a situation now where we have an over-reaching federal government that is very quick to step on anyone



who gets out of line. Whether you talk about Waco, Ruby Ridge, or Bundy Ranch, or any other situation where people attempt to assert their person sovereignty, those are not going to fly. You'll have the entire weight of the federal government, including the IRS, come down on anyone who attempts to form a secession movement or partition movement within the United States. It's just not going to happen under the current political order. And I don't recommend that people even attempt it presently, because the weight of the federal government will come down around people's ears so quickly and so heavily, they won't know what happened.



Wow, that's very surprising. I don't think anyone has read anything of yours that would advocate being the first one to kick things off, but I'm surprised to hear that you wouldn't advocate an attempt for secession—

No, I'm a realist. I would love to see our constitutional government restored. And whether it's from the top up or the bottom down,

neither of those is going to happen with the powers that be. It just can't. So, one prospect, of course, is essentially an out- of-the-ashes situation, where there's a socio-economic collapse, there's a vacuum of political power in Washington D.C., and then there'd be the opportunity for regional governments or individual states to break-off on their own. I think Texas would be the most likely in that situation. I think in our lifetime that's the only reasonable expectation. And as I describe in my blog, there's any number of situations that could precipitate that: whether it's a massive solar flare, and EMP attack, a major credit meltdown, the collapse of the United States dollar, a collapse of the stature of the U.S. in international opinion. There's a number of things that could conceivably trigger that. But it would take, probably, a full-scale collapse before there would be the elbow room to make that happen.

Is America salvageable? You talk about it being on a downward spiral, but can we save it?

Oh yes! In fact, I hold out a lot of hope for the political process. If the powers that be were to play by the constitutional rules, then we very well could see a true redress of grievances, we could see genuine reform, even a scale-back of federal government. Yes, it is possible—even in the current system—for a restoration of constitutional government! Now, possible and probable are two different things.

I ask that particularly because the New England has some remarkable historical landmarks, architecture, art, all those things, and if the nation does become tyrannically mobilized, those are at risk. Do you think it necessary and regrettable sacrifices, or do you see a way to reclaim our nation's cradle?

Well, unless we saw a total collapse of civilization, there probably wouldn't be any opportunity to salvage any of

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The Salt Lake City Metro area includes about 1,000,000 people. The availability of water for a million people in a desert is a major safety concern.

those. They'd probably end up in the hands of whoever declared themselves to be the new United States government. The scenario that I put forth in my novel, *Patriots*—which I wrote back in the winter of 1990 and '91; I first drafted it then—is a collapse of the United States government following a socio-economic collapse, and then basically a usurper government being formed at Fort Knox, Kentucky. It called itself “The Provisional United States government,” and was led by a bunch of political cronies. I think there's a good possibility that could happen, and I think it does resonate with a lot of people. In fact, there have been a couple of TV series that have chimed in on that same theme, later; like the *Jericho* TV series, and more recently, the *Revolution* TV series, which talked about different factions within the United States, each trying to claim that they were the legitimate United States government. That could happen.

So do you think that it's a lost cause to try to reclaim that land?

I think so, yes. Because of the high population density in the East Coast, odds are that they are end up in the hands of some petty tyrant. You basically cannot control an area with

that kind of population density with anything but an iron fist, and if there's going to be a lot of people who will try to do that in a collapse. And for anyone in a different region of the United States to have any kind of sway over that geographic area, I think is foolish. I don't think it's going to happen.

Idaho gets a lot of attention as the Redoubt state. What do the other states offer that Idaho doesn't?

I don't believe exclusively in Idaho. Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and the eastern halves of both Oregon and Washington, all constitute the American Redoubt. And I picked those based on their geography, their climate, their population density, and a number of other factors. Idaho just happens to be in the middle of it. Idaho is effectively two different states—northern Idaho and southern Idaho are in two different time zones. And I think for good reason (laughs). [Editors note: it's vehicularly difficult to reach either end of the state without crossing into other states; you must leave Idaho to get to Idaho.] Northern Idaho is primarily Catholic and Protestant. It's a fairly diverse economy. It has

a lot of rainfall. It's capable of sustaining itself in terms of crop production, timber, livestock, the whole works. Southern Idaho is, essentially a desert that has turned green because of modern irrigation, and that irrigation is dependent on grid power. If the grid power fails, southern Idaho is going to revert to desert very quickly, and that's one of the things that I've described in my novel *Patriots*, and in my upcoming novel, *Liberators*, which is coming out in October. Basically, southern Idaho is a lost cause in the event of a grid-down collapse. Now if the grids stay up, southern Idaho will probably be quite viable. In the absence of the power grids, I think you're going to see a mass dislocation of people, a massive wave of refugees coming out of southern Idaho as it dries up.

You've explained Utah's absence from the Redoubt is for the same reason. Yet, historically, the Mormon pioneers were able to successfully cultivate the area.

I'm sure that was quite viable and reasonable in the 1800s for about 20,000-100,000 people who originally settled. The population of Utah just cannot be self-supporting with the gravity-fed irrigation water that's available. I know there's a lot of water that comes out of the Wasatch [Mountains], and a lot of that has been successfully diverted, but it's not enough. And it really only serves one corner of Utah—the rest of Utah, especially southern Utah, is going to be hurting. The other factor that you need to discuss is the fact that Utah is predominantly Latter-day Saint, and while LDS Church members are famous for being well-prepared families and for having food storage, they are famous for having large families with seven, eight, nine, ten kids! If everything hits the fan, where are the majority of Mormons going to want to go? They're going to want to go to grandma and grandpa's house in Utah. And suddenly the population of Utah is going to double, and if we're in



Most of Utah is a desert, which is why Rawles doesn't include the state in the American Redoubt. The Bonneville Salt Flats pictured above are a sight to see, however, semi-arid and desert climates present significant challenges to Utah during a grid-down situation.

a grid-down situation, they'll be pouring into the state to become refugees within a few months. Just the very first summer will force them to be refugees back out of Utah. I don't think Utah is viable. You know, there are some very nice people there. There are some valleys at the foot of the Wasatch that would be quite viable; but sadly it cannot support the population that does exist, and it certainly cannot support the population that will exist in the event of a collapse.

True. I'm a Mormon myself, and I completely understand. We have huge families, ridiculously big! Anything under four kids is weird for Mormons (laughs). I can totally see my family and my friends' families coming home to grandma and grandpa. And that will not only be a Utah problem, but a nationwide problem. People will try to "double up" with their family, and it will create more than just food and water problems, it's going to cause sanitation problems, and that's really going to exacerbate things; not to mention crime and marauding.

And I think primarily the suburb areas will get swarmed, because all the urbanites are going to consider the suburbs relatively safe. But regrettably, most of America's suburbs have their water systems supplied by grid power, and not on gravity-fed water systems. The number of communities in the United States that have gravity-fed water systems, you can probably number less than a hundred cities, and maybe a few thousand small towns. The vast majority of Americans don't realize that their water—even the places that have a major body of fresh water nearby are going to be out of water in the absence of grid power. And as I pointed out in *Survivors*, part of the problem has been aggravated by our own government, and the EPA's nephelometer standards for the turbidity of water. They've required a lot of cities that formally had a gravity-fed water system from end-to-end, from some spring up in the mountains to your tap, now to pump through filters. So we've basically built ourselves a house of cards. Even the communities that could have reverted to gravity-fed water, now couldn't because of the EPA. And the majority of people are not in communities that were originally



gravity-fed. Most of the major cities that been built up have developed following the development of the national power grid (there are three grids in the United States: the eastern grid, the western grid, the Texas grid). So when the power goes out, everyone is going to be out of water in about three days. When you travel across America, just keep your eye out for water towers. What those basically are, are tanks filled with water that's pumped up for gravity flow back down to the communities. Those tanks only have a two or three day supply of water. In fact, in a crisis, it might be as little as a twenty-four hour supply because people will catch wind of the fact that water is going to be disrupted and they're going to start filling every container they can; they might even drain their pools and refill them with fresh water to drink. The vast majority of Americans will be out of luck. Those gravity tanks will be bone-dry in three days. And on day four, you're

going to see a mass outpouring of refugees from, virtually, every major city in the US: the Golden Horde.

On the note of religion, it's notable that you've excluded Islam from a compatible citizenship of people in the Redoubt. Some people may not mind them, but I think you have a reasonable explanation.

I don't believe Islam is a religion of peace that the media has advertised. I think it's a religion of evil and death, when you come right down to it. And there might be quite a few Muslims who are essentially good folks, but unfortunately, the whole religion is geared towards jihad. And it's incredibly intolerant of anyone outside of Islam. And if history has taught us anything, if you look at anytime there's a power vacuum, Islamic states, if they have enough population, will crop up, just like has happened in the past few weeks in Iraq, and they will go about their merry way, lopping off heads until someone stops them. That's what I described in the novel that was published last year, *Expatriates*, where I described the governments of Malaysia and Indonesia teaming up to try to create a greater sphere of influence for Islam all through the Pacific region. I think that very well could happen. I don't want to live anywhere where there is a sizable Islamic population. It's just not safe period.

That's a bold statement. You've not said that before.

Well, I think that people need to vote with their feet, and proceed with prayer. All your readers need to pray about this, and if you feel convicted to move and provide safety for your family, then go ahead and move. Because it's important that you get relocated and become part of a community long before a collapse. You don't want to be the expendable new guy, who just blew into town at the eleventh hour. You want to be part of community.

