

# The Appalachian Messenger



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## More Government, Less Manners

By Paul Rosenberg



**I** really don't like complaining about government. I find it a waste of time, as well as bad strategy. I'm convinced that it's far more useful to leave the whole mess behind and move on to better things.

Still, most of the human race is emotionally chained to government, and it can be helpful to point out that they're in an abusive relationship. So, today I'd like to cover something that I don't recall seeing elsewhere. I'll begin with the *what* and then move to the *why*.

### Observations

I have observed something over many years and in many ways. And that is this:

**The more government is involved with people's lives, the worse those people become.**

Example number one has to be the welfare class (or perhaps I should say *classes* at this point) – people who live more or less permanently on the dole. The worst

neighborhood in almost any town is where the highest percentage of people live as government dependents. Sure, some hard-core ideologues will still protest that the poverty came first and the government help second, but that's only true sometimes, and it avoids the far more important truth that *making adults dependent degrades them*.

Since I'm talking about my observations today, I'll add that I've been in and around ghettos and the permanent dependent class a pretty fair amount. And I've had friends who made it out of some truly hellacious government housing projects. So, I'm not just recycling someone else's opinion here.

Not only is living on the dole degrading, but trying to escape from it is harshly punished. If you're on welfare and you start to work a little, your payments are slashed to nearly zero. So, unless you have a really good job lined up (and how many welfare people ever get those?), forget about leaving the system.

**This kind of living undercuts self-opinion, dignity, basic manners, and much more.** If you wanted to ruin a group of people, you'd put them on the dole and pack them into high-density high-rises – precisely what was done in my town back in the '60s, by self-righteous do-gooders.

But it's not just the poor. There are millions of middle-class people who are now living on the dole. In the US, we have 94 million people who are officially outside of the workforce. A large percentage of them are on food stamps and/or disability. They are being degraded too.

And it's not just the US; Europe is also a mess that way. Not too many years ago, I lived in a major European city, and it was shocking to see how many fully capable people didn't bother to work, because they had more than enough handout programs. In the neighborhood where I lived, most of the shopkeepers were immigrants, because the old shopkeeping families had left the business.

And living on government money *did* degrade manners. For one thing, you'd hardly believe how thoroughly the sidewalks were covered in dog poop. It was hard to take a walk. People just didn't bother to pick up their mess. On top of that, there was endemic theft of things like bicycles; I was openly cheated by a "respectable" landlord; and so on. And this was in a "decent neighborhood" in a "world-class" city. (Continued on page 2).

## Alinsky Tactics Are Being Used to Manipulate Americans into Supporting Article V Convention

By PUBLIUS HULDAH, *Constitutional Editor*



**S**aul Alinsky said in *Rules for Radicals* that any revolutionary change must be preceded by a passive, affirmative, non-challenging attitude among the mass of our people. They must feel so frustrated, so defeated, so lost, so futureless in the prevailing system that they are willing to let go of the past and chance the future.

Ever since the Ford & Rockefeller Foundations, some 50 years ago, came up with the **Constitution for the Newstates of America**, the left has been pushing for an Art. V convention so that they can impose a new Constitution. The conservatives defeated these periodic pushes for a convention. So this time, the left changed tactics: Now they are marketing it to appeal to conservatives. They are telling conservatives a convention is **THE ONLY WAY** to rein in the federal government.

And they are telling conservatives that elections and nullification – **THE REMEDIES OUR FRAMERS ACTUALLY ADVISED** – don't work.

So this is how they have made Americans feel that they have nothing to lose by a convention. Alinsky tactics are being used on the American People.

Several leftist Constitutions – in addition to the Newstates Constitution – are already prepared and waiting for an Art. V convention.

**A new Constitution will be needed to transform the United States of America into a member state of the "North American Union".** Ted Cruz's wife, Heidi Cruz, was on the CFR Task Force to set up this merging of Canada, the US, and Mexico. It sets up a Parliament over the 3 countries. You can read the CFR (Council for Foreign Relations) Report on setting up the North American Union at [cfr.org/canada/building-north-american-community/p8102](http://cfr.org/canada/building-north-american-community/p8102). Americans! You better shake the dust off your brains and start using them. There is not much time left.

