

THE POLITICAL EFFECTS OF THE SELF-RELIANCE MOVEMENT



By James C. Jones, President of Live Free USA

I am often asked why Live Free is not involved more in political activities. After all, “Live Free” implies a political imperative and philosophy far more than a name with Prepper or Survival in it. My first answer is that there are plenty of great conservative political organizations out there fighting for gun rights and other issues and we often find ourselves working with such organizations to help their members achieve greater functional independence. Our activities are often mutually beneficial and supportive. **Live Free’s mission is to advocate, promote, educate and support individual and family preparedness and self-reliance.** That is an important and unique mission. Getting involved in political action would simply drift us off message and off mission. Paradoxically, my second answer is that **Live Free’s mission is more politically effective than any voting, demonstrating or petitioning activities could be.** Politics is simply a *reflection* of conflicting changes within a society. **Lasting political changes can only be effected if the underlying social, economic and philosophical changes are already in place.** No amount of force coercion or intimidation can resist a revolution in the minds and values of the people.

The American Revolution was over well before the first shots were fired at Concord Massachusetts. The British reaction was just a bloody formality. If one looks at the social, geographic and economic realities of that time it is obvious that America was not a colony and Americans were not subjects. Americans had changed their attitudes, alliances, living methods and values. They had already found ways to sidestep regulations avoid taxes and generally deny British authority and power. **Even if Britain had won the war, they would have been unable to govern these people.** All of the speeches and documents and battles were simply reflections of a deeper revolution that had already taken place in the way Americans thought and acted in life. My point here is that “politics” does not change life, but life changes politics and Live Free is all about changing life.

For the past two centuries technology and other factors have constantly favored centralization and regulation. Virtually everything we do is monitored, regulated, taxed, taxed again, administrated and controlled. All of this is in the name of justice, convenience, safety, and order. Some of your chains are self-applied. Your purchases are monitored because you *chose* to use a credit card. You are tracked 24/7 because you *chose* to carry a cell phone. You put too much information on the internet. But much of your chains are applied through various agencies of the state. There are things you cannot purchase and places you cannot go. Taxes are used to control your lifestyle and habits. The concept of government health care has resulted in state control of your body and what you do with it and what you eat and drink. The state desperately tries to control the Internet to regulate information as it does with radio, TV and the press. **Most importantly, your sources of “life critical assets” such as water; food, medical care, emergency help, personal protection, fuel and shelter are all exclusively controlled by various agencies and special interests.** I am not implying that this situation is part of a conspiracy to enslave you or that those in charge are inherently evil. I am saying that in the past centuries we have become more and more centralized, regulated and dependent and that makes us less and less free and more and more compliant and vulnerable. As the economy begins to crumble and the impact of fuel prices and environmental instability take effect two things begin to happen. First: people begin to see how utterly dependent and helpless they are. Slowly they move from denial to a decision to seek more self-reliance, preparedness and self-sustainable living. In turn this makes them less amenable to taxes and regulations that interfere with their independence. Ah, there’s the politics! The second thing that happens is that those who have profited from the peoples taxes and used regulatory power for there own gains desperately step up there efforts. Now the chains of dependency start to be pulled in and felt by families. “Oh no you don’t!” they cry when you make your own energy, grow your own food, trade and barter, start a non-traditional business, protect your own life, use off the grid medical services or just collect your own water. **Doing such things is the very essence of revolution. Such acts take revenue and regulatory power right out of their hands. Ah, there’s the politics!** Just like the revolutionaries of 1776 we have started living differently and changing our values. The average (but obsolete) family today has two full time jobs, buys almost everything it needs from others, is dependent on prepackaged foods and “fast foods” made by others and carries a significant amount of debt. All of the wages they make are taxed and all of the wages of those who make everything they buy are taxed. Almost every thing they touch or need is regulated and taxed. Their real tax burden is probably closer to 75%. Over 200-years of voting demonstrating and petitioning has failed to stop this shift from the people to the state. The Americans of 1776 would be appalled! **The new American (self-reliant, sustainable living, pepper, survivalist, homesteader) having shifted towards “alternative” and “independent” living is having far more political effects than any legislation or election. The internet has facilitated a whole new economic system and has accelerated the building of self-reliant networks and the provision of alternative technologies far faster than government can react or mange.** While technology of the 20-th Century facilitated centralization and big government, new technology is highly inclined to support self-reliance, independent networks and non-controllable systems. True, the advent of governmental

intrusion on privacy, drones, cameras and other technologies are a serious threat. But these threats are a desperate (if well meant) attempt to maintain the old ways. They cannot succeed IF more and more people FEEL independent and self-reliant. The phrase "I don't need you and what I do is none of your business" changes everything. **It has been proven over and over again that when the people change no amount of regulation, taxation or force can stop them.**

Live Free is about changing people and helping people change. These changes are already happening through new technology, the homestead movement, the self-reliance movement, and the preparedness movement right now. **Live Free is about supporting and facilitating and unifying any aspect of life that liberates responsible citizens.** Right now, legislative and regulatory resistance to these changes is moderate and subliminal, but when self-reliance and sustainable living becomes more prevalent we can expect severe and maybe even violent reaction from those whose wealth and power depend on centralization and control. Certainly Live Free USA may be drawn into a variety of "political" struggles, but they must be won in advance by what we do now for the people and families of America. We win the political battles not by talk and petition but by advocating and educating for change in values. **What and who controls life is the only real political issue that counts.** Controlling one's own means and choices in life is the definition of freedom. Self-reliance, self-preparedness, sustainable living is all aspects of self-liberation. So Live Free and its mission is practical politics in action. .