

Part 5 of 5: What would have been made of it – the tipping point in Amerika’s declining liberty and freedoms?

<i>Swear I saw</i>	Does seem odd	Which side’s up?	Angels flock	The tipping point,
<i>A magic wand,</i>	To doubt about.	Which side’s down?	By heaven’s door.	It’s ever been.
<i>Drivin’ on in</i>	Which side’s in?	Touring ‘round in	“I won’t take it	Dealing’s done.
<i>The Great Beyond.</i>	Which side’s out?	Beyond Town.	Anymore!”	The fix is in.

From: *Tipping Point on the Road to Amarabia?: A Fictional Retrospective From the Great Beyond, American Pitchfork’s Poem. ST5, A-E*

Came together

How confrontational would have become the maddened?

Confrontation, conflict could have ranged from the passivity of votive candles in sanctuary to blood-running insurrection and carnage in the streets.

Amerikans were not deferred gratifiers. Fear and threat have not ever been for peaceful, protracted contemplation. Conflict of whatever sort would not have been between groups of the governed principally, except for local uprisings, but rather between the governing and the governed, The Man and most folks on the big stuff bigtime.

What of the tipping?

Depended. Depended on how fast the tipping. Depended on how far the tipping. Depended on means and methods. Depended on things sure. Depended on things unsure. Depended on the unforeseen and unforeseeable. Depended.

A crucial concern: terms and conditions, that was, *whose* terms and conditions. Turbulence abounded. One matter would not have been in conflict: there would be winners and losers.

The scorecard to follow did not meddle with having sifted simplifications into serial sorts of things or other obscurities, though such was life in the moment.

Pitchfork looked at them one at a time.

Depended on how fast the tipping

If 'patty-cake, patty-cake, baker man' was to have been the theme of get-together tantrums and, later, 'let's do lunch,' then, no matter how many reveled at rebellion, the self-satisfaction from having participated in the party-going had better to have been satisfaction enough. Manic monsters dedicated to destroying capitalism and the rest of the American Way could have shut and shuttered their windows while they worked it out. Party on.

If change would have gone the way you hoped, wanted, and expected, then it'd work out swell, right? Underprepared was always an option and, to an extent, a given philosophically and pragmatically.

There was no 'just add water' way to convey what was not known and why its pursuit was worthy; time at the granite knee of life experience was perilously, painfully personal. You have had to have been there. You had to pay attention to what you were doing; you had to pay attention to what was being done to you. *You had to pay.* It was a dangerous world, and you were in its midst. Pitchfork

Lest it had been forgotten: Thomas Hobbes' Leviathan had reach; this had not been *just* about federal government, it had been about *all* government and broadly defined at that. Power's corruption wasn't a perverse pervasion peculiar to national government, be it having been borne there as with all others of monopoly interest and ignorant disinterest. Caldron's of corruption simmered in the complicit and the culpable guilds, authorities, and associations having claimed jurisdiction over you right on down to your own backyard. So many claimed so many pieces of you.

Lacking the Framer's dynamic, competitive tensions of Constitutional governance, balances of power not only failed between the governing and the governed, but also between branches of the governing. Pitchfork

Favor: governing.

Would there have been a benefit to patriotic parties? Sure, if the party-goers: got on with it; put `em to good use; made more of `em than speeches, sing-alongs, and soft drinks. Else, what was there to celebrate – that you hadn't yet lost it all to menacing mediocrity? That you could tolerate tyranny so far? Goody, goody for you?

"'Mediocrity' doesn't mean average intelligence, it means an average intelligence that resents and envies its betters." Ayn Rand

Vote then, vote often

If the vote was all she wrote, it could have been a long, long, winding road to and through socialism and on downward. Suffering without end could have become a way of life. Turning back, suffering would have been a way of life eventually with an end if the governed endured – an uncertain proposition. Periodic, two-year long ceasefires in a War of Federal Aggression played the governing's game. Wobble-wobble, wobble-wobble, ho, hum, ho.

Additionally, odds against the governed included numbers of ballots sourced from more and more parasites. Dependency self-perpetuated: you could reap that which you sowed; you could not reap that which you did not sow. Vote and vote often. Good slaves were obedient slaves. Pass the needle. Favor: governing.