## Orwell or Jenga?

By ROBERT GORE, *Financial Editor*



**M**y website, StraightlineLogic.com (SLL) advocates straight line logic, but not straight line thinking. Normalcy bias is the term used by psychologists to describe the tendency to think that what has occurred in the recent past will continue in the future. The dominant social trend of the last 100 years has been the growth of the state. As such, straight line projections to the future are common: world government wielding technology to eliminate civil liberties; mass subservience indistinguishable from slavery; execution of the nonconforming, and so on. *1984* captures a widely shared and feared vision.

**The Jenga model offers a different vision.** Jenga is a game in which 54 wooden blocks are stacked in a tower and players remove individual blocks until the tower collapses. A Jenga collapse is the opposite of the *1984* outcome. A choice between collapse or totalitarian super state may sound bleak, but the former would be the first real grounds for optimism in many years. Anyone who finds optimism in the latter is beyond hope or redemption.

SLL recently published an article, "The Death Of Cognitive Dollar Dissonance & The Remonitization Of Gold," by John Butler at The Amphora Report. Butler points out that the present fiat currency and debt regime leads to chronic imbalances in global trade. At some point, exporting countries lose faith in the importing countries currencies and their debt denominated in those currencies. They are, after all, merely unbacked pieces of paper or computer entries. However, the exporters cannot insist on payment in their own currencies and debt, because the importers lack sufficient exporter currency and debt to pay for their imports. Such insistence would throw trade into reverse, imposing costs on both parties. Butler asks the question: "How can future international monetary arrangements nevertheless facilitate international commerce with exporters and importers at loggerheads over which currencies to use?"

He has an answer: gold. It is not a liability of any government, thus it can't be subjected to the self-serving machinations made possible by fiat debt. ("Real Money," SLL, 9/9/15). Once an exporter, even a small country, demands payment in gold—clearly superior to depreciating fiat debt and currencies—others will follow; nobody will want to be last to acquire gold reserves. The scenario is plausible; the salient point for this article is the possibility that one country could upend the world monetary system by insisting on payment in gold. There have been innumerable discussions, analyses, and proposals for global financial arrangements, expansion of existing or creation of new multinational bodies, and regional or one-world currencies, essentially straight-line projections of historical trend. How "inevitable" are these developments when what we've got can be turned upside down just by one country asking for payment in gold? Such an emperor-is-naked moment sounds like Jenga, not all-powerful government. (Continued on page 2).

**More Government, Less Manners, (Continued from page 1)**

**Causes**

I'll start my list of causes with this: *Living on welfare removes cooperation from our lives.* In any kind of actual business, we have to communicate and cooperate with dozens of people. We have to get information and materials from them, get things to them, and so on. They have to rely on us and we on them. All of that builds manners, responsibility, punctuality, integrity, and dignity. It also builds important skills like diction. People on the dole miss all of that. Instead, they get *Jerry Springer.*

Another major factor is that people aligned with government don't choose; they have their lives dictated to them. That's not how humans are designed to operate. We need to choose and we need to face the consequences of our choices. Government-life eliminates that. And humans simply cannot thrive that way.

We are built to strive and accomplish. Having things perpetually handed to us degrades us, and badly. When we live the life of dependency, we never learn to self-surpass, to become better than we were. In fact, improvement is punished in dependency cultures, and all too often violently.

Even the government involvement of "education" is degrading. That's one of my primary arguments against modern schooling: children are forced into inescapable relationships. And it degrades the children. Ask homeschooling parents; they'll tell you that most of the bad habits their children pick up come from kids in government schools. Forced grouping is simply bad design... at least if we wish for human health and progress.

**In the End...**

My observation over long periods of time is that the more government is involved with human lives, the worse is the conduct that arises in and from those lives. (And I know I'm not alone in this opinion.)

