

# Growth challenge of the United States

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## Abstract

The image of fallen civilizations is disturbing. The United States is too big and powerful for its current organization structure to manage. The morality of survival is applied to this growth crisis. The United States must re-organize or collapse as many other civilizations have done. A new constitution that starts from the original concepts of the founding fathers is required. The human species is at such a level that a new constitution may also serve as a model for a world government.

keywords: Constitution, one world government

## 1 Introduction

If great and powerful empires can disintegrate and be grown over with forest, our civilization can collapse. The collapse can be destruction or disintegration as the Roman Empire experienced. Archeology has shown collapsed civilizations are accompanied with large-scale death of their citizens. Indeed, collapse appears to be the rule and not the exception (Tainter, 1990).

Religions have also collapsed and ceased. History indicates all the institutions of today will soon cease. However, biological life evolves and survives.

Many definitions of collapse are found in Tainter (1990). They all have one thing in common; the citizen's individual survival outlook in the larger political society is reduced. Therefore, the larger political society serves no purpose. The society reduces to smaller political units that serves a purpose but can serve only a smaller population. For example, the availability of food partially depends on the climate. If the climate changes to long-term drought, the food availability may no longer sustain the population. Such

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a strain frequently does cause collapse. However, the collapse is a failure of the society's organization to adapt to the changing conditions. The political society may adjust rather than collapse. Examples of adjustment are:

(1) Change to more technology such as the development of fertilizer around 1800 and such as development of new food sources as was done in northern Europe with the potato. This requires a tolerant society. A highly centralized and regulated society will fail.

(2) Competition to conquer neighbor's food. A society that has lost its military will and strength will fail.

(3) Change by moving to more fertile areas such as the Sami peoples' semi-nomadic reindeer herding.

(4) Adjust the population to a level that the food supply can support. This is nature's solution. The attempt to save a few weak individuals results in a greater number starving. This is how predators help pray species survive.

People and societies differ in many basic ways. Each has developed in response to differing environments. Horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, etc. were available only to the Fertile Crescent cultures and, later, to those cultures connected to the Fertile Crescent. Peoples in the Americas and Polynesia had to adopt without these animals. Some cultures were subject to easy attack from nearby peoples. Some were isolated by geography (Diamond, 1997). Differing forces of evolution required differing solutions. Therefore, differing moralities of reproduction, counting, language, treatment of the next generation, treatment of the last generation, views of strangers, and views of friends developed. The cultural adoption includes visual perception, spatial orientation, analytical versus holistic reasoning, motivation to conform, making choices, and concept of self. Many similarities of development of the organization of societies also developed (Diamond, 2012).

Material conditions alone do not cause the development of larger societies. The Fertile Crescent had a head start in developing food production, technology, and state government. Why didn't the Fertile Crescent develop the technology of the European cultures? The Fertile Crescent societies became static and intolerant. The leaders wanted to maintain power and, therefore, inhibited change. Individuals moved west and east (Diamond, 1997). This trend continued as the center of change moved to southern Europe, to northern Europe, and to the Americas. Tolerance and Change are key characteristics needed for a society to survive.

Diamond (2012, and references therein) summarized the development to larger organized groups by increasing organizational levels of the family, band, tribe, chiefdom, and state. As a power base becomes entrenched, it must be motivated and be able to accept leadership from another power base. For example, the chiefdom organization starts to become a state when one chiefdom

is given authority over other chiefdoms usually to protect the group. Many current organizations called “nations” have this organization. The Magna Carta is a document that forced the king through the threat of violence by chiefs (feudal barons) to limit the king’s power against the chiefdoms and to protect the chiefdoms’ privileges against the new central authority. The barons were moved to this radical step of reorganization by foreign threats to their combined strength, by high taxes by the king, by unsuccessful wars that threatened the barons’ property, and by the oppressive government of King John. It initiated the rule of written law of the state rather than the rule at the will of the central chiefdom (king). This led to the state with written, constitutional law in Britain. The Magna Carta was used as a model for the American colonies to develop their own legal system.

