

Finding Freedom in an Age of Confusion

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Alchemy of the Modern Renaissance ended on a positive note, but since then I have observed even more signs that peace, love and freedom will eventually overcome the paradigm of oppression that we are currently experiencing. If you are even thinking about reading this book then it is quite possible that you have found yourself on the rewarding but difficult path of peaceful rebellion. Along with the millions of others worldwide who are beginning to find their purpose, you have the ability to change the world for the better in your lifetime, no matter what kind of situation you come from or where you call home. The endless list of insane laws that have been passed recently coupled with the many other atrocities carried out by the governments of the world make things look extremely bleak, but these are all signs of an age that is coming to its inevitable end. These signs have manifested themselves in some very upsetting and damaging ways, but these tragedies are temporary and will mark the end of a long era of violence and confusion. How difficult this transition is, and what the end result will be is not yet determined though, that depends on us.

Chapter 1 - You are a pioneer of peace

The world that we were born into and have found ourselves in today is such a complicated mess that even beginning to think about having a positive impact on society can leave any sane person feeling hopeless and defeated before they even get started. Our culture has shielded us from the harsh reality of our existence for our entire lives, so being exposed to this reality for the first time can be a very confusing or even traumatic process. To react with incredulous aversion is a common thing for people to do when approached with information that contradicts the ideas that they built their lives around. When it comes to the violence of the state and the corrupt nature of the social institutions that surround us, it is very rare for anyone to take this kind of information lightly.

Even after someone is able to see past the lies of the mainstream worldview, the path toward a more peaceful and free existence can be so difficult and frightening that it can seem like an impossible suicide mission. This is the obstacle that prevents most people from even attempting to change or criticize the society that they were brought up in. If creating a free society and a world without war was easy, then I guarantee you that overnight millions of people would instantly be condemning the state and the moral injustice of the violence that it carries out.

Since creating freedom where there is now dictatorship is a very delicate and painstaking process with no real instruction manual, it can seem like a very daunting task. However, humanity is a species capable of incredible things, things that were once seen as impossible and unthinkable. Today we live in a world with tools and capabilities that would appear to be magic to our ancestors, yet we still have been unable to escape the same primitive traditions that held them captive in their time. We can instantly speak to people all over the world, travel in to space and store incredible amounts of information into extremely small spaces, but sadly we still live our day to day lives in confusion and fear just as so many generations before us did.

This era that we are living in is an extremely pivotal time in the human story because we really have reached that long awaited moment where we have become advanced enough to destroy this planet and everything on it. This is a massive responsibility, a responsibility that can only be met with a radical elevation in consciousness, one which will allow our species to finally become civilized beings.

No self-respecting creature wants to look at themselves or the society that they identify with as being barbaric or uncivilized. Surely even the cavemen who painted on walls with animal dung thought of themselves as being gentlemen and scholars. However, when a species is killing each other by the millions, enslaving one another and taking part in the kind of culturally justified violence that we see today, it becomes apparent that there is still a lot of work to be done before we can honestly say that humanity is civilized.

This is a worthwhile goal though, to do what we can during our lives to leave the world and the human consciousness in better condition than they were when they were left for us. In all reality, one could argue that this is the meaning of life! It is not an easy path to take and there is no guarantee that you will see the fruits of your labor in your own lifetime, but any new frontier is always shrouded in this same sort of uncertainty, danger and controversy. The creation of the world's first free society in

recorded history is simply the most recent frontier in the realm of human consciousness, just as space exploration is the most recent frontier in the physical realm. Just a hundred years ago if you told someone you were going to build a rocket to fly people into outer space you may have run the risk of being committed to a mental hospital. Yet despite popular opinion the human imagination has once again defied our previous conception of reality by exploring new frontiers and pushing beyond the boundaries of what was said to be possible.

If you are reading these words, then you are without a doubt in the midst of today's great frontier, which is the fight for freedom and the search for peace. You are a pioneer who has the courage to journey into uncharted territory and be your own mapmaker. Along with the millions of others worldwide who are beginning to find their purpose, you have the ability to change the world for the better in your lifetime, no matter what kind of situation you come from or where you call home. You have found yourself on a rewarding but arduous and sometimes lonely path. I know, because I have been walking this path for the better part of my life, and some years ago I passed the point of no return, to where this path has now become my home.

After realizing that there was no turning back I have tried my best to find the beauty and positivity that surrounds me on this path that I have chosen, and I have found a lot to be optimistic about. I have also made a lot of mistakes and wasted too much time worrying about things that I shouldn't have. All of these experiences both good and bad have resulted in the essays contained in this book. These are simply my thoughts on the research that I have done and the world that I see around me, if you want the names, dates and facts, they have all been saved for my hardback *Alchemy of the Modern Renaissance*, which I will refer to when sourcing is necessary.

Chapter 2 – Reclaiming your self esteem

There is not a person in this world that is immune to the detrimental effect which mainstream culture has on one's self esteem. Even the tyrants who themselves destroy peoples self-esteem by violently imposing their will on others live a life of mental discomfort because they are demoralized by their own actions and the world that they create.

