

An American Crucible

Barrack Obama and America's Two Great Debates

Federalist congressman Fischer Ames perceived his political and philosophical differences with Thomas Jefferson as a *problem of optics*. Jefferson was a visionary who observed the world at too great a distance *from the eyes of the common man and consequently had lost touch with common sense*. To Ames this made it impossible for Jefferson to see that politics was best approached as a matter of simple, everyday perception and judgment. This was at the core of the nation's first great political debate.

The 1st Great Debate

Winning the war with Great Britain was just the first half of the Independence equation. Forming a viable government took nearly as long as the war itself. Echoing the prescient words of Congressman Ames, it became apparent that partisan approaches would become different visions of America's future.

It did not take long before two distinct philosophies were taking sides into what James Madison had warned against, *political factions*. The original battle opposed those who believed in a largely centralized government which had the power and money to preside over the unpredictable realities of political life. The other side tended to favor a loosely established government of equal states, akin more to a gentlemen's club. This inevitably led to what may be called the *1st Great Debate* between two diversely philosophical approaches to government.

Understandably, Alexander Hamilton, one of the best and brightest of all the founding fathers, led the Federalists or the proponents of Big Government. Hamilton's view of the future resided in the industrial use of the nascent country's boundless natural resources, coupled with tariff incentives for *infant industries*. He envisioned government as the primary motivating engine for American industrial development. With the subsequent demise of the Federalist Party, Hamilton's vision fell to its intellectual heirs the Whig and the Republican parties.

The small government faction had an early advantage, since the newly formed country was not eager to rush back into a situation where they were subject to another strong centralized government after eight long years under its British overlords. For want of a better name they became known as the anti-Federalists, led by Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence.

The Father of the Deficit

Alexander Hamilton was one of the first to realize the inherent weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation which had governed the colonies during the revolution. As the unofficial leader of the Federalist Party because of his economic and fiscal ideas, Hamilton quickly emerged as the chief architect of a strong centralized government with specific enumerated powers, as well as an elastic clause, which would give government the opportunity to meet the unpredictable exigencies of governing.

As the nation's first Secretary of Treasury, Hamilton wrote many of the economic policies of the Washington Administration, especially the federal funding of the state debts, the establishment of a national bank, a tariff system, and friendly trade relations with Great Britain. His knowledge and grasp of the realities of political and economic powers gave him a distinct advantage over his political opponents who had no such plan.

Amid much controversy, Hamilton promoted the country's first national bank. Hamilton made good use of the elastic clause in justifying the creation of this bank, the power to issue currency along with Congress's constitutional powers to issue currency, regulate interstate commerce, and the assumption of all state debts. Hamilton became America's first Keynesian for his deficit spending. Hamilton's policies enhanced the federal government by assuming all the states' debts and bearing them on its shoulders.

The Avatar of Limited Government

Thomas Jefferson, the nation's first Secretary of State and its 3rd president, believed that the *best government was that which governed least*. Just as Hamilton personified big government, Jefferson believed the nation's future resided in the American agrarian class.

As the avatar of the revolutionary spirit that had underpinned the American Revolution, Jefferson believed the farmers were the hope of America's future because of their virtuous and parsimonious attention toward the myriad details in the life of a farmer. It was his view that financiers, bankers and industrialists made cities the *cesspools of corruption*.

Jefferson advocated a narrow interpretation of the U.S. Constitution's Article I provisions for granting powers to the federal government. As a result he could find no specific authorization for a national bank.

By the late 1820s, Jefferson's philosophy and that of the Anti-Federalists had evolved into the Democratic Party. *Jefferson Democracy* had transcended its belief in the yeoman farmer into a broader concept of faith in the common workingman. Jefferson's worldview favored self-government, individual responsibility, and a laissez-faire economic policy that let the people follow their own pursuits to produce a decent living.

Standing Hamilton on his Head

It is generally a staple in historical circles that Karl Marx's materialistic adaptation of German idealist Frederick Hegel's dialectic turned Hegel's thought on its head. The same may be true of the Progressive philosophy of the early 20th century that turned Hamilton completely upside-down with the marriage of its concept of Big Government with the Jeffersonian concern for the down-trodden and the common man.

The progressive ideology was driven by an intensely held religious doctrine that swept over and controlled virtually all Protestant churches, especially in *Yankee* areas of the North after 1830. After the Civil War, a growing number of alienated university professors, many of whom had obtained their graduate training in German universities, and whose thought, according to Charles Merriam, reflected the *intoxicating effect of the undiluted Hegelian philosophy upon the American mind*.