Are there exceptions? Sure, and probably many thousands of them. Thank God for that. But in the end, this statement is true:

**Government help is a curse to those who rely upon it. It makes them worse, not better.**

**Orwell or Jenga, (Continued from page 1)**

**Indeed, you find blocks precariously perched wherever you look.** The monster in the closet of fractional reserve banking is uncontrollable bank runs. It was that fear that fueled massive panic, ad hoc emergency measures, expansion of debt, and socialization of risk in the last financial crisis.

**Only a deluded optimist would think that such measures will rescue the system next time:** government debt-to-GDP ratios are higher, the banking industry is more concentrated, hidden leverage and re-hypothecation chains permeate the shadow banking complex, and central-bank promoted interest rates are already close to zero. If Big Brother is depending on the debt-ridden, house-of-cards global financial system he's apt to be discombobulated.

Surely things are not so precarious with the military and warfare, which is what governments supposedly do best. An objective examination of US intervention in the Middle East and northern Africa since 2001 blows that supposition to smithereens. The claim is that US interventions were maintaining some sort of order and balance of power. Russia and Iran are rescuing a dictator on the ropes, whose second-rate army was losing to a rag-tag band of jihadists numbering at most 100,000, the bulk of their weaponry pilfered from US backed forces, and apparently have destroyed that US imposed order and balance of power. If order and power are so ephemeral, after the trillions of dollars spent, lives lost, and devastation wrought, that they can be vanquished with such minimal effort by Russia and Iran, that's Jenga tower instability, not Orwell's iron hand. (We'll see how the Russian and Iranian "iron hands" work out.)

**The world is tied together by computers,** and as a recent *Wall Street Journal* article highlights, they have countless vulnerabilities (WSJ, "Cyberwar Ignites New Arms Race,"). Naturally governments are taking the lead; hacking; probing defense, intelligence, financial, and industrial networks; stealing sensitive information; disabling critical applications with malware and viruses, and trying to defend themselves from such efforts by other governments. The *Journal* article is undoubtedly only the tip of the iceberg and nobody, given the secrecy inherent in all this, knows all that goes on beneath the surface. But it is not a stretch to suggest that hackers, public or private, with enough time and resources can eventually penetrate any firewall and disrupt any function they target. Jenga!

Discard normalcy bias and adopt an abnormalcy assumption: the future will be quite different from the



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Sept 17—Nov 1, 45th Annual Oktoberfest,** Helen, GA. The south's longest lasting Oktoberfest in an Alpine village. Live entertainment, authentic German and Austrian food and drink. Beautiful scenic ride from Blue Ridge via the Richard Russel Scenic Highway. At the Helen Festhalle. Weekdays 6 pm - 10 pm, weekends 6 pm - 12 pm. Sundays 1 pm - 7 pm. Admission: \$8.00/Mon - Fri, \$10.00/Sat. Free on Sundays. For more information, call the Helen Chamber

**Oct 24-25—Fall Fest Arts & Crafts Sale,** Blue Ridge, GA. 9 am - 5 pm. Arts and crafts vendors offering such items as pottery, wood carvings, quilts, paintings as well as homemade snacks and canned goods. Music performances each day. Free. Old Hwy 76 near the Swan Drive In, downtown Blue Ridge.

**Oct 25—Pumpkin Express Train Ride,** Blue Ridge, GA. Departs at 12:30 pm & 3:00 pm. Travel to the Great Pumpkin Patch where you will get off the train to meet Farmer Brown and his loveable Scarecrow. While at the Patch choose your very own special pumpkin. Reservations recommended. Tickets at [www.brscenic.com](http://www.brscenic.com) or call 877-413-8724.

**Nov 10—Cherokee NC ARES Formal Meeting,** Murphy, NC, 7 pm. Our regularly scheduled second Tuesday meeting at the Robert Penland Senior Center, 69 Alpine Street (behind the courthouse) in Murphy

**Nov 12—The Well Armed Woman,** Murphy, NC, 6 p.m. A women's group dedicated to educating, equipping & empowering women gun owners. Meeting at the Christian Martial Arts Center, 56 Valley River Ave, downtown Murphy.

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 Beware of little expenses. A small leak will sink a great ship. - *Benjamin Franklin*

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