From the first day that we begin to observe the world as children, everyone around us seems so big and intimidating that we give their opinions and beliefs way too much credit and way too much power over us. Since our early years are so vital to our mental development and the formation of our worldview, we carry this tendency to unquestionably submit to authority throughout our entire lives.

When all of us grew up we were subject to daily, if not hourly, judgments on our value in the community and our moral integrity from various figures of so called authority. These authority figures at home, at school and in society are constantly working to undermine the self-esteem of the general population, by making these judgments and treating those in their care like second class citizens. It is not necessarily the fault of the individuals who end up in these positions of authority, as they are merely passing along the oppressive cultural norms that were forced onto them at one time or another. That's not to say they aren't responsible for their actions, because they are, but at the same time they are not the cause of this trouble, there are merely a symptom.

In a world where we are constantly forced to engage with people who have complete control over us, especially from a young age, it becomes very difficult to develop any self-confidence and the idea of being independent in any way can seem absolutely horrifying. The rise of centralized government schooling in the past 200 years has accelerated this process by treating people like toddlers well into adulthood, causing them to develop with immature and dependent personalities in many cases.

In school we taught how to conform to the majority, regurgitate meaningless facts and submit to authority but we really don't learn anything of value. That which is valuable and taught in public schools can obviously be taught and learned without government involvement, centralized control, and the overall oppressive form that these indoctrination centers have taken. It is this structure that is maintained by government involvement which is responsible for the dumbing down of our society and for totally destroying an entire generations self-esteem.

For the most crucial years of our development we are constantly getting the message that our thoughts, ideas, desires, fears and disagreements are completely unimportant. We learn that our needs and our opinions are secondary, to people in authority who are not to be questioned and who have the ability to punish or exile you at any time. This is an incredibly scary and traumatizing situation for any child, even if they don't realize it. These are scars that are carried into adulthood, and eventually create very serious problems in the real world by causing people to act violent and irrational or at least just make them completely miserable and obedient.

These are legitimate traumas that need to be recognized and worked out by everyone. All of us were born into a primitive culture where we were subject to expectations and standards that we should not

have had forced upon us. In most cases these expectations are completely impossible to fulfill, and in many cases completely pointless. Realizing these simple facts is the first step in repairing one's self esteem after being beating down by an authoritarian, soul destroying culture.

Far too many of the world's people feel inadequate and insignificant because they don't match up with the unrealistic and insane expectations that are set by the mainstream culture. Forget about those expectations and forget about those standards, they are no good for anyone and they are not a true measure of your worth. Using arbitrary traits like wealth, status and appearance as social measurements is a recipe for disaster as it degrades human beings and destroys their self-worth. You really can't gauge the value of someone's life by external factors at all, but if someone must be judged it should be according to their actions and how they treat those around them, not the superficial standards of the mainstream culture.

Chapter 3 – You are king (or queen)

The mainstream view of history that has been handed down by the aristocracy presents the idea that great things can only be accomplished by mythical heroes, who know all of the right things to say and all of the right things to do and who are completely devoid of fear, doubt, regret or any of the other vulnerable emotions that we all feel. Throughout the better part of history kings and priests have created a social atmosphere in which they were these heroes, although in real life they were nothing like the image that they put forward. In American culture the politicians are always presented in this mythical context where they are said to have the superhuman ability to know what is best for millions of other people at all times, just as the kings and priests to come before them. During times of social change whichever ruler happened to be in power was naturally associated with that change due to the personality cult that is traditionally inherited by those in that position. However, this view of history is giving far too much credit to the individuals who have waged wars and signed documents.

Sadly, we live in a world where there are different classes of people who have different rules and different rights according to their relationship with those in power or their ability to use force and fraud on others. This all takes place without any social stigma despite the fact that people claim to recognize that all humans were created equal. The truth is that we all were created equal, but we live in societies where we are not treated as equals because small groups of sophists have established cultural norms which ensure that they are the rulers of everyone else, instead of their equals. This was obvious during the times of the monarchy and open slavery, but now the rulers have quite effectively hid behind democracy and communism, both ideas that claim to put the power in the hands of the people but really does nothing but strengthen the state and give people more deceptive avenues to oppress their neighbors.

This may be the state of society, but this does not have to be the state of our lives and it does not have to be the future of humanity. While it may be true that there are people out there who think they have authority over us, and will probably do us harm if they get the chance, this does not mean that this authority actually exists. This authority is nothing more than an illusion, it doesn't matter how many people respect this illusion, it still isn't real. With that being said there is no sense to live like it is real, besides there is no reason for us to be acting like second class citizens just because we are treated as such.

Each and every one of us are autonomous beings who have the right to think and act however we wish as long as we bring no harm to anyone else. In other words, you are your own king, or queen, whichever term applies to you. No one is your owner, regardless of how many politicians come along and claim ownership over you. You are the master of your own domain, and the master of your own future. It is true that we are living in a situation where our possibilities are limited and we are forced to conform in certain ways when "the powers that shouldn't be" are looking, but none of that changes reality, so it should not change the way we look at things.