By the end of the 19th century a corresponding union of statism and corporate socialism had spread through the urban centers and middle class population. Their new ideological synthesis began *with a conscious rejection of the natural-rights principles of the founding fathers and the promotion of a new (German) understanding of freedom, history, and the importance of the state*. Unlike Hamilton, the progressives saw a *positive* role for big government as an advocate for social engineering and public welfare.

An Earthly Kingdom

The Democratic Party had been the traditional standard-bearer of limited government, laissez faire, and decentralization from its inception until the dawning of the 20th century when its leaders adopted the Progressive philosophy, along with some very notable Republicans such as Theodore Roosevelt.

The rapid growth of the Progressive Movement hinged on two distinct segments of the American population, the growing class of educated intellectuals, technocrats, and their adjuncts in the *helping professions* who sought power, prestige, subsidies, contracts, and cushy jobs from the welfare state. The second segment was a coterie of crony capitalists who supported the Leviathan state to maintain their monopolist control of their industries.

After 1900, these two groups combined their wealth and opinion-molding power to create and accelerate a welfare state

in America. After only a few years of agitation, it was clear to these new Protestants that the *Kingdom of God on Earth* only a big government could establish. It reached its pinnacle with the election of the moralist Woodrow Wilson in 1912 and the subsequent elections of Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson.

Over the decades, with the introduction of secular humanism with a Darwinian twist, the emphasis slowly shifted away from Christ and religion toward a *Social Gospel* of worldly salvation and material redemption, as big government planned and engineered the *perfect society*.

After his election in 1932, President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal drew upon the earlier Progressive initiatives started by Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Robert La Follette and others, especially economists at the University of Wisconsin

Obama's Optic Nerve

At the end of World War II, for a brief moment the United States stood proudly at the pinnacle of world influence and respect. What few people knew or understood was that for several years there had been an anti-American attitude festering beneath the mainstream body politic that finally erupted in the 1960s. This coalition of anti-American ideologues was an amalgamation of Soviet agents, jealous college professors and radical journalists.

By the late 1970s, criticism and a deep-seated antipathy had replaced patriotism and optimism. The hope of American decline became a virtue, not a vice. According to author Shelby Steele, President Obama was a product of these attitudes. Under the tutelage of communist Frank Marshall Davis, Barack Obama honed his anti-American vision that perceived the United States as the bane of the world's existence.

By the time Obama became President the die for the 2nd Great Debate had been already set. Only this time a return to the days of Jefferson and citizen government would be impossible because of all the social and economic disruptions that would erupt in its wake. This new 2nd Great Debate now pits the statist philosophy of a socialist-minded president and his congressional allies against the forces of strong fiscal discipline and government restraint. To do otherwise would be to court disaster and a new kind of American Revolution that would lack the philosophical and moral underpinnings of the first one.

Big Government and God's Gifts

The Catholic Church will play a large role in the 2nd Great debate. One of the most disturbing aspects of this battle between big government and a more manageable government is the role of the Catholic Church. With the main exception of ObamaCare's strong pro-abortion plank, the Church has expressed little concern with the overall absorption of one sixth of the American economy under the wing of the Democratic rule.

This is an outrageous and irresponsible position for the leaders

of the largest denomination in the country to take, especially when bishops and clerics have been preaching about stewardship and the responsible management of God's gifts to its faithful for many years. Would it not be a wise idea for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to apply these same principles to the federal government, which has no compunction in wasting trillions of taxpayer dollars down a partisan sinkhole?

Echoing Obaman rhetoric, the bishops said balancing the budget *requires shared sacrifice by all*. Packaged talking points from the Democrats obscure the reality that 51% of Americans pay no income tax, while the top 10% pay over 55% of all income taxes. Like their Democratic mentors, their focus is always on the 10%, whose Catholic members are the very people the bishops expect to give generously to the Church.

While the bishops pay lip service to *the difficult challenges* of getting the nation's financial house in order, they echo the arguments of many other religious groups by declaring that the budget is a *moral document*. If that is true, the real sinner is not Republicans, such as House Speaker John Boehner who is a faithful Catholic and sounds more Christian in preaching for America to live within its means than the bishops who support a president who has been the most wasteful president in American history.

The Tipping Point

According to blogger Henry Makow, the more America becomes liberal, the more it becomes susceptible to *solipsism*. This word was coined in 1874 from the Latin *solus*, which means *alone* and *ipse*, which means *self*. In common usage it means *a self-created reality that has little or no connection with Truth*. As American society has turned more to the left, its political and religious leaders have increasingly strayed from the real world of responsibility and fatal consequence.