The prime growth problem of developing the next level organization is that each individual in a sub-level must tolerate individuals in other sub-level organizations without recourse to violence. For example, individuals in one tribe must not attack an individual from another tribe although some social practices differ. Increased tolerance of other views and organizations results in the progression from family to band, to tribe, to chiefdom, and to state.

Figure 1 is a diagram of the organization cycle that nature will allow to survive. Rand (1957) described the nature of a society nearing collapse. Her solution was for the producers to leave because the people in power failed to adjust. Now, 50 years later, her predictions are being realized in Portugal, Ireland (Italy), Greece, Spain (the PIGS of Europe), the U. S., and other countries. However, Rand’s decentralized or Objectivists society also results in ineffective use of resources such as polluting air and water upstream to the detriment of those downstream. This Tragedy of the Commons is corrected by a senior authority imposing regulations over all.

Later, the authority grows to a centralized authority that increases the regulations and taxes. Regulation involves reducing the tolerance of differences. The over-regulation produces a Tragedy of Tolerance that reduces innovation, growth, and diversity. Friedman (1962, 1980) predicted the result we are experiencing today. Yet, the Federal government continues to use Keynesian derived doctrine of Big Government that has repeatedly been falsified. Nature abhors lack of diversity. Collapse and a decentralized society follow.

Nature allows the choice between centralizing, decentralizing, and disintegration. Disintegration is usually chosen by default because those in power try to hold onto power. Edwards (2012) chronicled the rise, dominance, and polarization of political parties of those in power. A balance between a centralized and decentralized society must be maintained. The balance is achieved only fleetingly as the organization cycle switches between the two extremes. These are periods of prosperity.

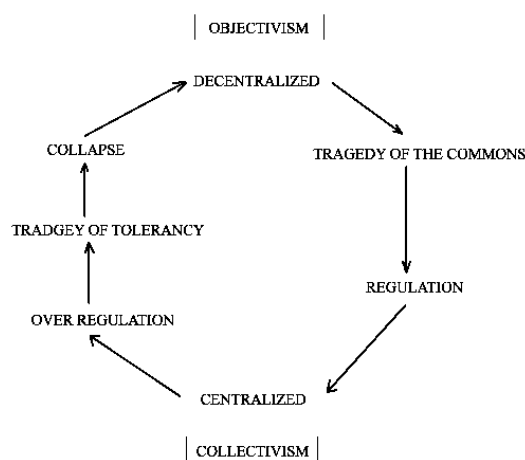


Figure 1: The cycle of organization approved by nature.

The morality of survival dictates that if the society will not obey nature's quest for evolution, nature will select against the society. The initial upper case letter on words (Limited Resources, Change, Competition, Justice, Mercy, Truth, Understanding, and Hope) indicates the definition is found in Hodge (2012a,b). Survival is achieved through successful Competition, Change, and natural selection in a changing environment.

This paper discusses the problems to be solved by the U. S. to overcome its growth crisis. Section 2 reviews the growth history. Section 3 discusses the challenges faced by the U. S. and other societies. The patterns of society's growth and the requirements for the next growth stage are discussed in Section 4. The Discussion and Conclusion is in Section 5.

## 2 Growth history

Tracing the pattern of the development of societies may reveal a trend that helps to structure the next level of development.

The U. S. has met the growth challenges by organizational changes in the past. After Britain's war with France in the mid 1700s, the centralized and highly regulatory Britain was near bankruptcy. Britain dictated regulations and taxes to compel their colonies to help pay for their share of the war that helped the colonists fight the Indian allies of the French. The Northern colonies didn't want to pay for something they already had. Britain was developing an anti-slavery trend that the South disliked. Yet, the unity of the North and

South with their different issues helped both.