When you accept the worldview of those who oppress you and act as if it were true you are disempowering yourself and giving your abuser the upper hand. This is what happens when we attempt

to conform with standards that we know are unjust, and then proceed to emotionally attack ourselves when we naturally fall short.

Our ancestors had an extremely difficult time coming to terms with all this, which is why they never achieved freedom and why they didn't resist the establishment of the control systems that exists today. However, our generation does not have to be the same, we have the tools and the power to turn this all around and create a world where everyone has autonomy. The first step to getting there is to act yourself as if you were your own master, and to make efforts to advance and spread this philosophy of self-ownership.

Chapter 4 – The golden age is tomorrow not yesterday

Every generation that has walked the earth was unable to imagine or comprehend what tomorrow would bring. This inability to see the future leaves many with the unspoken idea that their moment in history and what they see in their day to day life is the maximum level of advancement and understanding that humanity is capable of. Obviously generations of people have been proven wrong because we continue to advance in both understanding and capability, yet it is still rare for someone to imagine anything other than the world they know.

With this kind of mentality, which most of the world has come to embrace, there is a sense of intense nostalgia for an era that they were not alive to see, but one that has been idealized by older generations in the stories that have been handed down through the ages. This makes politics a very messy business, because when things go wrong, as they always do, people don't know where to look for a comparison for their situation so they are left to dwell on the image of the "good ol days" that has been painted in their mind since childhood.

I'm sure that every culture has their own golden age that is looked to as a model for the current civilization. In America there is the farce of the founding fathers and the myth of limited constitutional government. It is deeply ingrained in the culture that, sure things may be screwed up now, but once upon a time in this place called the United States of America there were these heroic and selfless aristocrats called the founding fathers who ran things, and everyone loved them, and everyone was happy, and everyone was free and prosperous. This is the cartoonish version of events that plays out in our history books and the cultural myths that are so present in our everyday lives, but this nationalistic folklore has nothing to do with reality.

I'm not saying that a lot of America's founding fathers weren't brilliant people with a few good ideas here and there. There are some core philosophical principles that they did a great job enshrining, at least in theory, for future generations such as ourselves to carry on. However, many of these people were still quite oppressive both in their personal and political lives. Many of the founding fathers owned slaves, and were extremely racist, classist and sexist. They were also not as popular in their own times as the history books describe either. The politicians of the past, even in early America were just as unpopular as today's politicians and the founding fathers were no different.

There were constant rebellions among the general population in the generation surrounding the declaration of independence because people rightly saw their local colonial government just as oppressive as the British Empire. These rebellions were often met with brutal force by the aristocrats who are idealized in American history books as the nation's founding fathers. Nonetheless people still took up arms and risked their lives fighting against the government because their standard of living was so low, like we saw in the Whisky rebellion against George Washington.

It is true that people living during this time were probably significantly more free than your average person today, and they had to deal with fairly little government intervention in comparison to us, this was still a pretty rough time a place to live and the political structure was still responsible for an extremely low standard of living among the general population. With that being the case I think it's safe

to say that this period in history may not be the best time to look back at as a golden age that needs to be replicated politically.

The story of our history has been one of a constant but slow progression towards a more free society. Slowly but surely, one by one, generation by generation we shed the insane and irrational ideas that held our ancestors captive. When approached from this angle it seems counterproductive to reach into the past to find a path toward a free society, when one never existed in the past, at least in recorded history anyway. There are plenty of lessons that can be learned from studying history, but when it comes to solving today's difficult world problems, looking into the past for primitive solutions just isn't going to work.

One of the great mysteries of the world is the repetitious cycle of history and how our species continues to make the same mistakes over and over again. This cycle probably has many different causes, but this cultural myth of the golden age is without a doubt a contributor. Thousands of years ago republics and democracies were seen as the ideal ways to organize society, but time showed that these systems of government bred corruption just as any system of coercive social control naturally does. This corruption resulted in an economic and cultural collapse that was spread out across the whole civilized world and lasted many generations.

With the democratic and republican systems of government a proven failure our ancient ancestors had an opportunity to create a free society in its ashes. Unfortunately this did not happen because people's minds were still trapped in the paradigm of domination, so while they may have escaped the physical restraints that were imposed on them by their local coercive regime they did philosophically overcome the ideas which allowed these local regimes to act as they did. Putting an end to tyranny isn't accomplished by just overthrowing a tyrant. Likewise there is no treaty that can be signed to prevent other tyrants from rising in their place. When violence and oppression is being carried out on a mass scale it is only able to go on so long as the general population is conned into believing that whatever is taking place is a good thing. However, when the specific violent acts that are being carried out are proven as immoral and socially unacceptable it will be impossible for tyrants to convince anyone to take part in their madness. This is what I mean by "philosophically overcoming" ideas instead of just switching tyrants or pushing papers around.

