

# “Automate Congress”

Executive Summary:  
The direct republic model

by  
Donnie Gebert

# What is a direct republic?

democracy – a form of conflict resolution; may or may not be compulsory; debate of issues is made and then voting arbitrates conflict; debating and voting may be done directly or representation

republic – a form of conflict resolution; may or may not be compulsory; debate of issues is made, no specific methodology of arbitration is specified; debating may be done directly or representation, arbitration may take place in several forms

constitution – a founding core, be it a document, set of principles, or other central artifact; may consist of anything, rational(US, Aus), irrational (DPRK), or inconsistent(PRC)

digital geography – a geography viewed along property boundaries, not nation-state or other jurisdictional boundary

direct democracy – a form of conflict resolution; voluntary or compulsory participation in debate and/or voting, compulsory participation in results; debate of issues is made and then voting arbitrates conflict; individuals represent, debate, and vote themselves, in person or digitally

constitutional republic – a form of conflict resolution; voluntary participation in debate and/or voting, compulsory participation in results; debate of issues is held and process outlined in the constitutional artifact is used to arbitrate; representatives are voted upon to represent and argue in lieu of the individual

*To best conceptualize the model being offered, we will be organizing this model as:*

direct republic – a form of conflict resolution; not compulsory; argument of issues is made and voluntary participation determines scope of relevance/responsibility in participation and results; individuals represent and argue themselves, in person or digitally; arbitration is determined when, after arguments are presented, each individual directly funds their preferred solution

# Current federal effective power hierarchy outline

Judiciary: Elections – None

Owens: Staff and FISA

Final Arbiter – Laws will have to be changed to force a change in case law opinions; Supreme Court then has to accept a case, further tightening the forum for all topics. Legislation is, as a rule, a pay-to-play service or a state-benefit venture. This is the only mechanic providing stability, due to the time requirements in order to write and pass legislation. The remainder of the system functions on a crisis management model, aiding in the use of emotional propaganda to keep the citizenry chasing their tail in a never-ending, negative-feedback loop. FISA is antithetical to the concept of a judiciary and is there, effectively, to subvert the process intentionally and covertly, yet openly, by insisting that secrecy, in the name of safety, is the best option.

Executive: Elections – President and VP

Owens: Staff and Agencies established by executive order

Borderline Monarch – Has broad executive powers that will be permitted unless challenged by Legislature, the Judiciary, or is directly sued over an issue. Chooses all of the unelected actors in first block.  
Effective power after this point is fairly hard to come by, only 1 election needed.

Legislature: Elections – 535

Owens: Staff and Agencies established by the Constitution or legislation

Borderline Useless – Our only tangible(more theoretical) avenue of actual law changes; totally coopted by the committee/rules process and lobbying. There are really only ~50 actors that matter. The rest have their career on the dole from those 50, in both party money for elections and in what benefits the constituents will see in return.

## Problem:

Article 1 Sec. 8 is a perpetual legal and economic moral hazard; it creates a separate class of people with legal immunity. This immunity manifests in the foundational contamination of the system through lack of accountability. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> order effects of this lack of accountability are seen in every aspect of the governance structure; police brutality, unbalanced budgets, astronomical debt, and imperial devastation are the natural proceeds of this flaw and very few of those involved lose their house, retirement, assets, or freedom. This is also the flaw that destroys socialist economies. Marx was not born for 30 years after the Constitution was written, so it is not common to hear of principles of this era defined in a socialist context. This may, also, have a secondary effect of attracting the most depraved amongst us into 'the system', at several levels and for several reasons.

This hazard presents 2 issues, funding the government and the basic moral hazard still exists in the rest of Article 1, lawmakers separate from the effects and/or consequences of their laws. The rational, albeit inefficient feedback mechanisms (jury and ballot) have been lost to ignorance and intentional coopting via lobbying, propaganda, and committee/rules mechanics, if not outright fraud.

## Solution:

1) Removal of the moral hazard:

To remove the immunity of some people who make law, everyone must have the same legal status.

2) Funding:

Solving the funding problem created by the moral hazard removal.

Rather than proposing a mechanical framework, this proposal is that of a principled framework. The mechanics must produce those principles or the end state is not met. This should be accomplished in the fewest steps possible.