The Revolutionary War forestalled the threat from abroad. After the Revolutionary War, the Articles of Confederation was the organizing document of the United States. The structure was a weak, decentralized form of organization. The Federal government served little purpose. Disunity was threatening the confederation. This organization proved inadequate.

The creation of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 was a document like the Magna Carta. It provided a central authority while protecting states rights (powers) from the central authority and provided the common needs of the states such as common defense, common currency, free movement of money, free movement of goods, and free movement of people. Citizens directly elected the president and legislature in addition to State and local officials. State governments appointed senators. The Federal authority was given regulatory power over the state. If it had provided a means to deal with the Tragedy of the Commons between states and stopped, it could be a model for a one-world government. The industrial interests of the North and the slavery interests of the South could have coexisted. However, the Federal franchise was soon expanded beyond the states to embrace “the people” that was the province of the states. Each state had a Bill of Rights that largely reflected each state’s culture. That is, the incorporation of the Bill of Rights and all additional amendments changed the organization of the United States from a nation to a central state overseeing subordinate states. The incorporation of the Bill of Rights was a step back from the genius of the founding fathers.

However, the Constitutional organization with the Bill of Rights was still a move forward for humans. Therefore, the U. S. expanded. The Federal authority was used to unite and to expand such as seizing territory from Mexico and the Indians and such as building the cross continent railroad.

The U. S. was threatened with disintegration and collapse by 1850. The question was slavery. The agricultural South was organized with slavery as a central component. The South’s representatives in the Federal government passed federal laws requiring the non-slave states to help return fleeing slaves. That is, the non-slave states were obliged to help the slave states enforce the slave states’ form of government against the wishes of many Northern citizens. The Northern citizens also wanted to impose their ideals on the South. The illegal Underground Railroad was born. The question of slavery now had to be settled at the Federal level. The North and the South polarized on the slavery issue. That the Federal level took on the task of dictating to each state what was an internal state question resulted in secession and civil war. The cause of the Civil War was that both sides wanted the Federal authority to reduce Competition on a polarizing issue between the states. The citizens of each thought they had a franchise of intolerance of the others’ views. The

possibilities of decentralizing or of the states having power over the federal government were ignored.

Lincoln also revived and redefined the “equality” term in the Declaration of Independence. Since Lincoln, equality has been redefined several times. Equality of Opportunity and rugged individualism allowed the expansion of the U. S. at the expense of the environment and less well endowed people. This Tragedy of the Commons has been corrected by increased Federal regulations and control. The Federal regulations have continued to increase to become over-regulation. The U. S. continued to grow and become more prosperous with each generation. The 1960’s saw a change in this trend. The prosperity trend flattened then became declining over the last two decades. This decreasing prosperity in the U. S. fits Tainter’s (1990) definition of a collapsing society.

### **3 Growth challenge**

The current difficulty is that the complexity of our society is too great for our limited Understanding of the workings of complex societies. For example, spending in education is increasing while the U. S. is suffering a “dummying down” relative to other countries. The welfare policy issue like the slavery issue was handled differently by each state. This resulted in higher taxes in states with liberal benefits such as California and New York compared to states with stricter policies such as Texas. The more liberal states were losing productive people and companies (their tax base) to other states. Welfare recipients are voters, also. The representatives of the states with larger populations caused the Federal government to assume the welfare role and to tax all states accordingly. Each issue the Federal government assumes is dealt with in the most expensive manner and in a trial-and-error manner. The difference between the states on such issues is causing the U. S. to behave similar to the pre-civil war era. Competition among the states to determine the best policy on any one issue is ignored. The one policy adopted by the Federal government in the social policy venue is inappropriate for all states and, possibility, inappropriate for all states.