At the fall of the Roman Empire the paradigm was not changed, there was no philosophical advancement. In fact there was actually a regression to long term feudalism, perhaps because everyone was frightened into clinging to the past instead of creating a better future. This is just one prominent example that relates to today's political climate but there are examples everywhere throughout history which show how humanity seems to make the same mistakes over and over again by embracing the same bad ideas.

Today we find ourselves in another time of great change, where the established powers are on shaky ground and the general population is starting to realize that the way of life that has been hoisted upon them is unsustainable and that a new path is necessary. This happens regularly every few generations,

but unfortunately every single time there has been a revolution or social upheaval the worldview has remained the same and the cycle was never broken.

The worldview has remained the same because for many centuries the dismal state of civilization has been largely ignored by those who have had to live through it. The pain, depression and confusion that can come from admitting the twisted nature of our day to day existence has been far too much for most people to cope with, so throughout history people have created extremely complex justifications and rationalizations for the violence and insanity that was taking place around them. This is how our species has gotten to where it is today, with numerous brutal empires stretching across the entire globe, to the point where there is no longer anywhere to escape to. With the general population in a constant state of denial for many generations, the people and organizations that controlled the world's land and resources have been able to consolidate their power with minimal resistance. This is a process that has been taking place since the dawn of civilization, from the times of human sacrifice and divine rule.

People oftentimes make the mistake of thinking that the revolution started right at the moment when they found out about it. In reality the battle between freedom and enslavement has been raging for centuries, and has played out like a relay race where each generation passes the mission along to the next. The only problem is that those on the side of freedom have not had the ability to participate in this process. For the better part of history the general population was illiterate and poorly educated, making it that much more difficult to immortalize their side of the story and their ideas for future generations.

Meanwhile, those who sought to enslave humanity were very familiar with planning beyond their own time, as it often took many generations to complete large projects, such as palaces, bridges and monuments. Military conquests were known to take several generations as well. The ruling class has always been accustomed to long term plans and goals that outlasted their own lifetimes. Sadly, with most of humanity living a survival based existence for the better part of history, it has been hard for people to see past their next meal, so looking into future lifetimes was probably not very common.

Although, at least in the past there was some sort of concern for the world that was being left behind for the unborn, even though there was still widespread confusion and indoctrination. Nowadays with the extremely sophisticated mental conditioning made possible through the media and government schools, people have been trained to live as if they were the last generation on earth. On top of that people continue to pass along the mentality of their oppressors onto their children as their ancestors had onto them. Luckily, thanks to the widespread decentralization of information that has been made possible by the internet, there are more people than ever who are starting to question the society that they were born into.

This is definitely a great victory in the struggle for freedom, but unfortunately many people become depressed and discouraged when coming to the reality of their existence. A world of peace and rationality seems like such a total stretch of the imagination because it is drastically different from what we experience today, but that doesn't mean that this world is impossible.

Every generation there are many drastic paradigm shifts that radically alter the way that people interact with each other, and for the most part all throughout human history these shifts have contributed to a slow upward progression towards a more peaceful world. Unfortunately tragedies like mass murder, slavery and subjugation do still take place, but they are getting harder and harder to justify because our species is in the process of evolving beyond the type of mentalities that trigger this kind of behavior.

When approached from this perspective it becomes obvious that freedom and peace is inevitable for our species. That does not mean that you should just sit back and wait for it to happen, because the more people who get involved and put their intellect and energy towards outgrowing the violent social systems that we were all born into, the faster it will actually happen.

By noting that the struggle we are facing is a multigenerational one, I am in no way saying that our generation can't make great progress in our lifetime and lay a solid foundation for a free society while we are here on earth. I am simply making the point that although it may seem like this moment in time is the climax of the human story, every person who is alive right now was born into an age old revolution that will eventually be passed onto future generations to carry on. That's how things really are when you think about the big picture. This doesn't just apply to parents and their children, anyone who has the potential to develop and share an idea has the potential to help lay the foundation for the first free society that ever existed.

Chapter 5 - The state is not invincible it's just a bad idea

Throughout the course of history people have fought against tyranny and authority of various forms only to be thrown back into subjugation when someone else came along to claim what we call “power”. There have been countless battles to overthrow these established powers, but none of them resulting in freedom for humanity in the long term, because all of these struggles were playing out on the wrong battlefield.

All this time the oppressed thought that they were fighting against people, when they really should have been fighting against ideas. Sure it is true that our ancestors and even everyone alive now are enslaved by some really nasty people, but even if all of those people were to disappear, the ideas that allowed them to commit their crimes without consequence would still remain, leaving the door open for future authoritarians to repeat the process.

Sadly this concept is still not understood by many, who have the understandable but misguided tendency to think that violence is going to solve any of their problems. For far too long our species has used violence as a tool. Violence has been at the very basis of social organization and problem solving for the better part of history. This is most likely why people are so quick to resort to violence in any conflict, and this is also one of the reasons why so many fail to see the violence that is forced into their everyday life by the various state institutions and mercantilist corporations that they come in contact with.

One of Albert Einstein's most famous quotes is: “Problems cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that created them.” This quote definitely applies to the situation we are discussing today and sheds some light onto why the violent revolutions of the past were never able to achieve their goal of setting the human race free from authority.