It also takes a long time to be established for self-sufficiency. You don't just instantly develop good soil for a garden. You don't just instantly have producing nut and fruit trees, or berry patches. You don't instantly have a fencing system for rotational grazing. You don't instantly have lengths for beehives. All these things take time. So, if you feel convicted to move, by all means, go ahead and move. But, as quickly as possible, get to know your neighbors, develop that Neighborhood Watch on steroids, and get truly self-sufficient. Allow time for that to happen. You can't expect to move to a rural retreat and have everything magically fall into space. It takes years to get used to the peculiarities of a local micro climate, for example; to know exactly what kind of seed does well, what crops do well, what livestock do well. It takes time. Don't think that you can get out of dodge at the eleventh hour to a pre-stocked retreat and have everything click. It's not going to happen.

I wouldn't think that you advocate violence, bigotry, or malcontent to Muslims before or after a collapse happens.

Oh no! As Christian, that'd be the last thing I'd want to do. But I wouldn't want to move to a place where that has a lot of Muslims living there. You know, freedom of association also implies freedom of non-association. And it's certain-

ly within my right to move where I feel comfortable and safe. And that's one reason why I feel comfortable living in the American Redoubt. I live way out in the middle of nowhere; it's a two-hour drive to the nearest Wal-Mart, we are surrounded by natural forest, we are in an incredibly light population density area [laughs]—I think the population density is about two or three people per square mile. I feel very safe here. I like homeschooling our kids, ranching, gardening, beekeeping, hunting, fishing, all that stuff. I really enjoy it. And even if nothing happens, at the end of my life, I will be able to look back and say "I gave my children a wonderful upbringing, in a very wholesome setting. I was able to homeschool them, shelter them from bad influences"—we don't own a television, for example. I am convinced that the self-sufficient prepper lifestyle, in a lightly populated area, is not only one of the safest ways to live, it's also most of the most wholesome ways to live, and a lifestyle that pleases God.

Well said! Previously, we talked about Balkanization. In Rethinking the American Union for the Twenty-first Century, it's discussed that the current size of the United States is unsustainable, and resolves that there should be several republics within the nation's current boundaries. One of those solutions is basically a southward expanded American Redoubt, and goes down the

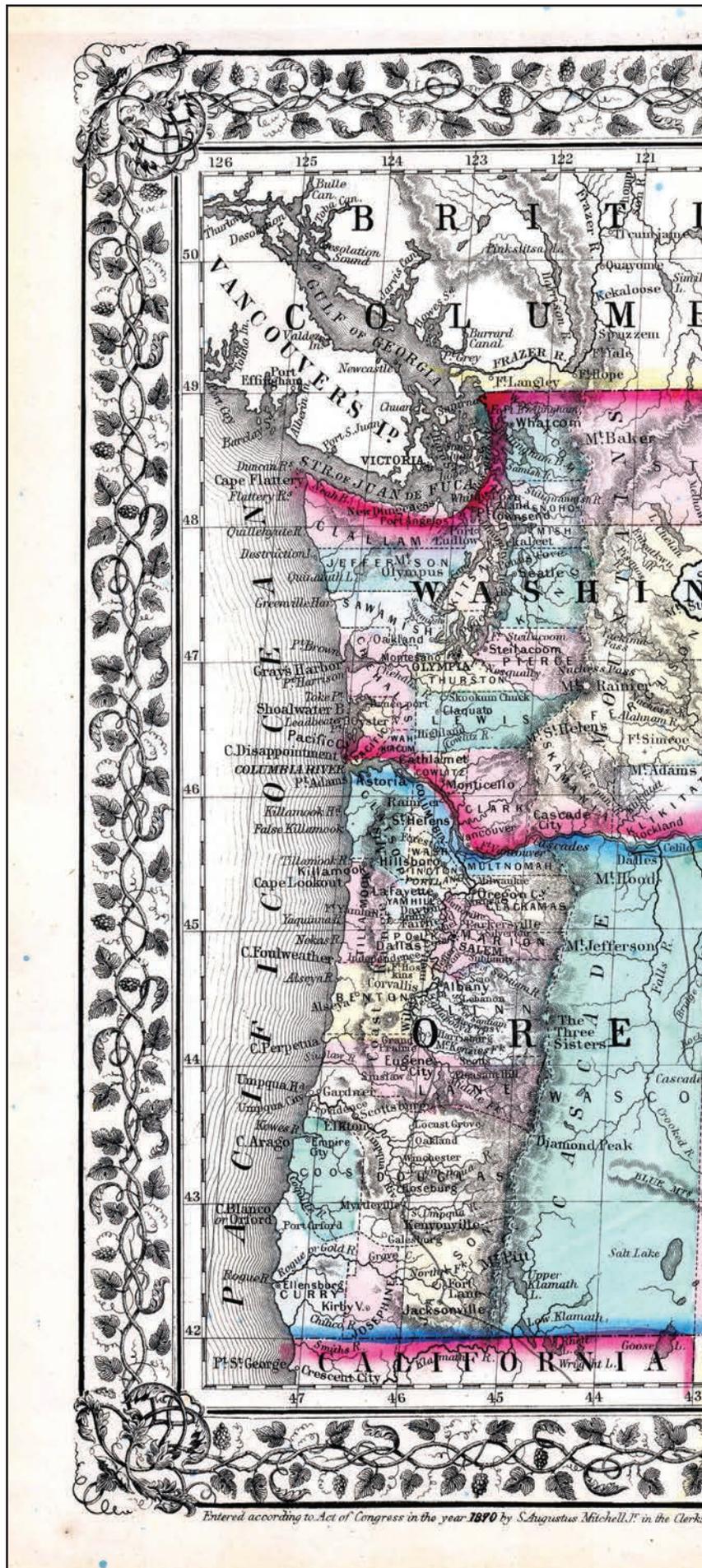


Rockies, to follow what I call “The Mormon Strap,” since it’s similar to the “Bible Belt.” How would that fundamentally affect the Redoubt? How would it help or harm the Redoubt to be surrounded by several smaller nations?

Well, if you look at conservative politics in the United States and the prepper movement, there are a lot of people in the Rockies and all the way down to New Mexico that are self-sufficiency minded, but it all comes back down to water. I don’t think it’s viable in a grid-down situation to expect those states to fare well. And it would probably take a grid- down situation for any secession or partition to successfully take place. So, while it’s a pretty good idea if you look at the demographic of the “Jello Belt”, as I call it, because of the politically, demographically, religiously, and so on, because of the lack of water in those states, and the liberal politics of Colorado, which is the only place in the central Rockies that has a considerable amount of water.

How do you think it would help or harm the Redoubt to be surrounded by other smaller nations?

Unless there was overt competition for resources or banditry under the guise of taxation along the inter-states, I think it could be quite useful to have friendly neighbors. It would provide, if nothing else, a buffer around the Redoubt where there would at least be fairly like-minded people, to come up to a dividing line that had a hostile people on the other side of it would require a whole ‘nother level of planning and preparedness and organization in the American Redoubt. That might be the situation at the summit of the Cascade mountain range, where the folks west of the Cascades, especially in northwestern Oregon and most of western Washington, are essentially liberal, godless, and statists. You could end up with a situation where you have hostile neighbors. It would actually be quite advantageous to have fairly friendly neighbors under a different sovereignty. And all this is pure conjecture. I’m not advocating the violent overthrow of the United States. I’m not even advocating secession or partition under the current political regime. It’s just not going to happen. If you look at eastern Oregon and eastern Washington, for example: even if it made perfect sense for them to partition, the seats of power are in western Oregon and western Washington. The masses of the population are in western Oregon and western Washington. There is just no way that those state legislatures are going to let that happen. They’re not going to say, “Oh, they want to be their own state, lets let them.” I’m sorry, as they say in grade school, “majority rules.” It’s just not going to happen.