## **Philosophy – Federalism, Individuality, Equality**

The concept of federalism can be summed in one word: options. In a federalized environment, the limit on solutions to a problem is limited by the physical means that can be brought to bear by as many people as decide to. By not limiting the problem solving methodology to one option and discarding voting as the dispute methodology, several solutions arise, usually of smaller scale. Then, competition weeds out inefficient processes and bad ideas, allowing meritocracy to function and some consolidation to occur. In our current discussion, geography is only relevant to the current US states and territories. The internal lines drawn can be divided up into an individual plot of land, also limited to federal issues for purposes of discussion. Rather than one rule set be in one geography, we can digitize the concept and pixilate the legal landscape with the legal services people want and fund.

Individuality is a binary choice. Either you and you alone make decisions for you or you don't and X amount of other people have agency to "help", like it or not. Everything after that is not You. The current system uses choice as a bargaining chip and a slogan. It's time we had our ability to make our own decisions, all of our decisions, returned to us. It's been far too long.

If a system does not preserve every individuals rights, what is it doing? If it isn't doing it for everyone, who is it working for and why? What makes them immune from losing their rights? This level of equality is taken all the way to the legislator title being granted to every adult. Despite the counter-intuitive nature of the idea, our laws will be simpler, more fair for everyone, and far more sound than today if all 200 million adults wrote them together.

## **Method/Mechanic –**

### **Win/Win solutions, Voluntary associations and contributions, Abstention**

By choosing to not vote(win/lose methodology) on an issue, we have more than one outcome available as a solution. This mechanic allows the solutions you want for you and others to have another way. Most of our large scale issues have several conventional and some unconventional solution sets, none of which will interfere with the other. In the issues where solutions are mutually exclusive, established principles of abstention and case-by-case arbitration, rather than sweeping legislation, will serve everyone better, especially *those involved*.

By volunteering to associate with programs of your specification and fund them openly, the organic satisfaction framework is in place to avoid several issues the current system suffers from, including disapproval of process and/or method, dealing with corruption, and contract enforcement. It also allows for withdraw of funds for poor performance, breach of contract, or change of personal politics.

The right of every legislator to abstain from any act or process, to which they are not a catalyst or relevant contributor, is absolute. This is the only right anyone needs. It is very difficult for any process to get out of hand when the share holders don't have to wait for an election to remove a problem or funding.

## **Transition –**

### **Displacement, Market-moderated solutions and transparent operations, Economic Choice**

Displacement is how children lose teeth. Building another network scaffolding along side the current framework allows individuals and corporations to transition out of the current system individually, with a place to land, and in their own time. With proper planning, mechanical checks and safeguards will allow the changes to gently transition the vast majority of people, of which there are a fairly small number of affected at any one time.

The economic market, domestically and globally, can be the wild west..... and that is because of everyday oddities, ignorance, and entrepreneurs. Innovators cause dynamic changes to market paradigms; Henry Ford put a lot of wagon makers out of work. Phone companies that didn't transition to cellular are gone. The suddenness of a car accident, a large account closure, or a death in the family or both could cause rapid shifts in assets, working conditions, physical infirmities, etc. The market is what it is, humanity in motion. The power of that system, of regular people providing the services you need in your life, pushing back against huge, rapid changes of our lives is the normal state of the market. With a transparent plan and safeguards in place, dissolving or transitioning government functions to the private sector is called an 'emerging market'. The customers, investors, and entrepreneurs love those.

The functional control of a vote without all the arguing; this is the right you were looking for. The concept of taxation is the mechanic of an economic moral hazard. It, effectively, incentivizes people to find as many ways to tax and spend as possible to stay in office. The open and direct funding mechanism removes corruption through transparency and immunities by showing all of the proud and responsible legislators supporting this act.

The foundation of a direct republic begins with the individual, the smallest minority. This unit must remain intact in a full palate of human rights at all times without exceptions, under ideal conditions, in civil society. Therefore, the goal and structure of a direct republic model must produce a mechanical concept and reality that allows that philosophy to be enjoyed by all of the humans in any given geography, without taking turns. The removal of immunities allows us to remain equals in our daily lives under an intelligent, defined set of laws that are within the educational and financial reach of everyone. To best understand the difference between a direct republic and the current constitutional republic, simply remove legal immunity for any actor in the entire, constitutional or statutory, process; then make the necessary mechanical changes to support the removal that immunity from politicians, judges, corporate actors, and law enforcement. For those exceptional cases where someone is unable to self-represent, a simple ad litem system will suffice. The single right of the direct republic is as follows:

*The right to abstain from any act, activity, or process or the consequences thereof, provided they are not a catalyst or contributor, is the absolute right of the individual without exception.*

Roads and infrastructure are a city and/or county scope and in a pay-to-play market/model; these things require a budget, maintenance, and accountability. Those who use pay for their use. These type of local, end-user systems do not raise past their patronage and look like local utilities. The market for these services has demonstrated to be the best method for securing quality, affordable services to the broadest sustainable service area. We provide these services everyday to each other. These issues are handled by entrepreneurs and businesses, as this is the most efficient model; this means there are no cost upfront to provide the infrastructure for a service, as well as the service because the market produces the infrastructure for a service as a normal function to a customer.