Throughout our lives we have been fed lie after lie by the establishment and unfortunately even when someone discovers the violent nature of that establishment they are still met with the task of sifting through everything they have ever been told to see what was true and what was not. When that backtracking doesn't take place it is common for people to get caught up in the vengeful mentality that comes along with learning about one's own enslavement. When lies about “human nature” or the capabilities of our species are still not recognized and addressed then it is very hard for people to wrap their minds around nonviolent and nonpolitical solutions to the problems we see in the world today.

The state and all of its predatory appendages like the corporate and military industrial complexes, are not groups of people with weapons who need to be overthrown, they are just bad ideas that can very easily be rendered obsolete with the right combination of good ideas. The only battlefield that the revolution can be won on is in the mind. To destroy the problems that were created with violence the most effective weapons are good ideas and nonviolent solutions, not violence and politics.

Chapter 6 - You are not alone

For far too long people who have cared about freedom and imagined a better world for our species have felt alone in their interests, and have been forced onto the fringes of society. Things are a lot different now though, as the philosophy of freedom and non-aggression is beginning to seep into the mainstream culture. There was probably always a good portion of society who rejected authority in their hearts, but because of how big the world was in previous generations the odds of these people crossing paths were very slim. Today the world is much smaller and there is now a wealth of information like nothing seen in history, available to more people than ever. Now free thinkers crossing paths with one another is a daily occurrence, which is helping to push along the philosophical renaissance that I predicted in my hardback "Alchemy of the Modern Renaissance".

There is still a lot of work to be done though, because we are fighting an uphill battle where our opponent was given a head start. The vast majority of people alive today were molded by the state in public schools and entertained by propaganda in their free time so there is still that to contend with. Despite all of this effort the human spirit is so resistant to the irrational and unnatural concept of authority that even after 12 years of indoctrination and constant manipulation people are still able to figure out that they are being taken advantage of.

Even with this growing awakening, talking about freedom and improving society is still a taboo subject because people mistake philosophical discourse with the childish game of politics that creates armies of dogmatic followers who care more about slandered the other side than actually solving problems. This creates a situation where no one feels comfortable about sharing their opinions in public so no one really knows just how many rebels are out there. In reality, there are a lot more rebels out there than most people think but they go mostly unnoticed because they try their best to fit in to avoid ridicule.

This is why it is important for those of us who are out there to start making as much noise as possible so we can let the other rebels know they are not alone and encourage them to come out of hiding. Deep down we are all rebels, and the more people who step forward to admit it, the closer we will be to achieving freedom. We are all born rebels, that is our natural state, it is only after a lifetime of being beaten down by down by an insane culture that we come to embrace insanity for the sake of convenience. For the most part, everyone out there is just pretending to go along with the status quo, and even those who whole heartedly embrace it are still forced to use watered down language to describe the world around them because the cold hard truth is too much for them to bear.

Now that the government is imploding on itself the status quo has become less of a convenience for people so they are more open to new ideas than ever and the rebels are starting to come out of hiding. These likeminded people are all around you and the more open that you are about your own beliefs the more sane people you will come across. This doesn't mean that it's a good idea to get in everyone's faces about it and create awkward situations for yourself, but it is smart to put out subtle hints and see if anyone picks up on it, then you can find out who may be receptive to your ideas and who may not be worth bothering with. There is no sense in sitting around and beating a dead horse with someone who

is not interested, this will only create tension in your personal life and make you believe that the whole world is exactly like the people you end up debating with.

There are kind, intelligent free thinking rebels out there, there are plenty of them, but you are not going to find them by debating people who are deeply entrenched in their own worldview. Engaging in these debates is still important and valuable but you will be disappointed if you expect to find likeminded people through this process. Again, that's not to say that you can't be associated or discuss philosophy with people who disagree with you, because you certainly can and should, but to expand the circle of people who are on the same page as you are, you must be constantly meeting and interacting with new people.

When humanity has gone through times of great change it has rarely been a process that can be defined by a single event, a paradigm shift is typically a slow process in which one by one people slowly began to evolve in their understanding of the world. I would say that the paradigm shift that we are currently experiencing has already begun, and has actually been taking place for decades now.

Chapter 7 – respectfully disagree without compromise

I'm sure I'm not the only one who has noticed that the freedom movement is quickly becoming just as polarized and divided as the mainstream political circles that are presented in the media. While it is absolutely important that we stay true to our individual principles, that doesn't mean that it is productive for us to immediately disregard anyone who doesn't see the world exactly as we see it. Likewise, this especially does not give us the right to belittle or ridicule those who have different ideas than we do.

The truth is that we all have blind spots in our thinking, and we all have things to learn from other people. It is possible to have a friendly conversation with someone who sees the world completely different from you, without sacrificing your beliefs and without expecting them to sacrifice theirs.

That's not to say that there are no right or wrong answers, because in many cases there are things which can be verified and proven, but standing on opposing ends of an issue and shoving ideas down one another's throats as fast as possible is how the republicrats communicate, it is not how we should be communicating in the freedom movement.