Constitutional Convention

"If liberal propaganda didn't work, it would be impossible to comprehend bimbo starlets and uneducated slobs attacking the intelligence of the man who won the Cold War." Ann Hart Coulter

Straight up, an Article V Convention would have been the best and, perhaps, the worst of times. The best would have been: effective; efficient; Constitutional; the farther down the road, the more attractive; potentially peaceful in consequence. The worst would have been: large numbers of states to call up; larger numbers to ratify; obdurate and dissembling federal establishments, virtually all of them having had much to lose; potentially problematic, possibly *in extremis*, in consequences of

consequence. Enough suffering, enough in it for them, and there would have been enough states in it.

The Convention would have been for the states to call – unlikely that federal government could have called it up to fix itself, unlikely His Weakness could even has mustered a congenial quorum – the states would have had to chart and charter their own future.

Bull's eyes in bonds and bounds restruck: more narrowly specified enumerated powers; abolished administrative law; 'fair' or 'flat' federal tax in lieu; unambiguous state sovereignty, notably, the original confederacy of states and not a federal democracy's mob rule; pro right to life; more narrowly defined 'enumerated powers; pro church and state at state levels and still not at federal level; definitive, broadly permissive 'bear arms' statement; federal term limits; presidential candidate proof of citizenship; tort reform; rigorous resolution of immigration along lines of the early 20th century; English as America's official language; abolition of the central bank and return to a gold standard; elected elitist enacted excesses prohibited, and so forth.

In effect, the Article V Convention's litany of laws would have pushed back and remedied interim corruptions and bolstered several aspects of Constitutional efficacy into the 19th Century, notably, ethnic and suffrage matters aside, among others. Consequences might not have been welcomed countrywide; this would have been change of the fourth kind for snouts.

If the governed's reaction to governance were to have been swift and sure and on the governed's terms, then so would have been the outcome.

Power *is* the people

Pitchfork had said it and read it that,

"To whom much is given, much is expected." (Luke 12:48)

The notion of reciprocity nestled in a guarded, conclusory communion wrinkled Pitchfork's brow. The notion that talent or skill or other worthy marble of character was unearned deeply furrowed. He preferred to turn this coin over –

To whom little is given, much is still expected. Pitchfork

People rose to occasions, not the other way around. Each is fallen; each can get up.

The Good Book doesn't read, '. . . knuckle-under to Caesar.' Pitchfork

Size needn't have counted for much; speed and staying-power counted for a lot. Government ruled and regulated in time-delay, incompletely, and with administrative incompetence, waste, and failure. Favor: governed.

That's how government works: it doesn't. Pitchfork

We pull the cart. Government rides. Pitchfork

Depended on how far the tipping

If a little tipping meant a lot, then the governing could have marginalized the shorts off the governed with signature moves – snigger, suck up, and shove it; you could fool most people most of the time. Favor: governing.

If a lot of tipping meant a lot, then the governed must had to have stoked and stroked their strengths – truth of the Constitution and its federal obscenity, coherent numbers that might have endured, and the money river to tax and squander diverted upstream – and, for booster rockets – a judiciary respectful of The Founders' workproduct *without playing 'what would G. Washington have done today?'* or *'judicial courts are where policy is made'* or *'the Constitution needs to flex, a Flextution'* – and have hidden or overcome the governed's weaknesses – carefully acculturated divisiveness and cultivated passivity. Sure, that would have been a lot of doing; but, which, if done, then . . . Favor: governed.

Depended on means and methods

“Government is not reason; it is not eloquence. It is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.” George Washington

Means could have been conventional or unconventional. Conventional means ranged from the civil to the not-so-civil-at-all. This would have set the governing’s table. At its founding and from its founding, if government was nothing else, it was force – violence, and always potential violence, more liberty lost.

Once upon a time, the rulers were away across the Atlantic Ocean. Then, at the trekking, they were just across the Capital Beltway. Most claimed the greater good and few achieved it.

Would that these were the first throes of a second American Revolution? Pitchfork

Favor: governing.

“Hence that general is skillful in attack whose opponent does not know what to defend; and he is skillful in defense whose opponent does not know what to attack.” Sun Tzu

Unconventional meant having tied-off the governing’s extant advantages – essentially, citizenry’s ignorance of The Founders’ interests, intentions, and outcomes; ignorance of the human cost of the Evil Counter Reformation; addiction to the host’s levy; capacity to apply force, including and especially savage force on large scales. Favor: governed.