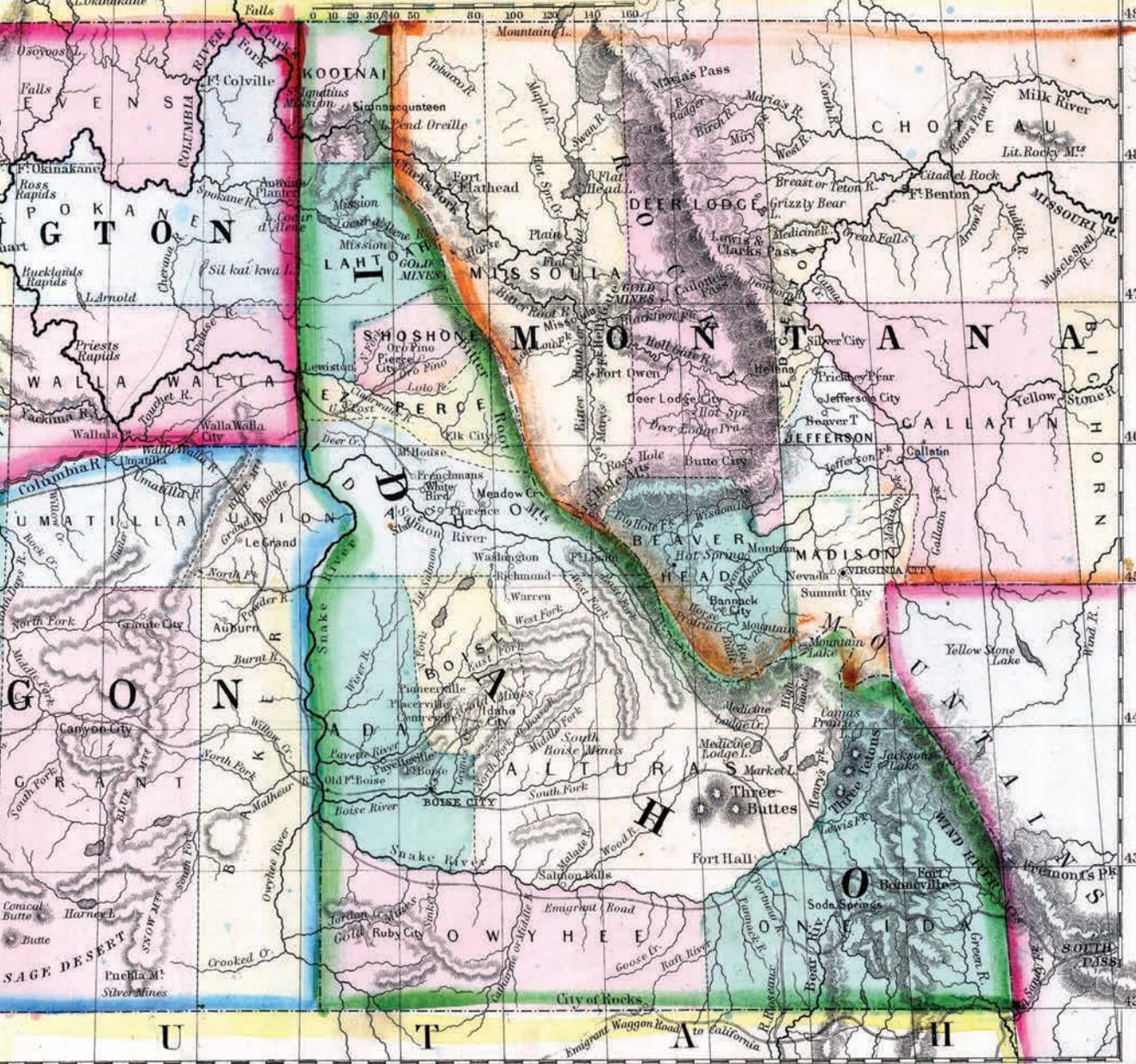




120 119 Longitude 118 West 117 from 116 Greenwich 115 114 113 112 111 110 109 108

MAP OF OREGON, WASHINGTON, IDAHO, AND PART OF MONTANA, AMERICA

SCALE OF MILES



42 41 Longitude 40 West from 39 Washington 38 37 36 35 34 33



Office of the District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

I do hold out a lot of hope for the American Redoubt. I do have a lot of hope for the whole concept of a constitutional United States, and with God's help, we will see a restoration of constitutional government; I'm just not holding my breath.

And since you're talking about that part of the Redoubt, some people see that it's sorely disadvantaged without a water port. The Columbia River and Snake River are the major water ways for trade, but either could be easily blockaded.

Well, a nation does not need a seaport to work. If that were the place, the Czech Republic could not have a government. There are lots of land-locked nations. Granted, it's an advantage, but not an absolute necessity. I do think with the current rail and interstate highway systems, there's plenty of transportation available. The question is: if the American Redoubt were to be partitioned, would be have friendly neighbors, and would they allow commerce to continue? It all depends on the political order of the day. If a hostile government were to take power and seat itself in Washington D.C. or elsewhere, and if they had no tolerance for some of the western states seceding, they could starve them out pretty quickly. And if nothing else, the dependence on federal subsidies has become so great that it would be very difficult for a state to secede even under ideal circumstances. Because, effectively, what they've done is taken revenue that should have belonged to the states and called it "federal revenue," and then they hand it out beneficently to the states to the states to make them beholden to the federal government. And essentially, it's the carrot and the stick. And the way that things are structured right now, even if a state like Wyoming, or Montana, or Idaho, for example, wanted to secede, there's such a large political base that exists among those who are welfare dependent that would absolutely rebel and would insist on coming back into the fold of the federal government because they're so used to nursing from the federal teat.

We have multi-generational dependents on welfare. It's a very sad state of affairs. We have the WIC program, the food stamps program—in fact, the food stamps, they've taken away the whole stigma of using food stamps by giving everybody something that looks like a credit card so that the other people in the check out line don't even realize what's going on. That whole milieu has built up over the past fifty years. It really began under the Great Society program under Lyndon Banes Johnson. It dates all the way back to the early 1960s. It's become more and more entrenched. And that same welfare state also what's caused a glacial shift in the US House of Representatives and the US Senate toward congressmen and senators for life who

represent the Democrat party who know how to service their voting block and get reelected over and over again. That's the situation we're in and I don't see any quick-and-easy way out of it.

What are your thoughts on the Appalachian Redoubt?

I think that it's certainly possibly, but the overall population density anywhere east of the Missouri River is high enough in the event of a societal collapse that politics will be the last thing on people's mind. They'll be concerned about staying alive and not getting eaten by their neighbors. You know I constantly get emails from readers of my blog or consulting clients who say "Well, you know, I live in New York and I'm thinking about buying a retreat property in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey—or retreat property in Vermont—or retreat property in the Catskills." Those kind of solutions aren't really solutions. Now the Appalachian region has some great things going for it. It can definitely be geographically isolated you know because there are just a few corridors that lead into it, so if someone wanted to close off the roads to the ravaging hordes, which is basically what I describe in my upcoming novel *Liberators*, they could do that. There's also a quite viable area in Tennessee, in what's called the Cumberland Plateau. It's fifteen hundred feet higher than all of the surrounding area, and it would be quite difficult for people to get into if a couple of Good Ol' Boys wanted to block off some roads. But, just how viable either of those regions that, the Appalachian Redoubt or the Cumberland Plateau Redoubt, would be, is doubtful given the overall high population density of the region. I think in a event of grid-down situation, those areas would be very dangerous for a few years, until there's a die-off. So I don't really recommend there if people are strategically relocating.

If people were stuck on the east side of the Mississippi, you would say that the Tennessee spot would be the best for them?

Probably. In terms of the ability to at least isolate themselves and wait for a die-off, they're probably better than anywhere else. Now, there's parts of northern Maine for example that might be quite viable. It's conceivable that they could isolate themselves. There are portions, like the Ouachita Mountains, portions of the Appalachian region, that could be isolated. But regardless, anywhere in the east is going to be a gamble. And my advice for all of my consulting clients over the last few years has been "Yes, you can try to stick it out there, but you better have plenty of ammo, a real sturdy bunker, and plenty of grub, because you're going to need it. You're simply going to have to hunker down about a year and a half and wait for your



neighbors to eat each other. And then once the population density has dropped, then there might be a chance to rebuild. But, I certainly would not voluntarily relocate anywhere in the eastern United States.

Wow. That's grim.

Well, I'm a realist, and I can't say for certain that we're going to see a breakdown/ collapse, but being a preparedness minded person, I always prepare for the worst-case situation, and if anything lesser happens I'll be pleasantly surprised.

Nice. What else do you want our readers to know?

I just would hope that people would take full advantage of their opportunity, at present to relocate. We still have an economy that's holding together, somewhat. And we still have to freedom to travel and relocate, but those freedoms may disappear in the next few years. Either the economy will get so bad that people won't have the means to relocate, or things will change politically where you will need permission from the government to relocate. I recommend people to go ahead, after prayer, to relocate while you can. I encourage people to take full advantage of the

resources that I have at my website (survivalblog.com). The entire contents of free of charge. There is no super-secret member's area. It's all open to the public. Print out hard copies of the most important articles. I also have an archive DVD of the last seven years of the blog. It's fully searchable. It's less than \$20 available on the blog. You can either download it or get it on DVD. But with that, at least, if you have an alternative power system that you can have access that's in the blog archives, even if the power grid goes down. They are more or less for entertainment and inspiration, but I do think that my own novels have some merit.

That's very humble of you. "Some merit,"?

Well, I don't claim to be Ernest Hemingway, okay? (Laughs) I'm not a great writer, but I think I am trying to put forth a good message, the message of preparedness.

We appreciate your humility, but we all know better.

Well, again, I'm hardly a great writer. Anyway, I recommend people take advantage of the time, opportunity, and resources they have now, because those may melt away in the future. I also recommend to all my consulting cli-

ents is that they keep their passport updated, because every family needs a plan A, a plan B, and a plan C. And we could see a political situation in the United States where families literally have to flee the country.

Where would that be?

(Laughs) That's a good question. I discuss that at length in my blog. Unfortunately, there are very few viable places for a true socio-economic collapse. At least for anyone that's not a native speaker of a foreign language. If you're a native speaker of Spanish, for example, then, by all means, there are islands in the Philippines that have less than two hundred people on them (laughs). You could raise pigs and eat poi for the rest of your life and live happily every after. Remember what I said about being the expendable new guy who just flew into town? Now you're the expendable, rich gringo who just flew into town! And when things hit the fan, who are all the bad guys going to head to? They're going to go to your estancia, your rancho, or whatever, and try to take what you have for their own. And they'll think that they'll be able to get away with it, because you don't have political connections locally. So, unless you've married into a local family, offshore, and are a native speaker of a language, or at least a very fluent speaker of a language, I don't recommend moving to non-English speaking countries. And that leaves just a few countries that aren't predominantly English-speaking. And most of those have problems, and one of the biggest you'll run into is gun control laws; because we have a situation here in the United States, even though although we have deteriorating rights, we still have the right to bear arms. Most countries don't even have a semblance of a right to keep and bear arms, and the few gun rights that exist apply only to citizens, not foreign residents. Say

you move to Finland or Switzerland, for example. Well, great: they're wonderful countries that are pro-gun, but the gun rights only apply to people who are full-citizens, not to people who are resident aliens. Again, I think people need to have a plan A, plan B, plan C. So update those passports.