National defense is a national-scope coalition; things like this are paid for on a subscription model, provided you subscribe, and are done in an open-ledger, to ensure accountability. For sake of clarity, this walkthrough will only focus on the national level issues. They are the hardest to manage and affect the majority of the population; considering it is almost always easier to deal with a larger problem than a similar, smaller one, one may assume that any process handled at a larger scope can be scaled down so that it also applies to a smaller scope. State and local legislatures are also transferable to a direct republic model.

The free rider issue, being the most obvious, is a simple understanding and a hard truth. Some people will benefit from a defense they don't pay for; no one is collecting fees from all the gun non-owners in Texas for the low home invasion and other relevant crime rates. Every positive externality cannot be positively internalized. It is not negatively internalized and is, therefore, a zero sum. You wanted defense. You got it. You didn't pay for a welfare state. You didn't internalize that negative internality, in this system, because you abstain in some things too. Is there a deal between welfare and defense for some minimal coverage for limited duration as a tradeoff? I don't know. Options are too numerous to predict, even if unknown; lack of options is a problem in and of itself. It isn't a two-party problem. It's a one-solution problem.

The legislature functions as a self-service forum for all members, every adult. Each public work, project, or service will have an open source ledger established on a blockchain platform. The program then opens up a crowd-sourced funding pool. This work is done by a legislator as volunteer work or paid by an interest, based off a perceived need, for the preliminary and feasibility studies necessary at the onset of any major project. All federal programs would undergo this process, based on the collected data sets, to ensure actual viability. This open record keeping throughout the process leaves no points of corruption to access. Lobbying becomes advertising and community engagement. Everyone contributing to these projects will have access to the proposal up front and would only fund the proposal after agreeing to the project management team and terms. *Nothing passes before all involved agree to pay for what's in it.* If you don't like the proposal, abstain and pull your funding. The terms of the public act(by-laws) are only applicable to those involved, in terms of responsibility and liability. As there is no legal or administrative immunity for anyone in a direct republic, the participants of any given act and actions are kept in the public ledger, for all to see, with a date and time stamp with each persons digital fingerprint. Beyond this transparency factor, projects take place as they do anywhere else, without special privilege to do harm to person or property.

Criminal enforcement works similarly as it would now. However, instead of states having sets of law, each legislator would choose their laws, a la carte. To best understand this concept, it is best to think of 2 sets of law, criminal and by-law. Criminal law is a simple descriptive palate of violent and/or coercive harms to ones human rights. Title 18, in the US, would be intelligently pruned down to actual harms of person and property. The by-laws you sign up to abide by and pay to have enforced act as your insurance mechanism against those acts or practices. Drug crimes, federal regulations, and other similar prohibitions are assumed to dry up once the few who actually desire these laws enforced get the enforcement bill that only those in agreement pay for AND would be sued for their participation in those acts of enforcement without immunity. However, international trade can be a dangerous business and anyone desiring protections in that market my sign on for additional laws that they abide by and see enforced. The Darwinian nature of this process prunes enforceable legal premises to financial feasibility and sound limits on where law concepts can venture into the lives of others in civil society.

The prime example of how this legal system works: I can sign up for the right of prima nocta but it only applies to me..... so I can go fuck myself. This keeps the scope of enforceable law to things you do, not every conceivable law possible, and to that which you can financially afford to enforce *with EVERYONE'S skin in the game at all times.* The needs and costs for security services should be minimal and handled in a targeted manner, rather than by a jurisdiction. This example pervades this entire concept. Law is like insurance, not mandate from on high. The agency to avoid negatives more than makes up for any perceived losses, with all positives options in place to handle unknowns, to include starting up a sound business solution of your own if the choices aren't to your liking.