“We are fast approaching the stage of the ultimate inversion: the stage where the government is free to do anything it pleases, while the citizens may act only by permission; which is the stage of the darkest periods of human history, the stage of rule by brute force.” Ayn Rand

Methods meant that, whatever the tools, it was about speed, smarts, mettle, and endurance. The larger the group applying these methods, the likelier would have been their success. The group didn’t have to be larger than the adversary’s, the enemy, but it would have helped. The group did have to be coherent – for example, a Constitutionally viable entity was the state. Given methods with given characteristics – Favor: governed.

Depended on things sure

There was one prerequisite: whatever the majority having banded together of the governed, participants must have been singularly willful in and faithful to an objective.

There was one immutable relationship: there were more governed than governing.

There was one truth: the U. S. Constitution and contemporaneous writings.

Depended on things unsure

There would have had to have been the uncertain consequences of consequences. What would The-Move-On monopoly have done when stopped in their tracks by money, say, too dear or by bailouts gone bust aplenty, or by an economy that wouldn't stop collapsing or by warring or reparations and reconstruction, or belied and betrayed by a birth certificate or whatever? That is, tables' turned, what would come of the governing cornered, trapped, staring into the pit? When would have self-delusion and others-manipulation no longer be enough? It had seemed unlikely, though not impossible, that The-Glow would have dimmed to bitch and whine his way into history's passing reference.

"A splendid little war" à la Secretary of State John Hay, 1898 might have helped The-Beleaguered-One some, though warring matters could have mushroomed or been polluted by politics, therewith propitious for having been neither splendid nor little. Some choice: the fateful facts or fainting fans; not just a nasty diversion, but a new direction. Through a lens darkly, Pitchfork might have caught a catalyst to coalesce control.

"Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans."
John Winston Lennon

Said what?

There was one wild card: What would have been the force the governing brought to bear on its own, again, bigtime? Would the governing stop at nothing?

". . . It is found in nearly all the published speeches of him who now addresses you. I do but quote from one of those speeches when I declare that— I have no purpose, directly or indirectly, to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists. I believe I have no lawful right to do so, and I have no inclination to do so. Those who nominated and elected me did so with full knowledge that I had made this and many similar declarations and had never recanted them; and more than this, they placed in the platform for my acceptance, and as a law to themselves and to me, the clear and emphatic resolution which I now read:

"Resolved, That the maintenance inviolate of the rights of the States, and especially the right of each State to order and control its own domestic institutions according to its own judgment exclusively, is essential to that balance of power on which the perfection and endurance of our political fabric depend; and we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of any State or Territory, no matter what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes.

"I now reiterate these sentiments, and in doing so I only press upon the public attention the most conclusive evidence of which the case is susceptible that the property, peace, and security of no section are to be in any wise endangered by the now incoming Administration. I add, too, that all the protection which, consistently with the Constitution and the laws, can be given will be cheerfully given to all the States when lawfully demanded, for whatever cause—as cheerfully to one section as to another."
Abraham Lincoln's First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861, from paragraphs 3-5. [Please note that as of this presentation 7 states had already seceded.]

Would federal government have turned ruthlessly against large numbers of countrymen again? Would The-Dominator have blessed the brutality of the U. S. military and other of the governing's gun-bearers to have obediently turned their minds, machines, muscles, and muzzles on fellow Americans? Would the gun-toters have complied, ceded, or couped?

Pitchfork had thought that the motive to protect and not put upon countrymen would, among others, surely have varied directly with the extent to which those forces had previously put themselves in harm's way for those countrymen. Furthermore, he reckoned that the more local that force, the more problematic the allegiances. Finally, there would have been what those forces had thought whassup.

"The sole object of this war is to restore the Union. Should I become convinced it has any other object, or that the Government designs its soldiers to execute the wishes of the Abolitionists, I pledge you my honor as a man and a soldier I would resign my commission and carry my sword to the other side." Ulysses S. Grant (née Hiram Ulysses Grant), in a letter to the *Chicago Tribune*, 1862.

What force, you say, would have been delivered to down a state's secessionist insurgency? Naval blockaded the Port of New York? Strafing Dallas 'burbs? Shocked and awed Idaho? Stalingraded Minneapolis-St. Paul? Trade embargoed Maine? William Tecumseh Sherman's Georgia reduced? A barricaded Washington, D.C.?

What more force would have been brought to bear on talk radio? On federal judges? On state governors? On dissenters? On inquiring minds? On the disruptive and disobedient?