Is there anywhere westernized other than the US you would recommend living?

Belize is quite nice, but the crime rate is getting higher. Chile has its merits, although in the small towns there aren't a lot of English speakers, but in the big cities there are. Uruguay has its merits—.

You're naming a lot of Spanish speaking countries.

In part because a lot of the Spanish-speaking world is not Islamic, and it has a high regard for personal property. There are definitely some possibilities. But I would still consider many of them a poor choice. I would only consider them a good first choice for someone in exceptional circumstances.

I do have one last personal question: you have a comma after your middle name. What does that mean?

(Laughs) That is a common-law distinction, which sets apart my given name, which is my sole property, and my family name, which is common property. It's a legal distinction that's largely forgotten, and I started using it more than twenty years ago.

Wow. Talk about preparedness!

I recognized that it was pretty important to point that out, and it also serves as a pretty useful affectation to draw attention to my name, so that it makes it memorable; sort of like H. Ross Perot. He went by H. Ross just

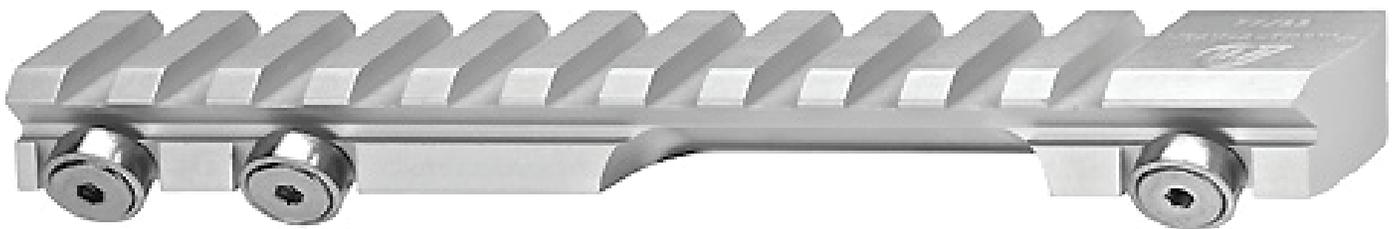
to make his name memorable, and there is some advantage in that.

*James Wesley Rawles has two new books coming out this year: the fictional *Liberators*, on sale Tuesday, October 21, and the nonfiction book, *Tools For Survival*, available Tuesday, December 30. His acclaimed blog is survivalblog.com*

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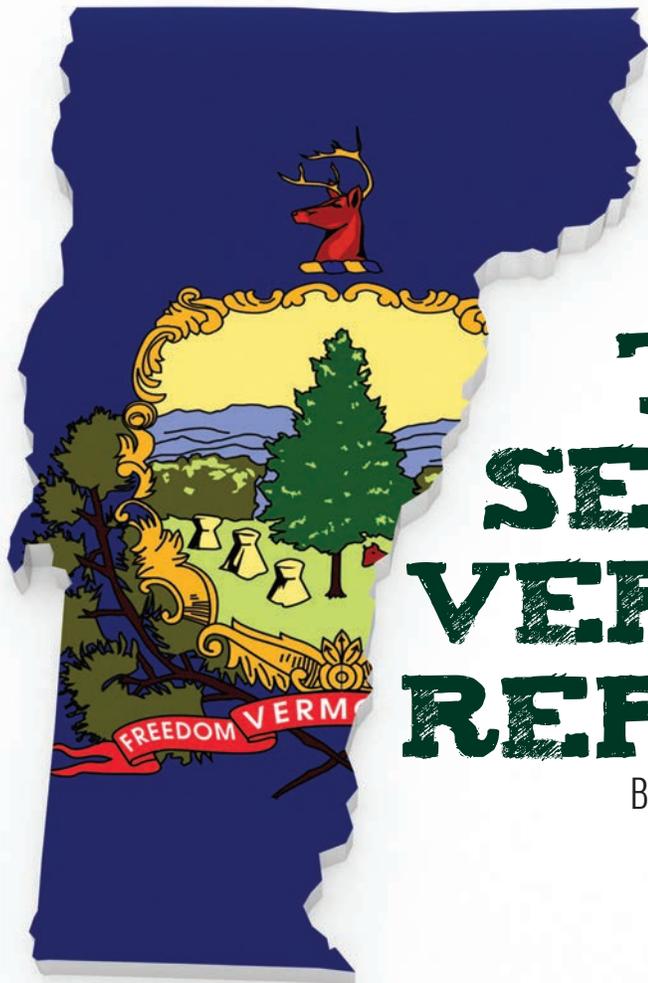


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THE SECOND VERMONT REPUBLIC

BY IAN HAWTHORNE

While Texas is the most well-known state for threatening secession, Vermont may beat them to the punch. “Vermont?” one may ask. “What in the Sam Hill has Vermont on secession?”

A poll conducted by the University of Vermont’s Center for Rural Studies in 2008 showed that a whopping 77 percent of the state’s voters agreed the United States government had forfeited its ethical power; to boot, 50 percent agreed the US was unsustainable, environmentally, economically, politically, or militarily. According

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to The Dallas News, less than half of that say that Texas even has the right to secede, and only 18 percent would even support it if it came up. To make it more bleak, 75 percent said they’d oppose the break.

Vermont has a history of independent thinking, from being the first to outlaw slavery in the US, to opposing the Louisiana Purchase, to the formation of the Forest Farm experiment (which essentially seceded when Fat Man and Little Boy were dropped), to creating the Second Vermont Republic movement in 2003.

The Second Vermont Republic (SVR), if you haven’t heard of it, seems insignificant—like a small fraternity of Baby Boomers that meet quarterly in a garage over poker. But in November 2004, the civic club co-hosted, with England’s The Fourth World organization, a national conference to explore the concept of secession, to which attendees came from eleven states and England. It garnering national media and a Quebec paper to pay attention.

Two thousand five proved monumental since SVR held the first Statewide convention on secession

in the US since 1861. In November 2006, the group helped to kick off the First North American Secessionist Convention, held in Vermont, which brought representatives from Texas (surprise), Alaska, Louisiana, Hawaii, California, New Hampshire, and Tennessee. The next year, the Second North American Secessionist Convention (NASC) was held in Chattanooga, and drew delegates from thirty-six states. The 2008, SVR sponsored an iconoclastic carnival with avant-garde music, visual media, theater, stunts, rhetoric, public affairs, and sociality. A week afterwards, a third NASC convention took place in New Hampshire. Defection quickly became a juggernaut.

Branding isn't lost on SVR. They adopted Ethan Allen's and the Green Mountain Boys's eighteenth-century flag, and it's now the Vermont National Guard's emblem. Paraphernalia of all kinds brandish the banner of blue and green. RadioFreeVermont.org provides the Interwebs with all music and all politics Vermont sovereignty, with listeners in broaching 150 nations.

Secessionists have even run for the governor's, lieutenant governor's, and Senator's tickets. Although the 2010 race was unsuccessful, it was the highest profile exercise the club has done. To wit, in March 2003, the SVR influenced the three state congresspersons to vote against giving Bush military power to pursue Iraq—the only state to unanimously do so. SVR also helped both houses of the state legislature to pass resolutions calling for the immediate withdrawal of all troops from Iraq. Be it noted that SVR's modus operandi is nonviolence, and thus is probably the reason the federal gum'mit's hackles are raised.

Taking their cue from the mostly peaceful splintering of the Soviet Union, SVR not only feels it's possi-

ble, but feel it their duty to splinter off from the Union. There is no way to fix her, in their opinion. They don't fear the doubts that factioning is unconstitutional (New York, Virginia, and Rhode Island each had caveats to ratifying the Constitution that they could break the contract at any time), that it's political suicide (with nonviolence as their tool, the US wouldn't consider secession a threat; and if they did send troops, the underdog would undoubtedly gain foreign, including Canadian, aid), and that a sovereign Vermont is fiscally implausible (ten of the world's richest countries are each populated less than Vermont and has a higher per-capita income). These summarized answers are gross oversimplifications, but know that the Second Vermont Republic has considered all.