Party A



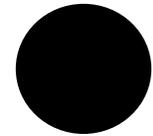
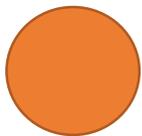
### Open Ledger Arbitration

A makes claim against B. Both read the rules of several arbiters and select one by choice or at random. Their own issues are arbitrated by someone they choose and, presumably, who knows how. There isn't only one way to accomplish this. The most important feature is that ALL the skin in this proceeding is on those involved, including the arbitration cost. This means any prosecutions will have budget requirements. The result is keeping the rampant prosecutions by immune actors off the legal playing field, cleaning up several large issues, like prison cost and moral hazard in funding a prison, at their root.

Bad arbiters don't last long. Judges are hard to fire. Let's clean up the bench, by merit.

(Brehon/common law arbitration GUI in separate presentation.)

Party B



Arbiter

The judiciary is the most relevant branch to the individual. The conflict resolution systems we use can vary as widely as one's own ethics. The system we have is a solid structure for conflict mitigation, but changes would be needed to automate the legislature. By making judicial selection a competitive process (see Brehon law of Ireland for intelligent example), we can ensure that a market for justice exists and corrupted processes are flushed out, without immunities to hide behind, or starved out by the market. This concept also comes with a Brehon/common law GUI, allowing easy and intelligent argumentation by any literate person with very little training. (That explanation is separate. It is a functional tool to remove the absolute need for representation by both simplification of the process and knowledge threshold to participate, making counsel a preference.)

Legal system, build-a-bear style:

- 1) Accept (Insert trimmed Title 18 here) as the bear; it is a 60 second logic problem to say you want to protect yourself with EPA laws but murder is ok. You will accept the crime laws (murder, rape, theft, assault, etc.) or we won't let you live here.
- 2) See security options in your area; the higher the population, the lower the cost for security gets. These options are where you will pick your own penal systems and consequences. Rational rules apply; you cannot have a prison without a bill. You cannot want drug laws enforced and not piss in a cup once a month for the cause. The bill and the stupid will be real, *for you.*
- 3) Any by laws you desire, for your protection and/or insurability are added and cost is calculated and billed to you. Ex: International trade can be a rough business. Individuals desiring certain mutual agreements with overseas trade partners may have additional restrictions placed on themselves, not you. (Avoids NAFTA/TPP type laws) Ex: Sierra Club buys Yosemite and places standards on all the land they can purchase and preserve. If you damage those lands, you will be held liable under their property law. They pay a lot to keep that land up and you will be held to that standard if you damage their stuff.
- 4) Arbiters may be public or private. A crowd-funded judiciary-like charity, managed in an open ledger as a 'public' program, would eventually replace the court system, by displacement. An arbiter who'd lose his job would yield far more responsible decisions. These solutions, and the details thereof, are better tailored to their perspective cities and/or regions.

