

## **1.Introduction**

This is a book about Freedom in the United States, and how we took it for granted, then lost it. The book is specifically aimed at readers who were born after October 30, 1975.

Here, briefly, is why it was written: *To honor a vow made to some old timers in a barber shop at a retirement home in Pasadena, California.*

This locale was under a retirement hotel at the corner of Mentor St. and Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, California. It was informally known as John's Barber Shop. Most of the clients were 30 or forty years older than me. One fall day in 1979 the discussion turned toward current world events. Part of the conversation was concluded when one fellow, with tattooed arms, commented, "We've lost our freedom." The follow-up remarks, from the others, were all affirmative. Then someone said, "I wonder if any of the young people understand what has happened, and whether Americans will ever be free again?" Since John had just about finished my hair, I stood up, and said, as I paid: "I understand what you are talking about, and I will do what I can to turn things around. I then set off on a spree of *reading*, to lay a strong foundation for what I knew had to be a book. I remembered clearly the Congressional Election of 1966, and I also remembered the laments, amid bleats, of a Professor of sociology in my junior year of college. I was surprized to find I could see into this professor's heart very clearly and what I found was a full-blown socialist crazed by (and envious) of corporate America. He dwelt long and hard on white-collar crime. He implied with almost every lesson that sociologists should be in charge of everything in this fair land and around the world. After the barber shop episode, searching through sociology books in the Pasadena Library, I came upon Karl R. Popper's *The Open Society and its enemies*. This book answered many of my questions. Also, it brought Popper and his other works into my consciousness.

Another Popper Book of great interest was *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*. This later work helped me understand what constitutes SCIENCE and SCIENTIFIC METHOD.

I began my writing in the spring of 1994, as my children were getting ready to leave home and start their own independent lives. My concern was that, even though My wife and I had made sure their primary, secondary and college studies were complete, and well rounded, their perspectives on The nature of this fine country were severely limited. What did they know about Viet Nam? Laos? Boat People? Woodstock? Haight-Ashbury? Timothy Leary? SirhanSirhan? Mario Savio? Kent State? The Great Society? Hippy communes? The 1950s?Watts Happenin'?Etc. I knew that a sea-change in American attitudes took place after the 1966 election. The "new" country **was not** similar to the "old" country. I feared my children would take their experience as they grew up as "*the American Experience*," therefore, their experience was lopsided. All they got to see was the "new" country. For example, On a trip to New York, we traveled uptown via subway from the lower part of Manhattan up to the northern portion, on a trip to the Bronx Zoo. We passed through an area near the Bronx, that could have been Summer of 1944 Berlin: Piles of bricks straddled by unstoppable vegetation, sectioned by asphalt streets, lined with lamp posts.This was the much touted and admired *Nueva York*?(Take me to the rest-room, so I can vomit discretely and not make a mess.)These kids had seen Buenos Aires and Mexico City. What they didn't know was that New York had been attacked by Congress and our own president, via *The Great Society*. In my gut, I knew I had to explain this mess to them, but it would have to wait until they were old enough.

Writing is not easy, though it can bring pleasure. It was an effort to sit at several keyboards through the years, write an essay, file it. Print it. Fret over it.Edit it.Fit it into a frame with other essays. That is how this book was written. Now I want to share this book more widely, beyond my children, perhaps with a whole generation.

Since it is difficult to write without having a reader in mind, I direct this book to the common American guy and girl in the 20-35 year age bracket. Here is the composite I envision of my reader:He/She is: an individualist.  
**not** a politician.

generous with charities

Has practical skills that can be marketed, and so must master some competencies:

Can type, or

Can work sheet metal,or

Can sell a product, including proposal, quote, presentation, haggling over terms, and closing the deal, or

Can hit a sliding curve ball out of the infield at Dodger Stadium, or

Can apply a piece of metal to a grinding wheel, and identify the alloy by the color of the sparks,or

Can determine the slope of a piece of ground(or pavement) with a spirit level, some sticks and a ruler,or

Can command troops to follow him into battle, or

Can convince 250 agrieved employees to drop their grievances and go back to work.

Can convince a banker to provide \$20,000 working capital.

Can Convince a promising customer his request for \$20,000 working capital won't be approved, while keeping the applicant happy, or can focus a 70x microscope, or

Can teach reading and writing to second graders.

Can write C++, or VBA code, or

Can teach his/her kids right and wrong without seeking help, because there's no blurring of right and wrong. If I were to give you, my readers, a fictitious name, it would be Jack and Jill Schmoe, or maybe even Joe and Jo Sixpack.