Many of the characteristics of collapse Tainter (1990) described have been present for several decades in the U. S. Among these are:

- (1) The number and severity of management crises at the Federal level has increased which indicates very poor management.
- (2) Since 1970, class conflict is increasing as measured by the ratio of the income of the top 90th percentile versus the income of the bottom 10th percentile. Because the “rich” are fewer in number and number is very important

in determining the Federal government, the Federal government adopts a tax the successful people policy.

- (3) The Federal investment in coercion (IRS, FBI, DEA, homeland security, etc.) is increasing.
- (4) Successful people and their money are leaving the tax structure of the U. S.
- (5) The accompanying jobs are flowing overseas.
- (6) Secession movements in several states are gaining strength.
- (7) Both mandated costs and direct taxes are increasing without a corresponding return [called “declining marginal returns” by Tainter (1990)].
- (8) Undeclared, overseas wars are being fought without a way to repay the costs.
- (9) The requirements for security during war are forcing restrictions in openness and freedom that reduces tolerance and that benefits those in power. and
- (10) The Federal government’s ability to solve problems is rapidly declining.

The advocates of a cause have learned under the amended Constitution that behaving as a Eric Hoffer’s “true believer” (Hoffer, 1989) yields results for their cause. The true believer will vote for whoever supports their cause regardless of the consequences to society. Because elected officials strive to be elected, they support a variety of true believer causes. None of the causes embrace or consider the larger question of the survival of the nation. The question for the candidate is to support a mixture of causes that can obtain the majority of voters. Because the effect on the survival of the society is unknown, many causes will harm the society. The problem is that these arguments are fought on the national stage where failure of the country is at stake. True believers as voters at the national level cause polarization of the parties and centralization of party politics.

Further, the “calling to a higher purpose” of the true believer causes the U. S. to interfere in other countries’ internal affairs. The interference comes at great cost in treasure and lives for little return to the U. S. This is a waste of Limited Resources. The U. S.’s attempts to coerce other countries is rewarded with justified violence. Our false righteousness causes us to attempt to mediate differences between other countries using our standards of behavior. However, our standards have not yet been approved by nature. Our pending collapse disproves our standards. Other countries have tried to “export” their values and have collapsed such as Great Britain and France in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Because the voters directly elect the chief executive, the parties become dominant. Therefore, the Constitution’s requirement that the election of the president be by the voters causes the two-party system. The majority of voters elect to government who they want. Indeed, the campaign to be elected stresses the special interests. The parties’ survival and ability to win elec-

tions are dependent on the special interests that are intransigent. The special interests exercise their power through the parties rather than through many parties, as is the case in parliamentary systems with many political parties. The parties reflect the voters. Greek voters elected socialist parties for several decades. Now the people are reaping the consequence of their votes. Politicians who warned of these consequences were voted out of office. However, the polarization in the U. S. is shifting from parties to states. States are “red” or “blue”; successful or declining toward bankruptcy; and rural or urban.

Fundamental conditions prior to a major paradigm shift in a model are:

- (1) Rapid, small modifications are made to the model as new observations are discovered.
- (2) Data are interpreted according to the paradigm with marginal results.
- (3) Predictions made by the model fail. Therefore, actions have poor or counterproductive results.
- (4) Some paradigms are so entrenched that they are barely recognized as a postulate such as “a big government is better” and such as interference in another’s affairs is acceptable.
- (5) Great social pressure exists to reason from accepted postulates. This creates a selection bias that is often not recognized. The exceptions are simply deleted from consideration or marginalized. Perhaps this is the reason social outsiders often find the new solution.
- (6) Observations inconsistent with the popular model are often marginalized or ignored. A very open and tolerant society is required to overcome this bias.
- (7) Several “coincidences” have been noticed but there is no Understanding about the fundamental similarity.

The stress of our complex society requires an organizational change like the replacement of the Articles of Confederation. The trial-and-error method of one federal authority is too expensive and too time consuming. Failure to adapt will cause a collapse to a simpler society.