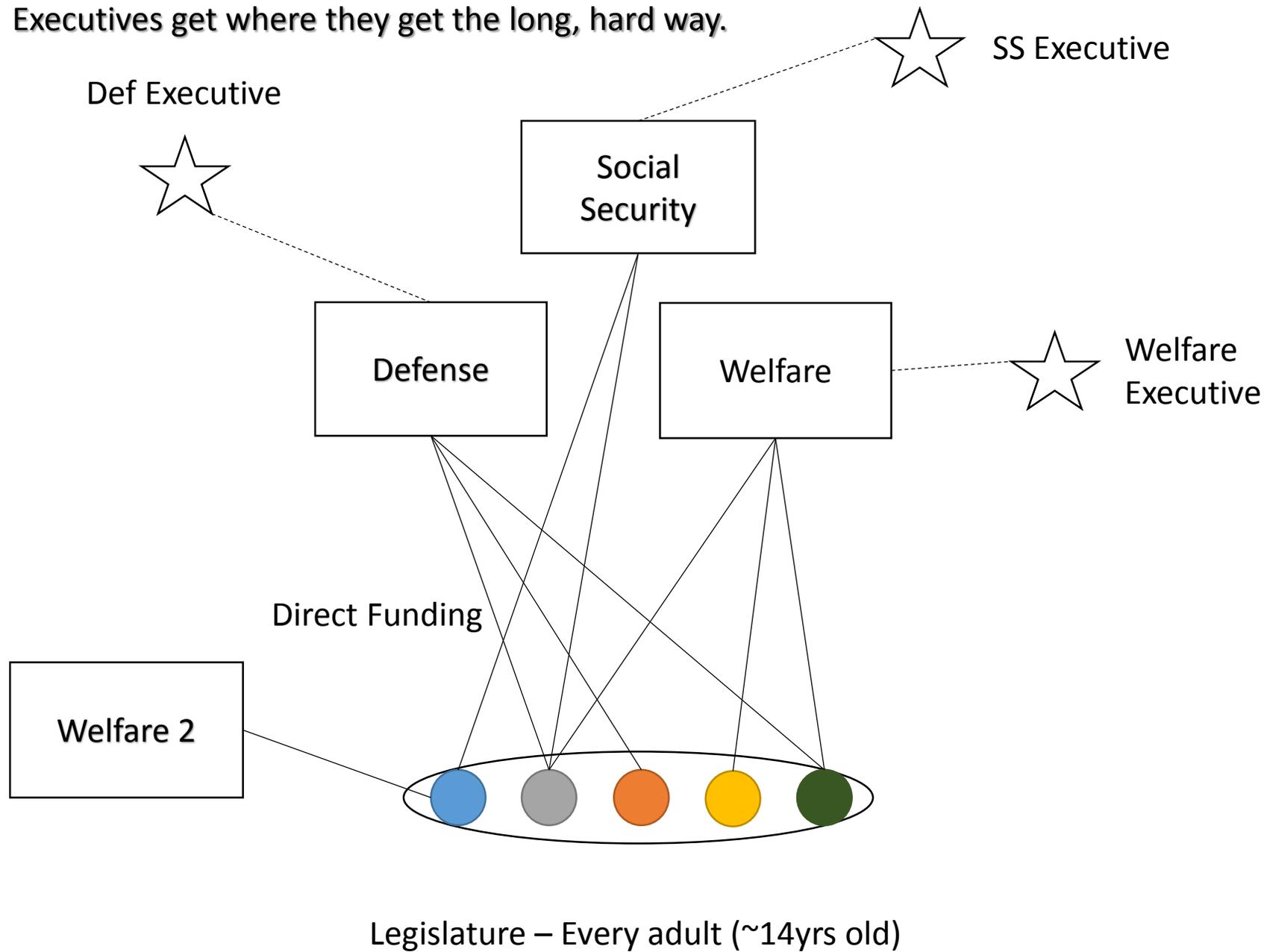
5) Arbiters, just like a judge, will make all of the arrangements involving arbitration; they are a project manager of a transparency ceremony between 2 other parties. These decisions, by their structure, are digitally verified. Beyond that, the business reputation of those arbiters is on the line; if we cannot get someone to behave civilly with the threat of the mortgage over their head, what else do we think we can do as long term solution? If communities cannot send enough of a message by reason and abstention, then things are serious enough to call that criminality. Those people even can't be avoided.

The executive branch emerges from the competitive nature of the project management and business processes. Competitive bidding, reputation for competency, and efficiency bring the best and brightest to the table; without a system to game, competency becomes the relevant factor in leadership. The transparency required, contractually and as a matter of their very employment, of those engaged in that process ensures only the best companies are selected and the executive team for those projects becomes the de facto executive staff, no voting required. While this may sound overly simplistic, the results don't fundamentally change from the very rigorous system already in place. Training staff costs all of us time and money. Using the systems already in place whenever possible is the key to efficient and effective processes *lead by competent leadership*, as well as an infrastructure not paid for by taxpayers to service that need. Roads and bridges will need to be built; local communities will organize these things. Yes, there is an adjustment to performing certain government functions yourself; conversely, there is no one stopping known, educated scholars and other competent individuals from making templates for others to subscribe to, simplifying this process to your time commitment and scope of interest. The point being is that there are markets waiting to handle the relevant but personal details of this kind of transition. The framework is the primary focus. Subscribing to the defense agency(s) of your liking should be just as much your choice as any other system.

To be clear, no one is requiring anyone to change anything. This process is 100% voluntary and designed to give people another option. The advantages far outweigh the current model; participation is assumed for both philosophical and pragmatic reasons. Also, masses leaving the current system may result in the current system being largely abandoned or unsustainable.

\*No, I do not think the federal system will persecute those desiring another system. That is a whole other problem entirely.

Executives get where they get the long, hard way.



All adults/legislators (large enough to do permanent harm to another human) enter into any committees or sub committees, voluntarily, by contributing.

Ex: Someone wanting to be on certain sub committee(s) in defense would need to pay for their own SSBI. The minutes of those meeting will be classified, similar to a trade secret. The meetings, as a rule, will be 100% webcast and recorded in the public ledger. Penalties for this will be by contract, not trying to make affirmative law that covers every potential chicanery and then still think we'll have freedom at the end.

Process: (\* - Assumes at each step that one or more corrective actions may need to be taken to ensure smooth and intelligent transition; anticipating all issues and the specific corrective actions that will arise while supporting the end goal would be very difficult, if not impossible. Also, assuming multiple solutions makes the process irrelevant.)