For those of us standing outside of the left/right political paradigm we can see the stagnation and inefficiency that is caused by this sort of divisive approach at communication and problem solving. Debates in political circles are always centered more around scoring points and showing off, instead of being focused on actually solving the problems at hand, which is one of the many reasons why there are never any real "political" solutions to any of the world's problems.

With that being said there is a growing number of people throughout the world who are really becoming disgusted with the violence and subjugation that has become commonplace in all of our societies. These people all come from very different backgrounds, they have led different lives, had different experiences and each have taken in a wide variety of contrasting information about the world that we live in. Due to that fact all of these people have entered the freedom movement, or the resistance, or the revolution, or whatever you want to call it . . . all of these people have entered this movement with different preconceived notions about why we are in the mess we are in and how to get out.

This may seem like a dangerous and volatile situation because we are so used to seeing people who think differently tear each other apart, but in reality this is a beautiful gift that we should all embrace and attempt to learn from as much as we possibly can.

If we think of the global situation as a giant puzzle, we can describe all of these different people with different viewpoints as each being a unique piece in that puzzle that is essential for its completion.

Some of us may be voluntaryists or libertarians, some of us may be constitutionalists, while others may be socialists or futurists, and we may all disagree on a whole lot of things, but the bottom line is that we all have a great deal to learn from one another and there is no way we are going to fight the mercantilist monster that stands before us if we don't respect one another's opinions and we refuse to entertain the

possibility that someone with a different opinion has the potential to teach us something.

As free thinkers we should celebrate the moment that we learn new information, even if that information may cause us to change our minds and feel differently about certain things. In fact, I would say that the ability to overcome one's own ego and change their minds when presented with new information is one of the fundamental characteristics of a "free thinker". Now, again, I want to be clear that this doesn't mean that you have to go around agreeing with what everyone says, or that you can't be firm in your convictions, but it is just important to remember that we are in this fight to solve problems and reduce the level of violence that we see around us; we are not here to score debate points and form cliques.

Chapter 8 - The sky may be falling but it's only a storm

Recently, with more and more people becoming aware that something just isn't right in their society the police state has gone into overdrive to compensate for this growing resistance to the status quo. It seems so crazy, between the drug war escalation, the expansion of the NATO colonization of the Middle East and Africa, and the chain of recent authoritarian legislation that we have seen slide through congress, including the NDAA, Anti-Protest laws, and strip search laws. I'll be the first to admit that everything that is going on right now is very ominous and there are some serious issues that must be faced head on by our species. However, I also see a lot of things going on in these strange times we are living, that make me feel somewhat optimistic about the future of humanity.

First off, the frantic behavior displayed by the government and the mainstream media in the past year or two is showing just how desperate "the powers that shouldn't be" are getting. Their whole scam is dependent upon their control over the human consciousness, and that control is beginning to unravel. This is the same kind of situation that happens when someone in a debate is faced with an argument superior to their own so they resort to screaming, yelling and ad hominem attacks.

When someone is exposed as illegitimate, or guilty of some sort of transgression it is fairly typical to see them act out in verbal or even physical aggression. It is not unusual for guilty parties to act outraged about accusations against them and then to paint the victim as a villain. This kind of scenario is exactly what we have been seeing play out in the macrocosm of geopolitics, as more and more people are becoming aware of their enslavement. The establishment is lashing out with all their might to overcompensate for their own obsolescence and illegitimacy, which is now being revealed to the public on a day to day basis.

What we are going through right now may seem crazy and unusual, but really it's nothing new. Sure, it is true that our civilization is currently in a free fall to collapse, but this has been a long time commin', and it has happened to nearly every civilization that has ever erected a palace. In the past decade hundreds of societies have collapsed and began to rebuild. In today's technological civilization the collapse can be far less dangerous, violent and miserable than the times of Ancient Rome, but only if the people within that society are willing to work together and cooperatively face the adversity that has disrupted their path.

There is no doubt that we are in the midst of a storm that has been raging for centuries, and the intensity of that storm is growing by the minute. For this, we have every reason to make any and all preparations that we deem to be necessary, but we should not be consumed by fear to the point where we are considering violence or nihilism. The reason why there is so much fear surrounding the obvious downfall of our civilization is because people have grown detached from their communities and have lost their ability to be self-sufficient.

With that being the case, the first step towards overcoming that fear and preparing for the oncoming storm is to get more familiar with your community and start thinking about ways in which you can be more self-sufficient. Growing food, getting to know your neighbors, establishing community study groups and learning about off the grid solutions are just a few

ways to strengthen your family and your community as living standards continue to deteriorate. People these days seem to be talking about “the end of America” like we are somehow going to forget about what we have built in the past few generations and just return to pre-industrial living conditions simply because the government and their fiat currency has failed and may not be around for much longer. In the meantime we are still dealing with a dictatorship, which has been writing authoritarianism into law for well over a decade now so we must remain vigilant on that front, but at the same time we must not become overwhelmed with what they are throwing at us, because that is exactly what they are trying to provoke.