Since he took office in 2009, President Obama has shown little pride in his American heritage and a great deal of disdain. Conservative columnist Charles Krauthammer, who analyzed Obama's ideology in a speech *The New Liberalism the End of American Ascendancy*, asserts that Obama's renunciation of American power is rooted in his conviction that *America is so intrinsically flawed and congenitally sinful that it cannot be trusted with, and does not merit, the possession of overarching world power*.

Obama's liberal fiscal policies of punitive taxation, profligate spending and erosion of cultural mores with regard to sex, marriage, drug use, illegal immigration, and health care have already exacted a high toll on American culture. These policies have mired the country in the throes of an optical illusion that has distorted the American reality. They have created an unrecognizable America that has turned its back on freedom and responsibility.

During his three years in office, President Obama's feckless leadership and his belligerent attitude toward the eternal values that once reigned in the United States, has accelerated this process. Americans are waking up to the fact that this solipsistic president wants America to be more like Europe. Most Americans flatly reject the ideas of European Social Democracy. They refuse to follow the European Union down the same tumultuous path and become more like France or even worse, Sweden.

America has reached its tipping point. The gravity of the financial situation has created a new American crucible, making it clear that the 2012 election will be the greatest test America has seen since 1787. The 1st Great Debate, which took approximately 112 years, deliberated over what kind of country American would be—a strong nation with a big government, or a modest country with a small government.

In the ensuing 112 years America has seen its power, its future and its reputation slowly diminished by both internal influences and philosophical thinking that runs counter to its original vision. America's politicians have squandered the values and the constitutional principles that characterized American exceptionalism. The 2nd Great Debate now underscores the unenviable choice between the forces of entitlement and fiscal unsustainability and a dedication to reasonable and responsible government.

If President Obama is re-elected, even with a Republican Congress, his cavalier use of extra-constitutional instruments, such as executive orders the creation of dozens of personal Czars and the use of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to legislate the ominous *Cap and Trade bill* makes it imperative that he become a one-term president. If he wins somehow, America will more than likely sink to the ocean floor of history with the other failed hegemonies of history such as Greece, imperial Rome and Great Britain.



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China's One-Child Policy

Following is an excerpt from an article by Steven W. Mosher, President of the Population Research Institute. *Weekly Briefing*: 2011 (v13).

China's One-Child Policy Toll Reaches 400 Million

by Steven Mosher

Over the years, I have been asked many times to estimate how many lives have been lost in China as a result of the one-child policy. Given that the policy has been in place for 30 years, I respond, and given that each year the government aborts between 10 to 15 million women, the total number of unborn children whose lives have been sacrificed is somewhere between 300 and 450 million.

Thanks to Congressman Tim Huelskamp, a pro-life Kansas Republican, we have shocking confirmation of these numbers from a senior Chinese government official.

Congressman Huelskamp asked Gao Qiang, who served for two years as the Party Secretary for the Ministry of Health of the People's Republic of China, about the country's population control policy.

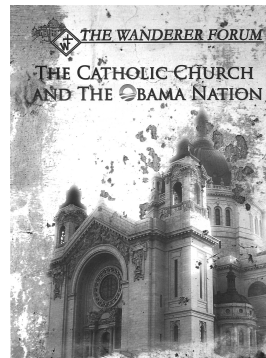
Party Secretary Gao responded that the population of China is 400 million less than it would have been had the Party not adopted and enforced a one-child policy. He stated that China had prevented more births than the population of the United States, which currently stands at 312 million.

These numbers were achieved by forcing young women, some in the final months of pregnancy, to have abortions, an act that was declared by the Nuremberg Tribunals to be a crime against humanity. But it also reveals a fundamental disconnect with the demographic reality that they have created, namely, a rapidly aging population that is disproportionately male.

Thanks to family planning run amuck, China is a country where unborn baby girls are selectively aborted, where young men cannot find brides and where young women are trafficked across borders to meet this demand.

Think on this: Is China really better off because its leadership has eliminated 400 million of the most intelligent, hard-working, and entrepreneurially minded peoples the world has ever seen?

News & Notes



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Psalm 99:1-5

A Psalm of praise.

Sing joyfully to God, all the earth: serve ye the Lord with gladness. Come in before his presence with exceeding great joy.

Know ye that the Lord he is God: he made us, and not we ourselves. We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Go ye into his gates with praise, into his courts with hymns: and give glory to him.

Praise ye his name: for the Lord is sweet, his mercy endureth forever, and his truth to generation and generation

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