

## **The Diagnosis – The Care Plan – The Cure**

***The Background:*** In Philadelphia, on July 4, 1776, Thomas Jefferson’s draft of the “Declaration of Independence” was presented to the Continental Congress of the Colonies of America.

It contains four fundamental ideas that gave this document a secure place in the records of time:

- 1) That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.
- 2) That the purpose of government is to secure these rights,
- 3) That governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed,
- 4) That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

In the spring of 1796 George Washington issued his famous Farewell Speech in which he warned against political parties, foreign influences, and sectional jealousies. With John Adams launching his campaign for president as the Federalist candidate, the anti-federalists took the name Republicans and nominated Thomas Jefferson to run. At that time the term Democrat applied only to obscure and despised radicals. Ahem. John Adams won that race. Then in 1800 the election put Jefferson into the office of President of the United States although the vote count caused the decision to be given to the House of Representatives.

So, we see that from the very beginning of our country’s history, principled men were unable to define the principles that were needed if our Liberties were to be preserved. It was mainly in the arena of the mighty dollar that our new nation began the process of losing its precious liberties. From the very beginning our forefathers seemed to be unable to define the moral principle of Capitalism. It is its inability to do so that has brought us to the current state of our union – a state that is willing to sacrifice any good of the individual to the perceived good of society.

### **The moral foundation of Capitalism – the philosophy of Americanism**

Those of you who have begun reading Ayn Rand’s Atlas Shrugged and other Objectivist writers – have you noticed their relentless use of the word “moral” in their description of their philosophical issues? This is taken from Rand’s definition of Morality as a code of ethics that can guide us in all of the decisions that we make for our lives. These Objectivists have discovered that Morality is not about the restrictions of “thou shalt not”, but rather about the freedom described by our founders in “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” This puts me in mind of the joke about Moses coming down the mountain with the ten commandments. “Well, the good news that I’ve negotiated the list down to only 10 things. The bad news is that adultery is still on the list.” When the principles of individual liberty are applied to ethics, morality ceases to be a lot of rules against anything fun – that is the imposed and obeyed, and becomes,

instead a definition of the principles that produce the joyful morality of the understood and the chosen. (Even here, adultery will be frowned upon, but for understandable reasons, not just “don’t do it.”)

Let’s really pay attention to that definition of the moral when we enter into discussions about our government’s Universal Health Care Plan – a plan that takes the choices out of the hands of the doctors and clients – that is “individuals” and puts the choices into the hands of ignorant bureaucrats – that is the group, society, collective. And if the government insists that it has the “right” (whoa) to impose Public Health Care because the majority of the voters appointed them the new owners of the government, let’s really think long and hard about the individual rights that this government was created to preserve and ask how that principle got corrupted to mean the “rights of the majority” to perpetrate anything they choose on the individual who is the only entity that can morally hold a right of any kind. And let’s ask Sean Hannity to stop ranting about how socialized medicine has never worked before and get him to elucidate the principles that support Capitalism instead. Positives rather than negatives can win the day.

So, what is that principle? It is this: that no man has the right to use any form of coercion, with particular emphasis on using the power of the government, to gain a value from another man.

This principle is the simple answer to the swamp of government regulations and laws that are choking our country’s economic growth. Take away the right of congress to abridge the freedom of production and trade and all of the lobbyists in Washington D.C. will suddenly become unemployed. Microsoft will be able to go back to bundling software at a reduction of its cost to its customers. Attorneys General will no longer be able to promote their careers by persecuting the producers through the anti-trust act. And, incidentally, our news outlets will once again be free to become the honored fourth column of our government again.

But, you know what would be the best benefit that we can reap from understanding the glory of the principles of Capitalism? The burden of guilt that we carry around with us when we seek to achieve our own happiness in the face of the hordes of miserable human beings in the world around us. Out of our generosity we will be inclined to help them, but we won’t be required to sacrifice our every joy to the doctrine that America cannot be truly free until every other two-bit dictatorship’s country is free. “Yes we can.” We have and we will again.