"We are reluctant to admit that we owe our liberties to men of a type that today we hate and fear -- unruly men, disturbers of the peace, men who resent and denounce what Whitman called 'the insolence of elected persons' -- in a word, free men." Gerald White Johnson

With what force would the governing have burdened states full of tax skippers?

Depended on the unforeseen and unforeseeable

There had ever been the unforeseen and unforeseeable.

"If you want to give God a good laugh, tell him your plans." Old Yiddish folk saying

Let's have imagined.

How about a tourniquet on dollar credit markets or a skyrise in rates having cut off The-Ascendant's pricey plans way above the knees? Thus weakened, the road to Amarabia washed out, maybe reparable, maybe irrelevant. Turning around should have been a matter of will for the bodies politic.

Or how would international conflicts of the corrupt play out with He-Who-May-Need-Not-To-Be-Obeyed seated at the table? Contenders for foment,

fear, first fissionable flashes approached early-on in Asia, Latin America, and Middle East.

Or how about C4-packed, self-sacrificial, flying Wahhabi Allah-bombers having leapt from visitors' galleries to descend upon Congress – the sons and daughters of pigs and monkeys – in-session. Would that have smoked-out a Wahhabi-In-Chief? A bearish betrayal, it would have hastened federal recruitment of conservative sorts, a national identity, a reordering of realities.

Or The-One had stood, faced high into waves on waves under life's lightning, thundering storm skies with his myriad inadequacies; and he caved, collapsed, crashed, had been crushed. Pitchfork had opined that there had seemed to have not been much of the right stuff to start with – had seen it in his face, his eyes, his head moves; had read it in his fact sheet; had watched it in his slouch and strut; had heard it in his read words; no surprise, the tipping could have been over in a blink.

Pay attention to what you're doing

On the road to Amarabia, remember this: whatever indications to the contrary of trekking and more trekking, forget you not the point and blade of the sword, the endgame of the other guys. Pitchfork

On the road to Amarabia, remember this: take cold comfort in the tipping, it would not have been over when it was over - tipping was tipping . . . it was stopping the descent, it was turning around; it was *not* a return ticket. Three clichés at work: One – Would lingering at a point along the slippery slope of socialism or worse have been enough relief? Two – Both baby and bathwater – long-term capital and long-term productivity – had been heaved and, then, had to be returned. Three – Out goes the bad – the Hydra of coerced servility – when in comes the good – life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Pitchfork

The sound of several shoes dropping

Of interesting conjecture way back when, it would not likely have been just one big, first shoe dropping across the road, but two, three, four, more.

Tehran and Tel Aviv aglow by day and night for decades; chasmic rate spreads on treasuries; the Chinese on fronts; the Dow at a shaky 3000; a Constitutional Convention on a roll; inflation through the roof; extremist agenda in the dumper; growing repudiation of I'm-A-Puppet's lengthening track record of dissing the oppressed on international stages; a half-dozen malls blown flat to the ground by paradise explosions; the honest disclosure of unemployment and underemployment; 4 states seceded and 5 more on the way.

Of key consideration, what would have come of several *second* shoes? In the moment . . . boom, boom, boom, boom, boom? What then of piled-on distressed, desperate, dissolute, delusional, defiant governing?

Divine intervention

The Framers openly had written about divine intervention at-hand throughout the Constitutional creation process, as had Washington, encamped and embattled.

In the matter of divine intervention, Pitchfork bore witness himself and on behalf of his granddaughter, one spring afternoon on nearby John Burruss Road. It happened.

"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler." (Psalms 91:4)

Resolutions on the wayfare to Amarabia were spectral: from a whimpering journey's persistence for an indeterminate time all the way to Amerika's repair, perhaps remedy and remaking, with a bang. The American road experience would have taught volumes for the sentient social scars alone.

The courses of human life – individually and collectively – have been curbed by their own excesses, not always with ease – which excesses propelled some, compelled some, repelled others. Public treasons to aspects of the American Way surely showed large as such excesses. Pitchfork

Creditors and others – including fumble bumble fiscal foolishness and monetary mayhem, an inflation kicker, withheld investment for fundamental uncertainty, hyper-elevated risk premiums, and other-national strategic benefits – could have taken federal money out of it.

Patriots could have taken back power. Occasions of sorts might have blocked the pathway. And still more acultural, energetic, unconventional, quickly applied actions – jointly or severally - could have denied the trip past Lady Liberty down freedom’s hill on the road through socialism and downward into Amarabia, an empire the other side of paganville. Hoorah.

“Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.” Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776