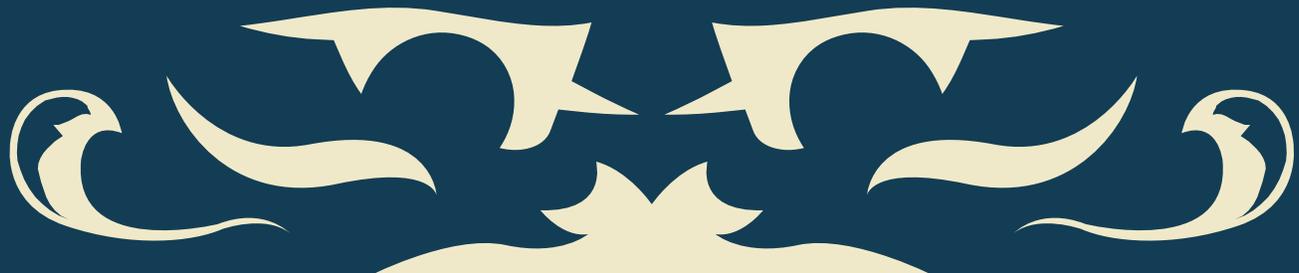
Will our generation see the independence of the Green Mountain state? Maybe not, with the looks of how this administration has conducted business. Then again, the same token bears the possibility we will. Vermont

is not alone is their radical thinking, as it seems a growing number of states have this proposed to their legislature each year. It could happen from any side of the country. And it's likely we will see Vermonters take the plunge first. "Freedom and unity!"





**THE
TEXAS
NATIONALIST
MOVEMENT**



The Lone Star State is home to cowboys, good country music, decent football, and the Texas Nationalist Movement (TNM). TNM President Daniel Miller answers our questions about the Republic of Texas.

How close are you to Texan independence?

One day closer than yesterday. In all seriousness, I personally have been working for Texas independence since 1996. Notice that I said “working”. That being said, Texas independence is inevitable. The time to our destination is completely dependent on many factors - the number of active workers, the number of active supporters, the number of passive supporters, domestic pressure and external pressure. This has been the measure with every independence movement in history and Texas is no different.

How do you foresee forthcoming amnesty legislation affecting Texas and the TNM's goals?

Just the pursuit of amnesty by the Centralists has swelled our ranks. Which, again, shows that every move made by the Federal Government serves to drive more support to the TNM. It happened with Obamacare, the PATRIOT ACT and many other actions taken in DC.

How much of a threat to Texas independence is the Obama administration's goal to turn Texas 'blue'?

Zero. What is troubling to us is the establishment Republican Party's goal

to turn the Republican Party of Texas blue.

What are the greatest contributing factors to TNM's success right now?

It's hard to pin them all down. Obviously, we have a great core group of Texas Nationalists which is far different than having a core group of 'members' or 'supporters'. Additionally, the diversity of our existing membership adds to our success. We have members from every demographic that you can imagine. Our membership is Texas. But I would say that the most important factor for our success is rooted in our longevity. We make smart moves. Our message is clear, on point and speaks directly to the people of Texas. We are a disciplined organization and always act to support the mission. After being at this for so long, I have seen groups pop in and out of existence that were helmed by well-meaning people who thought that could get it done faster. But this is serious business and is not a place for “Johnny-Come-Latelys”.

Texas is a wide expanse of geographic, political and demographic landscapes. How can Texas independence unite such a diverse and, at times, oppositional population?

Texas has the same issues as any na-

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tion. We divide over the small things and unite under the banner over the big. Balancing the interests of every citizen is the challenge of any nation. Yet the true mark of excellence of any people is how they behave in adversity. As Texans, we can see this in the polling that has been done over the past several years on the issue of Texas independence when the numbers have increased in demographic groups that have surprised the pundits. It is proof that when it comes to the larger issues, Texans can find common ground.

Who are today's Stephen F. Austins, Sam Houstons, James Bowies and Davy Crocketts?

They are walking among you right now. Those men that you mentioned are dead. Their monuments have been erected. Their stories inspire us. But they are not here. Instead, when the history books are written and historians record the deeds of those who led the current fight for Texas independence, we will have new names and stories to inspire future generation. I believe that can be any of us if we answer the call.

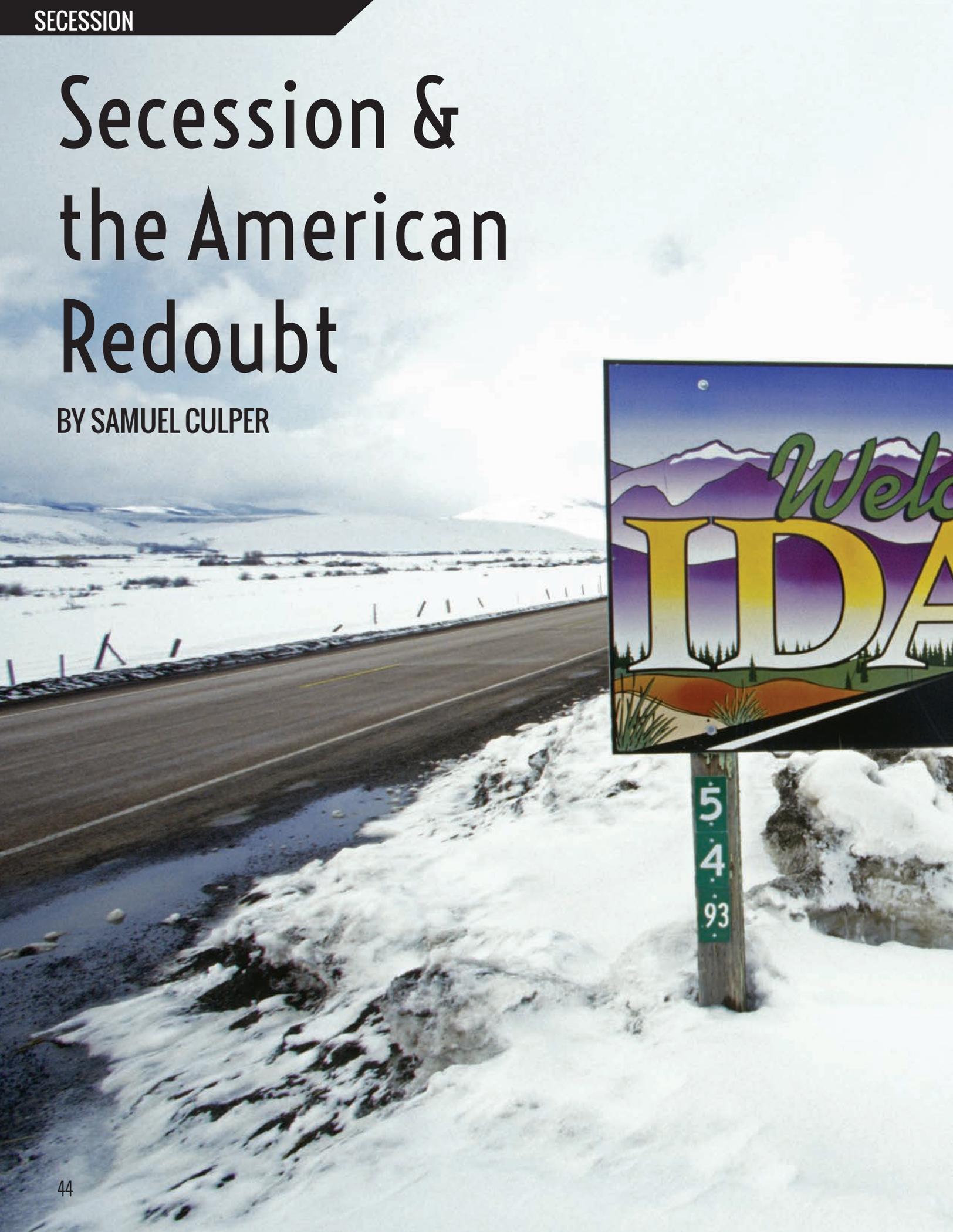
Who are today's Santa Annas?

Santa Anna was a Centralist. He wanted to consolidate power in a Capitol that was 1000 miles away. He was willing to ignore the Constitution to achieve his vision of Mexico. He wanted to preserve the Mexican union at any cost. He considered as traitors those who believed themselves Texans instead of Mexicans. So, who are today's Santa Annas? To us, it's anyone who denies that Texas should be an independent nation, no matter their station or position. A Centralist is a Centralist.

You can find out more about the Texas National Movement at texnat.org.

Secession & the American Redoubt

BY SAMUEL CULPER





This morning on a local radio show where I was passing through, the call-in talk show hosts were taking calls on whether or not the state should secede. The score was 8-7 in favor of secession as the voices faded to static, and I was forced to scan the band again. Sounds like anecdotal evidence of some support to me.

Sure, I signed my state's petition to secede. Most people correctly realize that these petitions are symbolic of our frustration with and desire to

reject federal statist policies affecting all 50 states. Still, there are those who act as if these petitions are the spark that will somehow ignite nationwide revolt. In and of themselves, these petitions are a circus detached from reality and they're a distraction from a real solution.

I believe that secession can be a real solution but, as you'll see, it carries an enormous cost and doesn't necessarily make life any easier. The quality of life under the secession solution is questionable but I'll state the case for the American Redoubt.

The majority of citizens already vote Republican, are fiercely independent, are more self-sufficient than the average American, and I think are more politically hostile toward the federal behemoth. This doesn't describe all citizens of the American Redoubt but it's a start for a good many of them. Theoretically, if we arrived at a conclusion that secession was a realistic option, that it was adequate at solving the issue of federal dominance and usurpation of power, and that the quality of life in the Redoubt would greatly improve; then we would still require both a bombproof legal basis for secession and the ability to enforce the decision and protect our sovereignty.

For the sake of academic exercise, here are two issues that the American Redoubt, among other regions, would need to address should we ever secede.

