

*“[Most people] cannot grasp the concept of liberty.
Always they condition it with the doctrine
that the state, i.e., the majority, has a sort of
right of eminent domain in acts, and even in ideas –
that it is perfectly free, when it is so disposed,
to forbid a man to say what he honestly believes....*

*The overwhelming majority of citizens....
especially the liberals, who pretend –
and often quite honestly believe – that they
are hot for liberty...never really are.*

*They...advocate only certain narrow kinds of liberty –
Liberty, that is, for the persons they favor.
The rights of other persons do not seem to interest them.*

*If a law were passed tomorrow taking away the property
Of a large group of presumably well-to-do persons –
say, bondholders of the railroads – without compensation...
they would not oppose it; they would be in favor of it.*

*The liberty to have and hold property is not one they recognize
They believe only in the liberty to envy, hate and loot
the man who has it.”*

– **H.L. Mencken**
Journalist “Sage of Baltimore”
1925. [3]

Introduction

by **Craig R. Smith**

“...We also gave those who wished to destroy space to do that as well, and we work very hard to keep that balance...”

– **Stephanie Rawlings-Blake**
Mayor of Baltimore
regarding its 2015 riots [4]

Baltimore has become a culture-war battlefield between two dreams – the individualist American Dream of our nation’s Framers, and the collectivist utopian dream of Progressives.

What we saw in the rioting, flames and smoke of Baltimore in 2015 was one small skirmish in this war. It was also a look at what soon might be coming to a city near you.

We remember the televised news coverage:

Police were ordered to retreat before a mob of young people who were hurling threats and hunks of concrete at them.

Police, along with a City Council member married to the State’s Attorney, stood by while a few feet away rioters smashed business windows and looted a liquor store.

The councilman seemed unconcerned that he had sworn to uphold the law, but on police faces you could see the pain of being ordered by self-serving politicians not to defend the people and property of their community.

Dark smoke poured from the windows and roof of a looted and torched CVS Pharmacy that neighbors had spent years trying to get built in this inner city.

As firefighters tried to put out the blaze, one news camera showed a young tough trying to cut a fire hose.

Adolescent thugs jumped on the roof and kicked in the windshield of a police car, while none of the authorities nearby moved to stop them.

It was obvious that Baltimore bosses had made a decision and issued orders: let the mobs rob and torch as many stores as they wish. Forget the property loss and financial devastation to local business owners. Do not lift a finger to protect private property. Avoid using any force or firepower that might risk killing one of the rioters, which would lead to more protests, lawsuits and rioting.

Let Baltimore Burn

The message from politicians was clear: Do not confront the criminals. Just let the poorer parts of Baltimore be looted and burned.

This might have saved a life or two in the short run, and it certainly made things easier for city politicians who favored protestors and gangbangers over a few business owners.

The decision, however, had consequences. The rioting led to 200 injured police and more than \$20 Million in other damages.

By signaling to looters that store goods were free for all, these Progressive politics created a free-for-all. Surveillance cameras used to identify thieves, many of whom brazenly did not bother covering their faces, identified two Baltimore female corrections officers who had casually joined in the looting of one store.

The police felt shame at not being allowed to protect the community. In the wake of similar rioting in Ferguson, Missouri, and elsewhere, police officers risked having their careers and lives ruined if they put traditional force behind law enforcement. Progressive politicians and media would throw them to the mob.

In Baltimore, demoralized police began an apparent “work slowdown” that reduced their risk of violence or political backlash, but left the community with far less pro-active police protection. Baltimore’s murder rate soared.

The Progressive mayor, rather than take responsibility for offering “those who wished to destroy space to do that,” instead made a scapegoat of her African-American police chief, while replacing him with a white officer.

The mayor had turned to gang leaders to help curb the rioting, and later said they had been helpful. This happened *after* she tied the hands of city police.

New York Times reporter Ron Nixon spoke with a self-described Crips member who told how “he and some Bloods had stood in front of black-owned stores to protect them from looting or vandalism. He said they had made sure no black children, or reporters, were hit by rioters. They pointed them toward Chinese- and Arab-owned stores.” Baltimore peacemaking.

Local gangs such as the Crips, Bloods and Black Guerrilla Family are rumored to be involved with the illicit drug trade in Baltimore. While rioters kept police distracted, not only the CVS Pharmacy but also up to 30 other Baltimore drug stores were targeted and their morphine and other restricted prescription drugs were looted. One analyst concluded that enough drugs were stolen during the riots to keep local drug dealers in business for a year.

The longer-term costs of Baltimore’s 2015 riot are impossible to calculate, but they will be high for many years to come. How many investors will it deter from funding new enterprises and jobs here? How many more inner city lives will this drive to frustration, despair, drug addiction and violence?

We conclude that widespread addiction to the drug of welfare can make it easier to fall into illicit drug addiction, Medical authorities estimate that nearly one of every 10 Baltimoreans is a drug addict.

What will it mean for tourism, investment and community optimism that the first thing most Americans think of when they hear the name “Baltimore” is this rioting? How many of Baltimore’s best and brightest residents and companies are now planning to flee, as happened after the city’s 1968 riots?

Dream War

For much of America's history, Baltimore had been a city of enormous beauty and achievement. Yet after more than half a century of Progressive political rule, Baltimore is burning.

The Progressive dream is rapidly spreading and spawning nightmares. By looking deeply at Baltimore as a leading example of what Progressivism does, we can see how this collectivist ideology corrupts and is replacing the traditional American dream of legal equality, life, liberty, prosperity and the pursuit of happiness.