You have your ego under control and are an i-type human(see Chapter8, *Personalities*.)

You Have a steady job and pay taxes.

You believe a family is a mother and father plus kids. You may be in the armed services, but are not career military. You hate politics, as I do, and you dream of building a career in the economic sphere of activities.

So,at this point, I have explained how This collection of essays for my kids has evolved into chapters in this book aimed at a whole generation, about the age of my kids,and including my kids. The new readers are Jack and Jill Schmoe, and Joe and Jo Sixpack. Some occupations in which you work:

Production supervisor in manufacturing (my son)  
Entrepreneur, creating custom-made wedding  
invitations (my daughter)  
Sales manager for satellite-based communication  
devices (my son-in law)  
Spanish/cultural instructor for American businessmen  
planning ventures in Latin America. (My  
brother)  
Fifth grade teacher (his wife)  
Engineer, manager, author(yours truly, Cap'n  
Thinkwright)

This country is famous, worldwide, for Catapulting the Jacks,  
Jills, Joes and Jos from obscurity and into positions of  
prominence: here are a few of the more prominent.

W. Edwards Demming(expert on quality control)

Thomas A. Edison(inventor)

Nathan Strauss(instituted regular pasteurization of milk  
in New York(ca. 1880, cutting infant mortality by a factor of  
three)

Scott Adams (Dilbert creator)

Manny Ramirez( baseball smasher)

Chuck Berry( song writer, rock and roll performer)<sup>1</sup>

Wilber and Orville Wright(inventors and developers of the  
heavier-than-air flying machine)

Oprah Winfrey(TV phenom.)

Martha Stewart(super-perceptive business woman)

What they all have in common is that they were masters of their  
own destinies. Their successes were derived from their own talents  
efforts, and sacrifices.

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<sup>1</sup>(When I hear Chuck Berry performing *Johnny B. Good*,I get  
the impression he is relating part of his life's story.

## How the Chapters are organized

My research for this book started with *The Open Society and its Enemies*, written by Karl R. Popper in the early 1930s

other books I used are:

*The Law*, written by Frederick Bastiat, (ca. 1850).

*the State*, by Franz Oppenheimer, (ca. 1905)

*The Birth of Fascist Ideology* by Zeev Sternhell, Princeton U. Press, (1989)

*Inside the new deal* by "Anonymous"

*A history of pi*, Petr Beckmann (1985)

*Grammatical Man* by Jeremy Campbell, Simon & Schuster,(1982)

*The greening of America* by Charles A. Reich Random House,(1970)

*ProfScam* by Charles Sykes(1990)

*Closing of the American Mind* by Allan Bloom, SimonSchuster,(1987)

*Decomposition of Sociology* by Irving Louis Horowitz,Oxford,(1993)

*A Walden Two Experiment* by Kathleen Kinkade,William Morrow & Co., (1973)

*Out of the Crisis* by W. Edwards Deming,MIT,(1982)

*In Search of a Better World* by Karl R. Popper,Rutledge,(1994, English version)

*The Liars Tale* by Jeremy Campbell,W.W.Noron &Company,(2002)

*The Forgotten Man* by Amity Schlaes(2006)

*Sociology, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* ( a college text)byPaul Horton and Chester Hunt,Knopf,(1964)

*The Vision of the Anointed*,by Thomas Sowell, Basic Books,(1995)

*Surely You're Joking, Mr.Feynman* by Richard P. Feynman,W.W.Norton &Co. (1985)

From these sources I extracted information which helped me understand what I was seeing. For example, Popper revealed Plato's *Republic* in a way I had never seen; i.e, Plato was no admirer of democracy or a state organized as a Republic. Plato despised both of these.

In this book, broken into a series of Essays(now *Chapters*), the essence of what I learned from my extensive reading will be revealed. The how, why and who of the 1966 Revolution will be

presented. We will conclude, more or less back where we started, exploring morality, and how morality and freedom are linked.

First we will recount and examine *the 1966 upheaval*. Then we will look at a similar upheaval known as *The French Revolution*. To gain understanding, we must dissect, so we must examine what constitutes a state. This concept is needed to understand politics.

Live free, my dear readers, and remember what Benito Juarez<sup>2</sup> said: “Respect for the rights of others IS PEACE.”<sup>3</sup>

John W. Thinkwright  
(aka Cap’n Thinkwright)

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<sup>2</sup>President of Mexico while Lincoln was US President.

<sup>3</sup>*El respeto al derecho ajeno es PAZ.*