Balancing Governance and Defense

There's seemingly no end to the list of maladies that plagued the Confederate States of America (CSA) after secession (chief among them was the "peculiar institution" of slavery). Had they not held the infinitely heavy burden of fighting a war, the Confederate government may have been able to fix these problems. Had the CSA

successfully defended the South, the Confederate government would still have faced the critical task of ensuring good governance, along with the insurmountable odds of ending hyperinflation that plagued its citizens and the economy at large.

I would not expect the federal government to allow a region to withdraw peacefully from the Union. Likely targets for arrest would be elected government officials and military leaders. Under a highly structured and centralized organization, if leaders critical to mission success were removed, then the entire movement would fail. How many times and how often can you replace a governor? How many times and how often can you replace a president? But under an organization that favors decentralization with a ceiling at the state level (insofar as wartime is concerned), there is no one head of the snake.

Even then, a state alone could still function without a governor so long as county and local government continued. In that case, the American Redoubt states must ensure that essential services will continue to function; and one of the best ways to do that is to simply limit the quantity and scope of essential services offered by the state. County and local government must ensure that the rule of law is respected and they would do this through local law enforcement and, ideally, the utilization of small, localized militias where law enforcement is scarce or ineffective. This works best when the populace is or is nearly self-sufficient – this includes the ability to defend themselves from enemies, foreign and domestic.

The association between the military and its civilian leadership is a critical link under a centralized structure. If military leaders are removed through death or arrest, then the organization suffers. If military and civilian lead-

ers' ability to command and control is degraded, then the organization suffers. Ideally, there is no upper echelon leadership in a Redoubt resistance. That's not to say there's no communication or coordination; but the Redoubt would have to effectively remove its own high value targets (HVT) from the battlefield. A colonel leading a Redoubt brigade or battalion is a HVT in the eyes of the adversary. The equivalent of a sergeant leading a small squad is not because his removal from the battlespace would have a negligible effect in terms of the duration and scope of disruption; a sergeant is more easily replaced than a colonel. One sergeant's removal would not affect the other squads around him and across the region like the removal of a colonel would. Liberty-committed Patriots must wrestle their minds away from the conventional, force-on-force paradigm and into the history books of guerrilla and partisan resistance warfare. In effect, the resistance says, *Come and enforce your laws on us*. When confronted with mass resistance of a civilian populace - if nearly the entire region would go along (a big if) - imposing the federal will is a thoroughly costly and immensely difficult practice, if not an altogether impossible feat for the occupier. For evidence, look no further than Vietnam (still communist) and Afghanistan (still tribal). Still, many scholars agree that a mere 15-25 percent of a population that enjoys some popular support is enough to become a sustainable guerrilla movement.

Economy and Exports

The American Redoubt, of all regions, has the most robust natural resource base in all of America: oil, lumber, minerals, and metals. Each of these are required to fuel an economy; and silver and gold are real money. In addition, each of these natural resources has upward price potential while the cost to acquire them (except for the

cost of fuel) stays relatively the same. As a region, the GDP of the American Redoubt is around \$130 billion, which puts us near the total GDP of Kansas. Federal royalty revenue from natural resource extraction in Wyoming is around \$1.7 billion; and only \$1.8 billion if you include the entire Redoubt region. Theoretically, if current EPA regulations were eased under the state or regional government, that revenue would increase. The American Redoubt region's tourism industry is valued around \$8 billion dollars annually, which employs thousands and brings in hundreds of millions in state revenue. In addition, the federal government spends approximately \$2.1 billion on social security retirement and disability, low income housing assistance, supplemental nutrition programs, medicare, medicaid, and education in Wyoming alone. That number is \$4.5 billion in Montana and \$6.2 billion in Idaho: that's nearly \$13 billion for the region.

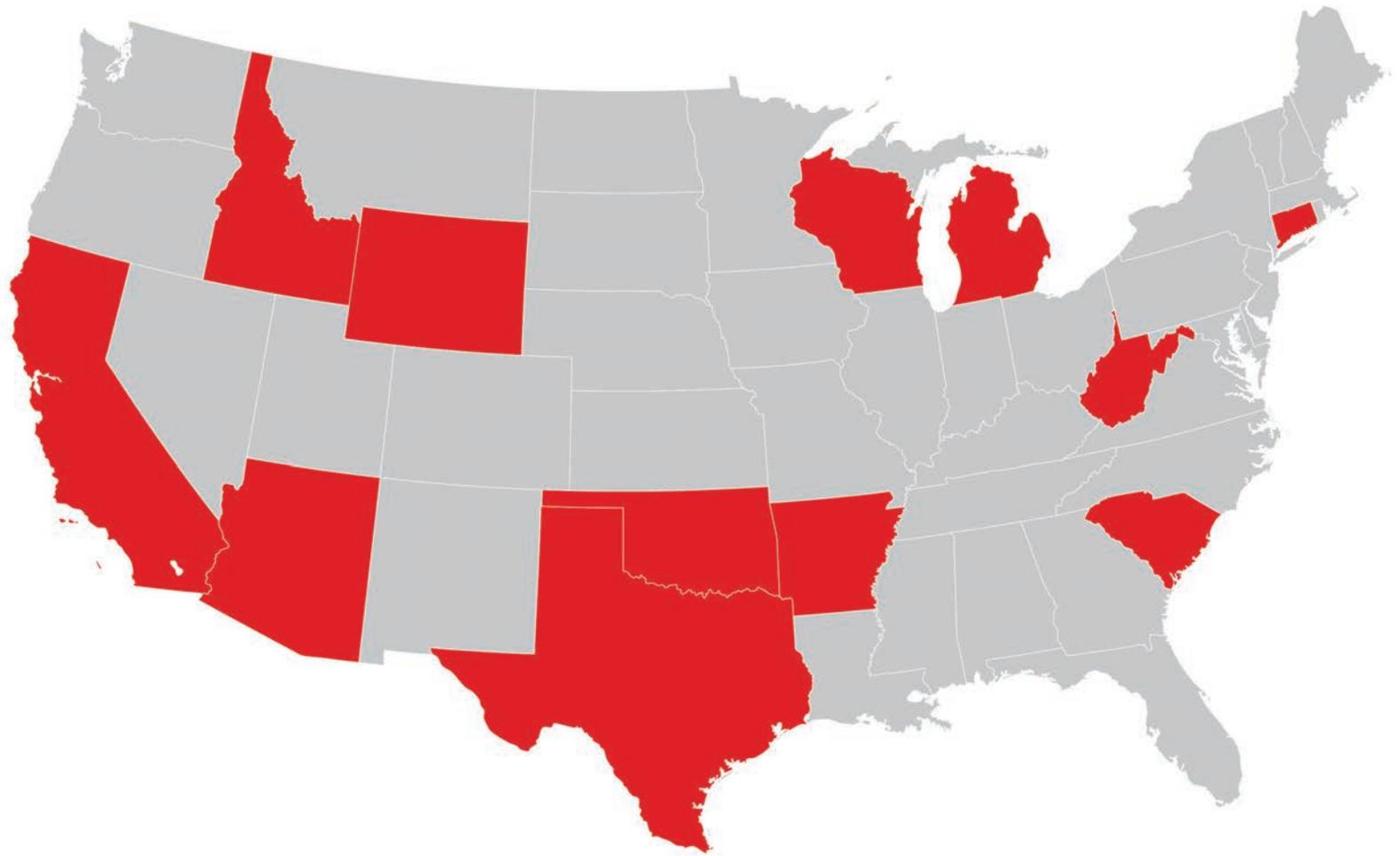
It doesn't take long to see that secession, even if the Redoubt region could fight its way out of the Union, would inflict heavy economic casualties on the region. In short, it's an economic issue and it comes with a steep price tag most will be unwilling to pay for. (This isn't to say that a large movement of employers to the region couldn't bolster the economy and ease the economic burden of secession.) While we can't put a price on our freedom, our quality of life is still multitudes higher now than as its own region. One day that quality of life is likely to invert, and we in the American Redoubt will have an opportunity to create a nation worth fighting for.







THE
AMERICAN
REDOUBT IS
AWAITING YOU



TRAININGSCHEDULE

Culper Institute

20-21 SEP - Human Intelligence Collectors Course (TX)

15-16 NOV - Human Intelligence Collectors Course (CA)

<http://culperinstitute.com>

ManAlone Tactical (SC)

6-7 SEP - Tactical Carbine I

13 SEP - South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit

14 SEP - Advanced Concealed Carry

20-21 SEP - Tactical Pistol I

4-5 OCT - Urban Rifle

23-24 OCT - Tactical Pistol I

25-26 OCT - Tactical Carbine

8-9 NOV - Tactical Pistol I

15-16 NOV - Fighting Shotgun

<http://manalonetactical.com>

Mason Dixon Tactical (WV)

13-14 SEP - Rural Buddy Team Essentials Course

20-21 SEP - Survival Essentials Course

15-16 NOV - Rural Buddy Team Essentials Course

<http://masondixontactical.wordpress.com>

Max Velocity Tactical (WV)

19-21 SEP - Combat Rifle/Combat Drills

28 SEP - 03 OCT - Combat Rifle/Combat Drills + Patrolling

<http://maxvelocitytactical.com>

Mountain Guerrilla

21-24 AUG - Small Unit Patrolling (ID)

<http://mountainguerrilla.wordpress.com>

Sierra 12 Tactical (AZ)

13 SEP- Land Navigation

4-5 OCT - Combat Rifle

17-19 OCT - Night Fighting

1-2 NOV - Team Fire and Movement

6-7 DEC - Security Patrolling

<http://sierra12.com>

Sigma III Survival School (AR)

10-14 SEP- Survival Standard

20 SEP - Wild and Medicinal Plants

10-12 OCT - Survival Trapper

15 OCT - Wilderness SERE

2-6 NOV - Survival Standard

8-12 NOV - Advanced Survival

19-25 NOV - Scout Survival

<http://survivalschool.us>

Sparks Communications

6-7 SEP - III Communications Course (WY)

13-14 SEP - III Communications Course (WI)

4-5 OCT - III Communications Course (CT)

8-9 NOV - III Communications Course (OK)

6-7 DEC - III Communications Course (TX)

<http://sparks31.wordpress.com>



**THE
AMERICAN
REDOUBT
IS
AWAITING
YOU**



**COMMUN
GETTING**

EXIT NOW

COMMUNICATIONS: GETTING STARTED

BY SPARKS31

It's been my observation of both the militia movement from the mid 1990s, and the re-badged III% movement twenty years later that most groups are severely lacking in knowledge and skill level in regard to the field of technical communications. To be truly effective, one must combine select skill-set elements of amateur radio, military communications, clandestine operations, computer hackers and "phone phreaks" to produce a unique product specifically tailored to the III% community. It is my intent to do so.