1) Build and open enroll all volunteers into open-ledger system.

2) Poll enrollees; use data to ascertain the system functions desired by participants and feasibility options.(Assumes participation; this step can be performed to eliminate federal systems without changing the system as well.)

3) Assess data-based changes to the current system. Determine if current system will function with departure of open-ledger participants. \*

4) Adjust current system by gently eliminating all of the fiscally unsupported agencies or adjusting said entities to their fiscal footprint. While progress is the goal, there isn't a hard date to do this. No need to uproot people harshly if a little patience can lubricate that friction. \*

5) Set date(s) for fiscal departure of the individuals, as a whole or in sorties.

6) On que, all parties in that sortie will be released from the federal register. This is only on an individual basis and only at the federal level. All of the aforementioned infrastructure will be in place for these pioneers to receive their services on the money they were spending on taxes.

**This is where the transition split begins. The humans and their companies are now in one system and the corporate entities and governments are in the other.**

7) Departure dates for corporate entities will be set by the administration, with administrative brakes available to ensure the transition is as orderly as humanly possible. Any remaining federal agencies will have their structures reworked to fit the new financial model

8) As of that date, the volunteers use and operate their systems, without federal aid. The federal system will belong to those in it and all of the corporate business entities. Arbitration will take place in the desired venue of the perspective parties. Corporations will use the federal system until that corporate structure is transitioned to a company with an owner, with a name, address, and accountability for that organization or until the federal court system ceases to function.

## How does this affect:

1. Environment – Overall premise: The Sierra Club will tend Yosemite better than the government. Privatization of maintenance and security of national parks and the enforcement of environmental clean-up is better done in a financially-punitive arbitration system, not a pay-to-play legal system.
2. Defense – More, targeted, military spending options will prevent boondoggles. Cooperation will be in everyone's best interest. Erik Prince already has a private army. Thinking it will get out of hand merely because the DoD exists is irrational. All the people Erik hires are the same pool of people, different employer. THOSE PEOPLE are what you need for defense, not the DoD. Laser weaponry is already changing the strategic paradigm. When laser technology becomes tactically deployable, the battlefield will change again. Tanks and manned aircraft will become pure folly. The SOF model is the future.
3. Social Security – Bernie Madoff's op order. Open-ledger retirement solutions remove almost all of the process fraud between parties in investing.
4. Nukes – See 2; add radiological tracking techniques. The real issue is that nuclear energy revolves around weapons-grade isotopes. If the energy paradigm can look to thorium as a safer alternative, I think we can see real change in the weapons paradigm.
5. Education – MUST be taken away from the state. The standardization of education has bred not just mass ignorance but also an anti-intellectual environment where progress is no longer subject to reason and evidence. The ideology of the constitution, admittedly, was about as good as one can get circa 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century. Socialism being overtly, favorably, and dishonestly taught in, while not teaching the competing view honestly, the 'higher education' racket has been a disaster that will plague America for 50 years.

6. Debt – Sale of federal assets: the USSR didn't "fall", it went bankrupt; the devaluing of the assets in a fire sale post bankruptcy would be ridiculously unnecessary. It also sounds like something the collusion in DC would try to pull off, ya know....*worst case for scenario for beltway trash*. By using tax incentives, the dollars offshore can be brought back, the debt can be diminished to a level that will allow the management of the interest rates upward *with the goal of eventually establishing a market rate*, and make it possible in a way the public can be easier with, in the context of depression-like effects of not making changes. The goal is to make these sites private property of the advocacy community. I'm sure arrangements can be made for this endeavor, provided the transactions are open and honest.

7. Police Brutality – Statutory legality is a threshold devoid of humanity. Despite the initial counterintuitive nature of the claim, fewer laws will yield greater satisfaction and results; This does not come from very specific instructions from on high, codified in volumes of law, but from responsible adult humans making judgements about what is or is not actionable with violence. This has now been turned petty in scope, by legislatures, and into a very real abomination by anyone setting or enforcing policy that makes 'activity points'(a minimal amount of crimes needing to be found)-type rating and promotion schemes. This places cops in a place where they have to be confrontational with the public as a matter of duty, economic existence, and prosperity. This cannot be allowed to continue, for several obvious reasons.

## New Benefits:

Long term legal stability – No more 4 year Scrum-sprints in our civilization model, by fiat; we get a program that can show our projects transparently, allow organic changes over time, and only involve those interested or harmed.