The establishment wants us paralyzed with fear so they can prevent us from making any moves that might rock the boat, but we can't row the boat to safety without rocking it, so we must find the courage within ourselves to make waves instead of sitting around waiting for the boat to row itself or waiting for the deranged hijacker of the boat to set sail in his own direction. It is absolutely true that we are dealing with one of the worst dictatorships that have ever walked the earth, and I am in no way trying to downplay the seriousness of this issue. However, we must not be scared into thinking that there aren't any options for us, or that we are fighting a losing battle because those kinds of defeatist attitudes actually prevent us from making any real progress. While we should not fear our oppressors and their increasingly maniacal activity, we should be aware of the reality of our situation and we should still be planning for the future.

Chapter 9 – Learn from everyone but be your own teacher

We should have the ability to learn from everyone and everything around us, but there is no need to limit ourselves by ignoring information that may be contrary to our viewpoints. Even my own work is merely one resource of many, and after you finish reading this I urge you to continue your research so you can form your own unique opinions about what's going on in the world. No one source of information should be the foundation of your world view, when that happens you are giving another person the power of thinking for you.

Throughout most of the world people are taught to look at society in a very polarized way. When certain issues are presented to us through mainstream circles they are usually oversimplified to the point where all concepts are either black or white, and all people are either good or bad, with no in between. The reality of the situation is that things are much more complicated than that; there are usually many different ways of looking at things and many different sides to the story. This is especially true in the study of philosophy, because terms are constantly being redefined and ideas constantly reexamined with every new generation of philosophers, in order to accommodate the new insight and information that has become available over time.

Things are much more complicated than simply picking a political party or social clique and subscribing yourself to a whole system of beliefs based on other people's ideas. Unfortunately, this is the kind of approach that is generally embraced worldwide partly because this is how we have been taught to think and partly because it's a lot easier than doing all of the rigorous research and contemplation necessary to get to the bottom of important social issues.

Especially today, with the incredible amount of contradictory information that is available on the internet people are becoming increasingly overwhelmed when trying to separate fact from fiction. Sifting through all of this information and comparing it with each other in contemplation isn't easy, but it's a necessary part of achieving any kind of certainty in your research.

This is the difference between coming to your own conclusions instead of just adopting the conclusions of others. There are plenty of people out there with great ideas, and there's nothing wrong with having a few trusted researchers that you regularly look to for reliable information, but don't take anyone's word at face value and don't disregard information purely on the source without confirming its inaccuracy for yourself.

There are plenty of researchers out there who are very knowledgeable and on point in some respects, while still uninformed and off base in many other areas that they comment on. This is why we should critically assess all of the information we come across, and search for alternative views to get a well-rounded idea of what we are trying to figure out. There are researchers out

there who are brilliant in terms of analyzing foreign policy, but who have terribly misguided views on economics. Perfect examples of this would be people like Noam Chomsky or Webster Tarpley, we all can learn a lot from both of them in many different areas of research, especially foreign policy and war, but their views on economics are sadly rooted in statist propaganda. On the other hand someone like Stephan Molyneux I agree with on everything relating to government and economics, yet I totally disagree with him on psychedelics, alternative lifestyles mainstream science and spirituality. I'm not knocking anyone, I'm just giving examples of how everyone has their strong positions and their weak positions, so it's best to come to your own conclusions, instead of just taking on someone else's, even if it's someone you usually agree with on other issues. I'm sure I have plenty of blind spots of my own just like anyone else, but this is exactly why it is important to look up everything for ourselves, and check the source documentation to confirm that the information we are receiving is accurate.

No one has all the right answers all the time, and if someone pretends to, you might want to proceed with extra caution. For far too long learning has been a top down process in our culture, and someday those who come after us will look back in horror at the methods that were used to stifle one of the most vital resources on the planet, the human imagination.

Chapter 10 – Another look at the doomsday myth

With the state of our civilization in total disarray many people are starting to prepare for the possibility of a period with fewer modern conveniences than we have today. Some would call these people careful, others would call them prudent or wise, some might even call them paranoid, but these days the mainstream media has branded these people as “Doomsday Preppers”. This title not only works to discredit people who seek to be independent and get off the grid, but also perpetuates the myth that doomsday is even coming.

I would argue that we are already in doomsday, and have been for most of recorded history. It is true that SOMETHING is coming, the signs are all around us, in the deteriorating economy and culture that we have been raised to worship. So if it's not doomsday, then what is everyone preparing for, and what is all this madness leading up to? Well, it is quite possible that the downfall of this civilization could be the greatest thing to ever happen to humanity. This could be the final fall of Babylon. We could be prepping for freedom day, if we so choose.

Think about it... millions feel helpless because they see the madness that is created by our social institutions and they cannot conceive of a way that this system could be overthrown. Meanwhile, this system is overthrowing itself in plain sight, right in front of us. Many of us wish that the government could be overthrown, yet we fear it's inevitable collapse when we should be embracing it. There is no escaping it anyway; it is already coming, and in many ways it is already even here. If it wasn't for the fed propping up the economy with more debt and fake money our moment of truth would have long since passed and it probably would have made things a lot easier for us to deal with in the long run. With that being the case, their deception is going to run up eventually, they can only play this game for so long before hyperinflation takes effect and topples their already shaky house of cards.