There are a number of considerations one must take into account in order to do this. The following list can be considered a good start, but like everything else at the cutting edge, should be taken with an eye towards improvement and evolution as our overall situation changes and evolves.

Considerations

- The lack of viable broadcast news media even at the present situation mandates that you conduct communications monitoring activities in order to get an accurate picture of activities in your area of operations (AO). If you do nothing else in the way of radio communications, you must at the very least have an adequate communications monitoring
- Your communications equipment will need to be capable of operating independent of the power grid. The lack of consistent reliable electric utility service in a grid-down scenario means that you will have to produce your own power for communications.
- The limited quantity of electricity from self-generation means that you should use the lowest amount of RF power needed to establish reliable communications. Ham radio has a subset of low-power communications known as QRP, and many hobbyists use this technique exclusively. QRP radios also have other advantages that make them appealing for grid-
- Many grid-down scenarios will have you operating in field locations. Your equipment should be portable or at least easily transportable. This applies to most QRP radios, by the way.
- Commercial electronic repair facilities will not be available in a long-term grid-down scenario. At best you may have access to a retired electronic repair technician or advanced hobbyist with a small personal collection of common parts and basic test equipment. Some of your equipment should be capable of being repaired under these conditions.
- Interestingly enough, the concepts of QRP (low-power), off-grid oper-

ation, portable communications equipment, and homebrew gear are all interconnected and very popular among a significant segment of the amateur radio community to the point of several activities such as Summits On The Air (SOTA) catering to hams who are into this sort of thing.

- Socio-political effects of a grid-down scenario may make it necessary for you to implement some form of communications security (COMSEC). Depending on the specific type and severity of the scenario, you may be facing threats ranging from bandits with a police scanner to a professional signals intelligence (SIGINT) asset.

With these considerations in mind, a plan can be developed. The following can be used as a generic example for initial purposes.

The Plan

1. Work on your communications/electronics skill set. (continuous)
2. Set up a communications monitoring post. This is more important than being able to talk on the air to other people.
3. Never trust anyone else's infrastructure. Things like 2 meter ham repeater networks are great until they go down. Think simplex, and think Near Vertical Incidence Sky-wave (NVIS).
4. Establish your intra-group communications.
5. Establish your communications networks with neighboring allied groups (interoperability).
6. Establish communications with nationwide communications networks.

For future articles, I will provide specific details on the implementation of each stage of this plan. In this installment, I will discuss the first stage of this plan, the communications/electronics skill set. This step is very important as it provides the foundation for everything that follows it, and it is a continuous process. Three Percent technical specialists need to take their continuing education very seriously, as the skill set is orders of magnitude more important than any com toys one may acquire. There exist many good references that teach you about communications electronics. The author's personal technical library (hardcopy) takes up about 50 linear feet of shelf space, spans a time frame back to the early 20th century, and took about 30 years to acquire. Fortunately, most of the required initial reading for technical specialists is readily available.

The two best texts I've found for learning about communications electronics are the U.S. Navy's NEETS (Navy Electricity & Electronics Training Series) collection,

and the ARRL Handbook For Radio Communications. Between these two, you will have a good starting education in the subject. NEETS consists of a 24 volume set of online e-books that you can download from <http://www.phy.davidson.edu/instrumentation/NEETS.htm> and other places on the Net.

"Sparks" is a veteran of the US Army, former phone phreak, and long-time ham radio enthusiast. He previously wrote electronic communications articles for The Resistor, a former publication of the Special Forces Underground.





THINK OUTSIDE THE GUN

WHY USING A FIREARM
ISN'T ALWAYS THE BEST IDEA

BY ROBERT DAKAR

When planning for survival, guns, camo, and ammo are usually at the top of the list. Some consider firearms a must have, while others spend most of their time and energy focusing on this one aspect. The trouble is that there are plenty of places where owning certain firearms is difficult at best or firearms are frowned upon in total. These people are still in need of a tool to replace the firearm's utility. In this article we will explore the many different options that can replace a firearm in your survival plan.



There are alternative tools we can use if we find ourselves in situations where the use of a firearm is unfavorable.

Bow and arrow—ranging from a full six-foot wooden bow to a compact one-handed crossbow, this tool can be a capable substitute for a firearm. Lightweight, easy to use (but difficult to master), and very easily obtained, the bow is an option for just about anyone. For healthy adults, a compound (>\$100) or recurve bow (>\$300) gives the ability to take down any large mammal, while also being able to hunt rabbit or squirrel. The full-size bow is also very capable of stopping a person, making it a suitable tool for self-defense. For urban environments, or for those with weaker strength, a small handheld crossbow (>\$300) might be a good choice. Easily hidden in a backpack, it has the power to take down a large dog on a well aimed shot, but is very capable of hunting small game, such as rodents, cats, or birds. It also with severely wound a human, making it applicable for self-defense. With a little training and practice, one can make arrows, meaning you can make more ammunition in the field. It is also possible to craft a longbow from scratch,

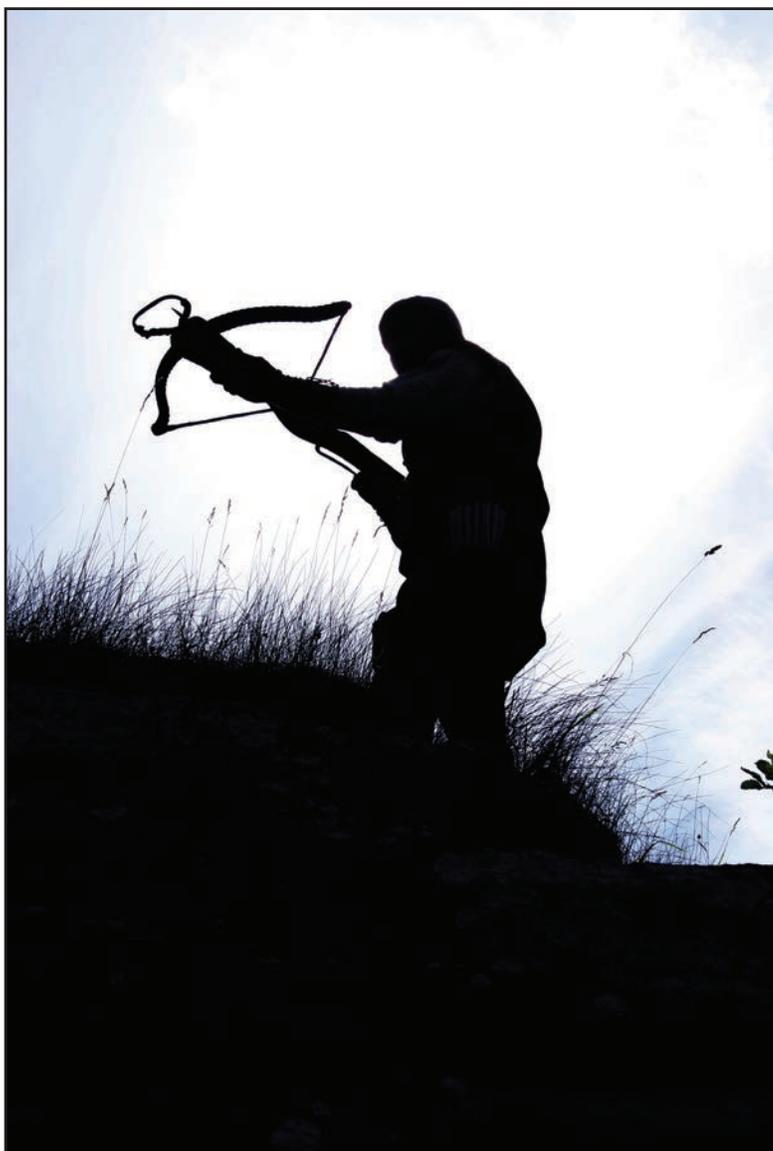


making trade an option. Full size bows suffer from being very hard to conceal, while the smaller ones begin to suffer from a lack of power.