Writing shortly after the dawn of Progressivism in America, Henry Louis Mencken, an astute journalist and thinker known as the "Sage of Baltimore," understood that what we now call its Politically-Correct politics and values – which in 1925, just after the Marxist Russian Revolution, he saw rising up around him and becoming intellectually fashionable -- were a mortal threat to liberty, free speech and private property. (See what he wrote on the page facing this Introduction.)

The American Dream and Constitution are being dismantled by this alien ideology, by the radical activists infected with it, and by those addicted to the mind-altering and soul-destroying drugs it peddles.

In our 2013 book *The Great Withdrawal: How the Progressives' 100-Year Debasement of America and the Dollar Ends*, we examined how the great city of Detroit and its residents were dragged into economic stagnation and violence by Progressive interference with its economy and values.

In Chapters One and Two of this book we look at the rise and fall of Baltimore, where seeds of both the American Dream and the Progressive nightmare are fighting for control of our nation's future.

In Chapter Three we show the tangled roots of the rival dream of Progressivism, where this alien collectivist ideology came from and how it has been invading our institutions.

In Chapters Four, Five, Six and Seven, we explore ways that Progressives are systematically undermining four cornerstones of the American Dream,

the same dream that so many immigrants were drawn to in an earlier Baltimore.

In Chapters Eight and Nine, we examine how Progressive policies and institutions have debased the U.S. Dollar, hamstrung our economy, and fundamentally transformed our once-free marketplace into companies and institutions addicted to and dependent on Progressive government favors and largesse.

In Chapter Ten, we consider whether a “Third Dream” that combines the American and Progressive Dreams is possible, and we show why sustaining the internal contradictions of such a hybrid would likely in the long run prove impossible. We look at how Progressive attempts to combine free market individualism and socialist collectivism are failing in Greece and Puerto Rico.

We also show you ways to protect yourself and your family from the severe turbulence and shocks that will come from both the struggle to reclaim the American Dream and from being pulled deeper into the Progressive collectivist nightmare and a worsening economy as this War of the Dreams continues.

Our Epilogue returns to Baltimore and discovers seeds of hope that even this riot-torn city, dragged down sooner and harder than most by Progressive politicians and policies, has surprising ways to achieve a successful, prosperous tomorrow.

The Key to America’s Future

The future looks like Baltimore, but will that future be of a city destroyed by looters, arsonists and Progressivism – a place whose burning embers spread via the media and ignite fires in many other American cities?

Or will Baltimore again become a shining example, the once and future beautiful city of success and creativity where the long nightmare of Progressivism ends and the American Dream is reborn and restored?

Baltimore could be the key to America’s future, but which future will it be?

We are now suspended between the two dreams. Progressives have succeeded in creating an America where 94 million Americans are without full-time work, the worst job participation rate since the malaise of Progressive Democratic President Jimmy Carter in 1978.

Roughly 101 million Americans still have full-time jobs, but 108 million receive one or another kind of means-tested government benefits. At least 49.5 percent of American households include someone who receives government benefits.

America is at a tipping point. If a majority of households begin benefitting from welfare, then future elections could become mere bidding wars won by whichever side offers the most free goodies as a *de facto* bribe to voters.

“It’s hard to run against Santa Claus,” as former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich has said. This is especially true in a society where Progressives are willing to give away limitless amounts of other people’s money, taxing the makers who work to buy the votes of the takers who do not.

As the old saying goes, if you want less of something, tax it. If you want more of something, subsidize it. Progressives now tax work, success and achievement, and subsidize failure and laziness.

Economic growth in America has been slowing for decades because taxes and regulations keep diverting the lifeblood of capitalism, capital, out of the private sector and into the non-productive sector of our society, the government.

The bigger government gets, the more from us it devours. And the more Progressive politicians “tax and tax, spend and spend, elect and elect” (the motto of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt), the less overtaxed investors have to build new enterprises or create more jobs.

If the Progressive nightmare wins, then you need to protect yourself and your family against a bumpy downhill future with severe, predictable risks.

If the American Dream wins, the long-term future can be bright – but between today and this better tomorrow will be the economic shocks and

dislocation of tens of millions of people and corporations experiencing withdrawal symptoms.

After decades of Progressive welfare addiction and brainwashing designed to infantilize them under a paternalistic government, many of these Zombies will need time to recover their minds, hearts, work ethic, and personal responsibility....things that Progressives took away in order to make millions helpless and utterly dependent on government.

Whichever dream wins, you will need to be prepared by being diversified in ways that might be new to you.

This is our sixth book. Millions have read one or more of the earlier five as well as additional White Papers. Our aim is to empower you with facts and ideas that could help save your family's future, if you are ready to take prudent but decisive action. The time to do this may be much shorter than you think.

We do not share the view of the Progressive Democratic Mayor of Baltimore that the forces of destruction, the looters, takers, gang members and rioters, should be elevated to the same stature in our society as producers and protectors, our firefighters and police.

In the end, as the international television series *Highlander* says, there can be only one.

The individual freedom of the American Dream and collectivist Progressive authoritarian dream contradict one another and cannot coexist much longer as rulers of the same city, nation or world. One of these two visions and value systems will prevail, and the other will lose.

What you do will help determine the outcome, one way or the other.

Despite the many failures of their ideas, Progressives continue to undermine the American Dream. All they need to triumph is for good people to do nothing.

May the winner be the American Dream.

– CRAIG R. SMITH