## 4 The Requirement

The revolution required involves a major redefinition of terms, of operations, and of relations. That is, a new description of the universe is required. The organizing principles of society and of science categorize observable phenomena into general rules about the patterns of nature. These principles then allow prediction and power to survive.

Figure 2 depicts an alternative. The individual cycles of organization symbolized by circles (see Fig. 1) can combine into a larger, decentralized organization such as the states becoming the United States. The countries could form



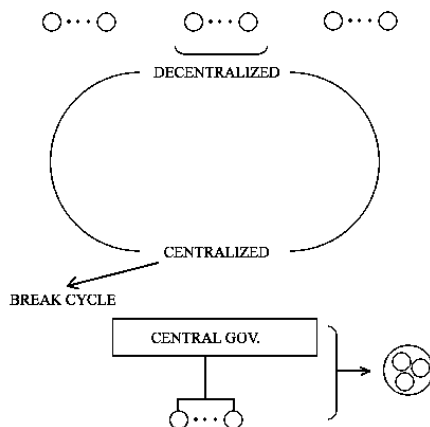


Figure 2: Breaking the cycle.

larger countries. The League of Nations, the United Nations, the U. S. S. R. and the European Union have attempted this. The League of Nations and the United Nations like the states under the Articles of Confederation lacked the necessary uniting authority such as a single military; a common currency; free movement of money, goods, and people; and common judiciary with authority.

The U. S. S. R. was organized as a chiefdom that dictated all aspects of the society. The size of the U. S. S. R. proved unwieldy for such an organization. It failed relatively rapidly.

The European Union was formed as a means to limit wars between European states. It has been developing in stages. It is partly like a confederation but seems to be changing into a state organized, federation. It has common currency; election by citizens for offices in both states and the union government; requires state governments to be democratic and to support social agendas; requires free movement of people, of goods, and of currency between states; and the federal authority is superior to state authority. Unlike the U. S. it lacks a common military. It accepts the subsidiarity principle (action by the European Union should be taken only when an objective cannot be sufficiently achieved by a member state alone). This appears to include bailouts of economically troubled members at the expense of the healthy members. The social democracy ideology may be rejected by nature. Therefore, nature's laws are not reflected in the entry requirements of the European Union. Like the U. S. the European Union appears to be destined for greater trouble as social democracy and polarization on the bailouts increases such as the PIGS blaming Germany for the tough bailout conditions.

The fundamental task of a perpetual Federal organization in a political society is to reflect nature's conditions relative to subordinate organizations (states). If the superior authority fails to reflect nature's laws, nature will kill the authority. The conditions imposed on life are Limited Resources, Change, and Competition (Hodge, 2012a,b). The decision about Justice and Mercy in response to the conditions should be state business. The Federal organization must deal in long-term issues of imposing nature's Change and Competition requirements on states without war and of the coordinating against other political societies that may include war. Long-term issues can include establishing standards such as currency and measurement standards. Deciding policies must be left to the states that can Compete for the best set of policies that nature will not kill.

Fundamental problems the New Constitution must correct:

- (1) The Constitution lacks a method to reflect the Limited Resource of nature.
- (2) The original Constitution outlined states rights but made the Federal state superior to the states.
- (3) The amendments to the Constitution allow the Federal government to interfere in matters internal to the states. There is little enforcement of states rights over the Federal authority, which reduces Competition and Change.
- (4) Coercion at the federal level results in stifling tolerance and Change.
- (5) Because the Federal level mandates one approach to a problem, errors are replicated across states. Competition is reduced.
- (6) Because true believers dominate, nature's Justice is corrupted.
- (7) "Political correctness" is another form of Truth suppression.
- (8) Producing states are forced to pay more taxes than other states.
- (9) Sending troops overseas without a declaration of war is done in violation of the Constitution. The checks and balances of the Constitution fail to work.
- (10) The framers of the Constitution assumed an informed voter. When the Constitution was written, most voters were business owners and contributors. Therefore, voters were well aware of nature's rules. This is no longer the case. For example, welfare recipients know how to work the system rather than how to produce value for others. Many people have been employed and, therefore, protected from many realities of life. These people have grown to accept a "big brother" to make decisions for them. Therefore, the check against federal mismanagement has no teeth.
- (11) Special interests (in the U. S.) and the many parties (in parliamentary systems) with the idea they can use Federal force against others to follow their ideals results in polarization. Perhaps the problem is the direct election by voters of the Federal government.
- (12) Because humans lack sufficient knowledge about nature's acceptance of social systems, a means to experiment with differing social policies is required