Slingshot/wrist rocket—we are not talking about the little wooden ones powered by a rubber band like Dennis the Menace has, but the modern steel framed, rubber/silicone tubed powered hunting tools of today (>\$12). These come in all sizes, with the most common being a handheld vertical grip and yoke with a collapsible back-strap frame for stabilization. Powered by high strength tubing, these sling shots can launch steel balls or well-chosen rocks with the power and accuracy to hunt small game. As a self defense weapon, they can cause serious injury if a soft area (such as the face) is hit. A full-size sling shot with steel ball ammunition can even break a skull. A group of small rocks can be launched at close range (5-25 feet) into the face of an attacker, possibly disabling them. Much smaller than a bow, these can be carried in a small pouch or even some medium sized purses. If one has access to surgical tubing, it is easy to craft. A similar tool is the sling, but it is much harder to use.

Blowgun—used for centuries by earlier humans for hunting, with modern materials anyone can be a marksman with a blowgun (>\$10). Made of either hollowed-out wood, or, more commonly, tubular steel, a blowgun can be a foot to many feet in length. The longer the barrel, the easier it is to aim and the more powerful the shot. On the flip side, as it gets longer conceal-ability decreases. Medium length blowguns can be made to look like canes, while longer ones can be made to look—or be—walking sticks. Short of perfectly aimed shots or poisons, darts themselves are not very good for self-defense, though the barrel itself makes a good staff or baton. Ammunition is flexible, and many types can be hand crafted.

Pellet/BB gun—Ranging from single-shot pistols to



PRACTICAL USES FOR A FIREARM

Security/Safety

Having a gun makes you a much harder target to exploit, be it by vandals or wildlife.

Hunting

It is generally easier to kill an animal with a gun than many other tools.

Bartering

The value of a firearm or ammunition can be used to gain other essential items through trade

Signaling or Attracting Attention

The report and the muzzle flash can be heard and seen for miles.

repeating rifles, and having power levels from barely-able-to-pierce-skin up to nearly true firearm levels, the pellet/BB gun (<\$50), in many ways, is simply a less powerful firearm—but still a firearm, nonetheless. Please note, we are not talking about airsoft guns. Those are designed specifically to not cause serious harm. In order to hunt, we need that power to do damage and catch game. For survival situations, we recommend using only those that are powered by a built in pump, such as lever action, break barrel or multiple pump. Needing to have CO2 cartridges is a significant liability in the long run. While useful for rapid fire from a pellet gun, only 20 effective shots per cartridge makes this a short term option. Break barrel and multi-pump pellet guns can easily kill small game, while also being useful in self-defense due to their power.

Pump action or lever action, such as a Daisy BB gun, can be used to hunt very small game as it has limited power. It can be used for defense, but mainly to distract. Unless a BB hits an eye, most impacts will barely break skin, making it better used as a staff or baton than a gun.



Walking staff—this should be a five to six foot tall piece of thick strong wood. Essentially we are talking about a quarterstaff. Serving as both a walking stick and a weapon, this tool fails significantly in the hunting category. It could be used as spear, but most game will retreat from you before you can get that close. Mainly, this option serves as a non-aggressive show of force and close-range self-defense. Swinging this at nearly full length generates enough force to break bones. It also allows you to keep people back, or block their advance in a less violent way. A slightly longer staff (seven to eight feet) can be used as a shelter pole should you be mobile and needing an easy shelter to pitch. Staffs can also be used for signaling by tying bright cloth to one end and swinging it back and forth.

Combat cane—sturdy hardwood combat canes (>\$30) are the tool to have. Shaped like a normal walking cane, it serves the same purpose, but is built to take the punishment of actual combat. Made of steam bent hardwood and with many fashioned with a point on the end of the handle, these are “concealed” weapons. Rarely seen as anything other than a tool for the “disabled,” a cane can also attract more attention by making you seem like a more vulnerable target, so use with care. However, it is well built for self-defense. A stab in the abdomen with your full weight behind it will cause internal injuries; the weight of the handle makes it a useful club; and the curved handle can be used to capture and immobilize arms or weapons. Be warned, training is need to be able to have a chance with these more complicated techniques, though just about anyone can use it to stab and bludgeon.

Pepper spray—cheap, easy to find, and easy to use, pepper spray is an excellent self-defense tool, but lacks any real hunting use. It should be noted that Mace, or tear gas, is not the same,



and some individuals can become immune to it through exposure. Pepper sprays range from 20 ounce bear spray cans to sub-ounce lipstick models, this tool can fit any environment. The biggest concerns with this tool is that it is very easy for spray to drift onto yourself during use and it does not always incapacitate the target. High winds can increase this risk as well as decrease effectiveness. Indoor use has the interesting effect of causing the spray to hang in the air, meaning that even a few minutes after use, if you walk through that area you can still acquire trace amounts of spray and cause discomfort or worse. While short range, under 20 feet for many models, the ability to unleash a continuous spray and/or multiple bursts makes this a versatile tool. I recommend having some no matter what your gear load. Having this in your kit takes up as much room as a single battery, but opens up many options for self-defense or bartering.

Stun gun—the Taser is a good tool for subduing a single target, assuming you do not miss and their clothing does not interfere with the prongs. If there are multiple attackers or if you miss on the shot, you are left in a disadvantageous situation. With the ability to only take one target, the lengthy reload time, the high



price point, the weight, and the large size, this tool is very low on the list as a survival self-defense weapon. Once the charge is expended it turns into a stun gun. These are handheld, and lacking any range, placing you in more danger to use than any of the other tools listed. That said, if this tool makes contact with an opponent, the slightest brush where the contacts touch causes significant pain. A solid stab with this can cause debilitating, yet temporary, pain and muscle convulsions, hopefully disabling the target. You have the ability to cause this effect as long as you have batteries in it. As a single set of batteries can last in standby for a very long time, the stun gun has sufficient life span to be considered for survival situations. If you lack the strength to swing a staff or cane, but want easy-to-conceal-non-firearm defense, a stun gun and pepper spray combo is a good choice. Use the pepper spray to disorient and distract, while the stun gun can be used to finish the submission, should the pepper spray not do the job.

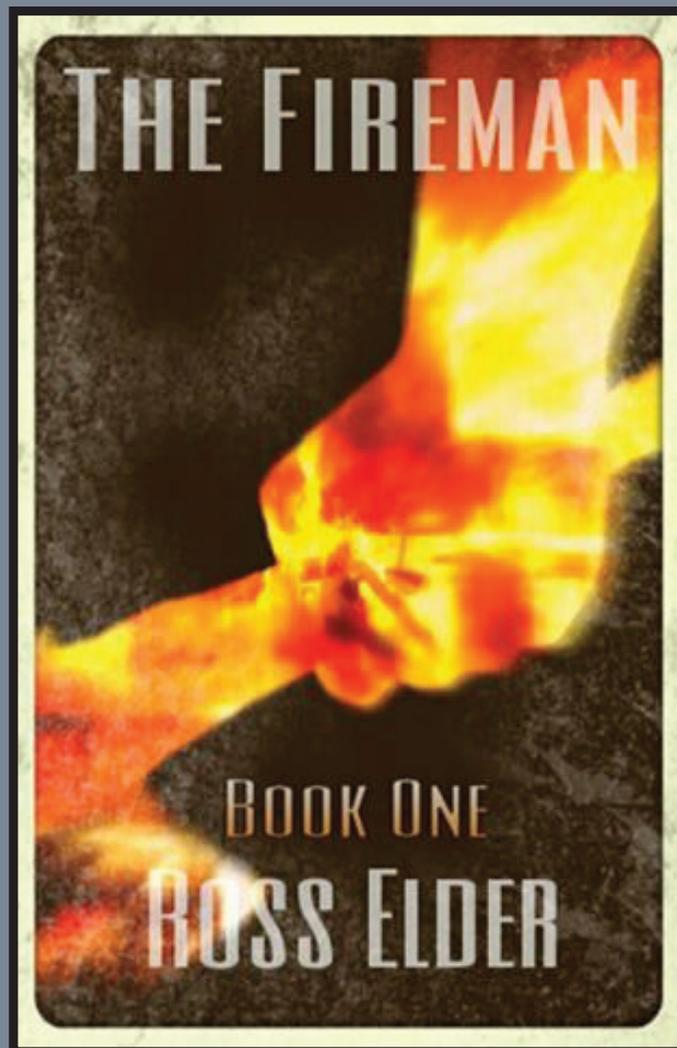
In all, there are plenty of options beyond the firearm for survival situations. While none will directly replace a gun, each has qualities that a gun does not have. One of the biggest advantages that many of the listed above have is the ability to be concealed or hidden in plain sight. Also, all of these items are far less noisy than a firearm. Sometimes it pays to think outside the box, and you should never feel defenseless simply because you lack a firearm.

Robert Dakar is a U.S. military veteran with a passion for history and practical skills. He studies and teaches self defense, survival and “primitive” skills.

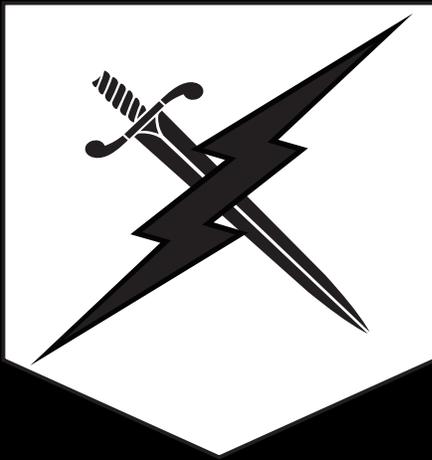
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