This could be an incredible opportunity for the human race, if we are adequately prepared in terms of getting our physical needs met, as well as developing the mental and philosophical maturity that is required for the establishment of a free society. While the world seems to be descending into insanity all around us, it is important for us as individuals to assess the kinds of goods and services that may be needed after an economic collapse and devise peaceful, sustainable methods by which we can provide these values to our families and communities.

There is no doubt that this whole collapse has been staged by international interests who seek to implement their own sadistic plans for the human race when this time comes. However, they will only be able to create their authoritarian slave farm if the slaves themselves ask for this and assist in creating it. The slaves (which is pretty much all of us) will only ask for this deeper enslavement if they are unaware of its consequences and see no possible alternatives. This is why it is so important for us to develop solutions to meet our needs, and the needs of our neighbors without depending on the initiation of the use of force, as that is a method of doing business which destroyed civilizations time and time again. Likewise it is equally important for us to advance a proper understanding of philosophy and of our current situation so the population is socially mature enough to be their own masters and to accept the new and unusual nonviolent solutions that will be presented to them by intelligent people like yourself.

Chapter 11 – There is nothing positive about willful ignorance

If you aren't satisfied with the status quo, and you discuss these feelings with people on a regular basis, then there is no doubt that at one time or another you been told things like "stop being so negative," or "can't you just focus on the more positive things in life?"

We can all probably think back on way too many of those frustrating moments where our peers have expected us to share in their blissful evasion of reality. Unfortunately, the longer that we ignore the problems that face our species and leave them for someone else to deal with, the worse our predicament becomes. At first glimpse these issues may seem overwhelming and insurmountable; but simply knowing that they exist is the first step towards freeing your mind and creating a better world for all of us to live in.

In this book we focused on more positive discussions, but we must be in complete awareness of reality and not deny the unpleasant things that we have to live with. If you had a debilitating illness that could be cured, wouldn't you want to get a diagnosis and immediately start doing what was needed in order to begin healing yourself? Or would you rather do nothing and ignore the disease because it was "negative"? Sadly we have been led to believe that ignorance is bliss, while it is actually the reason for the majority of the suffering that has taken place throughout history.

If we are not fully aware of what is going on then there is no way that we can possibly improve the quality of life on this Earth. Everyone wants to be positive, and it is definitely understandable for someone to put off things that may be difficult, sad or painful. However, this is no excuse to ignore legitimate problems that need to be fixed, and it is certainly no reason to allow crimes to be committed before our very eyes.

Every generation that has come before us has been absolutely petrified of standing up to challenge the status quo. For centuries the buck has been passed down the line, and our species has continued to ride this roller coaster of confusion and oppression. In so many ways we have come so far and learned so much. Our civilization once openly accepted slavery, racism, war and authoritarianism as simple facts of life; now we are finally beginning to shed some of these neuroses and have started to consider the fact that maybe there is a better way.

While this all sounds very good, we still have a very long way to go because we are really only beginning to discover these concepts -- we are far from understanding them and even farther from putting them into practice.

One of the main things preventing us from actually achieving peace and freedom is the simple fact that so many people who realize that the status quo is insane are too afraid to speak out because they are worried about what their parents, friends, or even what total strangers will think of them.

Deep down most people aren't pleased with the state of our civilization, but since it is socially unacceptable to question it, everyone goes on thinking that they are alone, weak and powerless. Discouraged, most people just create justifications for what's going on around them, tell themselves it is the only world that's possible, and then proceed to ridicule anyone who challenges their unconsciously created facade. This is why many people go on putting up with circumstances that they find to be intolerable: they are afraid of being alienated from their peers.

Don't be discouraged by people who can't handle reality. Remember that most of them are just afraid and aren't ready to come to terms with the truth yet. Just like a battered child who cries when being taken away from the "safety" of their abusive parents, we also feel comfort in unacceptable situations simply because we are familiar with them. Much like the child, we need to break free from the familiar confines of our abuse and oppression.

Interestingly enough, this situation is so common that the condition is actually classified medically as "Stockholm syndrome." Stockholm syndrome is typically used to describe hostages who develop positive feelings for their kidnapper because they are dependent upon them for sustenance. When we apply this concept to the macrocosm of our civilization we find that people living under a system of authoritarianism exhibit these exact same characteristics. Of course this idea is one of many that can be traced all the way back to ancient times. Written in ancient Greece, the [allegory of the cave](#) from Plato's *Republic* depicted this exact social phenomena.

There is nothing positive about running away from freedom and putting off peace. The most positive thing that anyone can do is to learn as much as they can about how to fix the most negative things that are going on the world. Anyone that tells you otherwise is actively working to keep the world in the dismal state that it is in, whether they realize it or not. Sheltering ourselves from the harshness of our reality will only foster a more toxic and oppressive world for our children to grow up in.