

# *A Republic, If You Can Keep It*

At the close of the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787, as Benjamin Franklin left the hall in Philadelphia, he was asked, “What kind of government have you given us, Dr. Franklin?” He replied: “A republic, if you can keep it.”<sup>1</sup>

It is noteworthy that Article 4, Section 4 of the United States Constitution specifies that every State in the United States was to have a Republican form of government: “The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government...”

As the Constitutional Convention convened in 1787, the perspective and intention of a limited, non-democratic government was held from the very beginning of their discussions. On 31 May 1787, Edmund Randolph told his fellow delegates that the purpose of the Convention was “...to provide a cure for the evils under which the United States labored; that in tracing these evils to their origin, every man had found it in the turbulence and follies of democracy...”<sup>2</sup>

In his defense of the outcome of the Convention of 1787, James Madison, the “Father of the Constitution,” eloquently expressed the fundamental concerns about democracy and the protections of a republic:

“Hence it is that such democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property; and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths...”

“A republic, by which I mean a government in which the scheme of representation takes place, opens a different prospect and promises the cure for which we are seeking.”<sup>3</sup>

Many other powerful statements regarding the dangers of democracy and the virtues of republics are noted throughout the Federalist Papers. Wise philosophers and statesmen from early history recognized the dangers inherent in democracy, and warned society. American founding father, John Adams, understood well the shortcomings of democracy:

“Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide.”<sup>4</sup>

During the founding era of America, historian Alexander Tytler is said to have explained at least part of the reason why a democracy tends to destroy itself:

“A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until [a majority of] the voters discover they can vote themselves largesse [gifts] from the public treasury. From that moment on the majority always votes for the candidate promising the most benefits from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy [taxing and spending], always followed by a dictatorship. The average life of the world’s greatest civilizations has been two hundred years.”<sup>5</sup>

Alexander Hamilton also raised his voice in warning against democracy:

“It has been observed, by an honorable gentleman, that a pure democracy, if it were practicable, would be the most perfect government. Experience has proved that no position in politics is more false than this. The ancient democracies, in which the people themselves deliberated, never possessed one feature of good government. Their very character was tyranny; their figure, deformity.”<sup>6</sup>

It is interesting to contrast the words of the American founders to those scurrilous leaders of the communist movement:

Karl Marx sought to foster democracy to promote the philosophies he wrote of in *The Communist Manifesto*. Democracy was seen by Marx as progress towards full blown communism:

“We have seen above that the first step in the revolution by the working class is to raise the proletariat to the position of ruling class, to win the battle of democracy.”

Lenin, the communist revolutionary who enslaved Russia, recognized democracy as a tool for his purposes, writing:

“...just as socialism cannot be victorious unless it introduces complete democracy, so the proletariat will be unable to prepare for victory over the bourgeoisie unless it wages a many-sided, consistent and revolutionary struggle for democracy.”<sup>7</sup>

In 1938 and 1939, the future communist dictator of Mainland China, Mao Tse-tung, following the lead of Karl Marx and Lenin, explained:

“Education in democracy must be carried on within the Party so that members can understand the meaning of democratic life, the meaning of the relationship between democracy and centralism, and the way in which democratic centralism should be put into practice.”<sup>8</sup>

“Taken as a whole, the Chinese revolutionary movement led by the Communist Party embraces the two stages, i.e., the democratic and the socialist revolutions, which are two essentially different revolutionary processes, and the second process can be carried through only after the first has been completed. The democratic revolution is the necessary preparation for the socialist revolution, and the socialist revolution is the inevitable sequel to the democratic revolution.”<sup>9</sup>

From the perspective of those who seek to subjugate humanity under their bloody yoke, implementing democracy is a necessary preliminary step.

Tragically, early in the 20th Century, United States President Woodrow Wilson and his “alter ego” Edwin Mandell House popularized the concept of democracy as the American political form of government, and its value for the entire world (“We must make the world safe for democracy”). Since that time, there has been an unremitting effort on the part of the socialist-globalist cabal to universalize the false philosophy that the United States of America was

established originally as a democracy, and that that form of government continues to be the ideal of this nation, as well as the goal of all nations which would be free.

Today the term “democracy” is used almost exclusively as a term to describe the form of government which its promoters would say governs the United States. While this is a totally false concept, it has been made almost universally accepted as true. Presidents, governors, senators, congressmen, media moguls, teachers, etc. embrace and promote democracy as America’s form of government. Indeed, based upon the ubiquitous and universal nature of the effort, it would seem appropriate to term the movement to redefine the Nation as a democracy an organized “campaign.” Because of this, it is critically important to remind ourselves that the United States is a republic. It was created as a republic by well-thought, purposeful action. It was specifically NOT created as a democracy.

In a republic, the elected representatives create legislation within the limited framework established by the Nation’s charter, The United States Constitution. The founders saw many dangers inherent in a democracy, and they rejected it as a dangerous form of government, prone to a kind of “mob rule” mentality. They unequivocally established a republic, placing limits upon the power of the legislature by which they could create law, thus seeking to prevent tyranny.

- Scott N. Bradley

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2. James Madison, Journal of the Federal Convention, Vol.1, p.81
3. The Federalist No. 10
4. John Adams, letter to John Taylor, April 15, 1814.—The Works of John Adams, ed. Charles Francis Adams, vol. 6, p. 484 [1851]
5. Quoted in Laurel Hicks et al., American Government and Economics [Pensacola, Fla.: Becka Book Publication, 1984], p. 37
6. Alexander Hamilton, Jonathan Elliot, Debates on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution, Vol. 2, p.253
7. V. I. Lenin, The Socialist Revolution and the Right of Nations to Self Determination (Theses), Editorial Board of Social-Democrat, Central Organ of the R.S.D.L.P., Published in German in April 1916 in Vorbote, No. 2 Published in Russian in October 1916 in Sbornik Sotsial-Demokrata, No. 1 Printed according to the Sbornik text. Written in January-February 1916
8. Mao Tse-tung, The Role of the Chinese Communist Party in the National War [October 1938], Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 205.

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