but lacking.

(13) Men and political parties have extreme difficulty ignoring short-term issues as has been experienced.

(14) A Christian state, a Jewish state, a Moslem state, a social democratic state, a capitalist state, a totalitarian state, etc. must be able to exist next to each other without war.

(15) Because of (14), the state governments not the voters should appoint the legislative branch of the Federal government. The legislative should appoint the chief executive.

Technology has masked the true conditions nature imposes on us to a large degree. The problems encountered by older societies and less technically developed societies differ considerably from the problems in the U. S. Other successful societies have had practices we consider abhorrent such as infanticide of the weak or excess people (Moses was sent down the Nile); abandoning or killing elderly people (Moses was abandoned before crossing the Jordan river); facing periodic starvation, high infant and child death; and living in fear of imminent attack. Having excess food to support the weak or infirm that have little Hope of ever contributing is rare. The U. S. has adopted practices that reflect a rare and fleeting condition in nature. If we fail to Change, nature will select against us when the cold returns, when food availability is reduced, or when the population becomes excessive.

The pattern of growth from the chieftdom to the state can be used to model the requirement of the nation. Chieftdoms established a rule of a person's law, the administration bureaucracy, etc. The state established the rule of written law between individuals and courts, the law creation from a legislature, property ownership by individuals supported by state power, a more formal military for external power, a police force for internal power, and tolerance of broader range of individual differences.

Living together harmoniously is not the goal. A smoothly functioning society is not the goal. A similar social pattern among the states is not the goal. Only survival and ending violent war are the goals.

The nation must establish a rule of written law between states, courts to administer relationships between states and between branches of the governing bureaucracy, and tolerance for non-violent competition among the differences.

This pattern suggests the original, unamended Constitution addressed many of the requirements. All the amendments should be repealed. A means to prevent politicians and special interest groups from perverting the goal of national survival should be added.

Ideas suggesting an amendment to the current Constitution are a forlorn Hope because the Constitution is disrespected now. What is needed is a Federal government that is between the loose confederacy and the strong central-

ized, Federal authority. Further, there are many other problems that should be addressed in the New Constitution. The many problems that are developing relative to the Constitution and more must be addressed in the New Constitution. Currently, the only recourse nature has is to destroy the U. S. The number of past civilizations attests that nature will kill us. Change or die is a law of nature.

## 5 Discussion and conclusion

The U. S. experience includes two historical instances of a strong central authority imposing regulations that polarize the states. The central authority in both instances attempted to coerce compliance. Both instances resulted in secession and war. Must we do it again? This paper suggests the Constitution be replaced or the collapse will occur as it did previously.

The human species is at such a level that a new constitution may also serve as a model for a world government. The League of Nations and the United Nations were attempts to form a one-world government to preclude war. The Constitution of the United States as originally crafted could have been a model had the extension to individual rights been left to the states. The current period of high and increasing taxes, of federal gross mismanagement, and of the intrusive, excessive regulation is like the period before the Magna Carta.

Before humans can have a world government, we need a model that works. Each state must be tolerated to develop its own organization and morality without war. What would happen if a devout person of a religion attempts to evangelize in a state with a theocracy of another religion with laws forbidding such evangelizing?

If we fail to organize to preclude war and allow Competition and Change, our species will fail. The barons are organizing.

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