

Decentralization and Government Decline

by Alfred Adask

In March, the U.S. Postal Service delivered Census 2000 packages to U.S. residents. Each Census package explained that we should fill out the Census form, “to help your community get what it needs – today and in the future! . . . The amount of money that your neighborhood receives depends on your answers.”

In other words, you won’t get your “fair share” of good government *benefits* unless you dutifully fill out your forms.

Nevertheless, as of late May, over 40% of Americans had not returned their Census forms. This refusal to consent to census is similar to the fact that up to 20% of the American drivers may be ignoring the mandatory automobile insurance law, over half the country refuse to vote, and *forty million* Americans reportedly refuse to file their income tax.

Civil disobedience

Judging by growing resistance to Census 2000, auto insurance, voting and income tax, it appears that a massive number of Americans are implicitly telling National government to take its benefits and stick ‘em.

I find this resistance encouraging. Perhaps the fish are getting wise to government bait.

However, the primary reason for this overt resistance is probably our apparently strong economy. So long as we believe ourselves to be collectively prosperous, we are naturally less dependent on government benefits and can afford to thumb our noses at Washington. Prosperous people make lousy serfs.

Tyranny loves poverty

Of course, if the economy were to falter, public appreciation for government – especially government benefits – would quickly rise. This relationship between poverty and public obedience illustrates that government power is inversely proportional to national prosperity.

For example, Hitler’s rise to power in the 1930s was built on Germany’s post-World War I economic depression. Likewise, Communism would’ve died still-born except for Czarist Russia’s civil war and grinding poverty. Here in the USA, President Roosevelt’s “New Deal” precipitated revolutionary political changes in 1933 that could not have been dared, except for the Depression started in 1929. The power of totalitarian governments is always forged on the anvil of poverty.

The correlation between pov-

erty and government power is so strong that some people believe that our Great Depression was caused intentionally to “soften up” the American people and make them sufficiently desperate to accept massive, unconstitutional government regulation in return for government handouts (benefits).

The trouble with depressions

While economic depressions might be intentionally started, they’re not so easily controlled. The danger in depression (especially in an internet world where the public no longer depends on mainstream media for information) is that during a depression, another Hitler – or worse (from government’s perspective), another Jefferson – might rise up from among the people and achieve enough power to cause the system some real trouble.

As a result, our National government faces a troubling choice. If prosperity continues, more serfs will walk off the reservation, stop filing 1040s, and drive without insurance. But if government causes an economic decline to restore the serfs’ dependence and obedience, it risks precipitating enough economic chaos (both nationally and internationally) to allow complete outsiders to gain serious political power.

Being damned if they do – or don't – government is most likely to do nothing as it slides deeper into paralysis. But inaction increases the impression of impotence and heightens the serfs' contempt. If we're too prosperous to be dependent on government benefits, and government is too paralyzed to enforce its decrees, who needs 'em?

Thus, the public's growing indifference to government suggests that, for now, the bond and bondage between National government and the People is weakening.

Out of the mouths of moguls

In 1999, Donald Trump justified his possible run for the Presidency with an insightful question: "Do we really want to elect someone to the Presidency who's never made more than \$200,000 a year?"

Multi-billionaire Trump was comparing himself to financial lightweights like Al Gore who've

never earned over \$200,000 a year.

\$200,000 a year is chump change among moguls like Trump. I'd bet that Trump pays his secretary more than that. Today, almost any small businessman can earn \$200,000 a year if he's a little talented. And Fortune 500 CEO's often earn hundreds of millions of dollars per year. These guys make more per *week*, than President Clinton makes all year. Some of 'em make more per *day*.

So, when you stop to think about it, why would anyone waste his life trying to win a public office that pays so poorly?

Of course, there are enormous perks that go with high public office. Immunity, power, travel, excitement, graft, sex. But almost all of that (plus a much greater income opportunity) is also available to folks who dedicate themselves to climbing the corporate ladders.

Trump's question – "Do we really want to elect someone to

the Presidency who's never made more than \$200,000 a year?" – illuminates a fundamental truth about politics: Virtually all of our politicians are either incompetent or corrupt. With only a few exceptions, they're all lightweights.

But Trump's question raises an even greater implication: We're willing to elect low-paid "lightweights" to the White House because, frankly, the job's not that important.

Being President grows increasingly similar to being Queen of England. Your principle job description involves being a figurehead who won't get caught drunk or fornicating in public and, every so often, will deliver a amusing speech written by someone else. (Vice Presidents are also duty-bound to keep a straight face while attending funerals for Third World dictators.)

Other than that, national public office is increasingly a trivial pursuit.

Why?

Because government is becoming irrelevant.

Why?

In large measure, the internet.

Power to the people

It's a cliché to say that personal computers and internet have empowered individuals to an unprecedented degree.

We know, we know. . . .

Yet, few understand that power is a relative concept. That is, when one entity's power increases, the other entity's power must (relatively) diminish.

For example, suppose a large man stands up in a crowded restaurant with an automatic rifle. Virtually everyone will instantly perceive his power within that restaurant to be absolute.

OK, now suppose that everyone else in that restaurant is armed with concealed .45 semi-automatics. Now, how powerful

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is the single man with the single automatic rifle? Seeing as he's surrounded, Not very.

Because the other patrons are also armed, the relative power equation has shifted dramatically. The large man's automatic rifle and personal power have been almost trivialized by the other patrons' .45s. Can he still do harm? Yes. But if he doesn't sit down, shut up, and eat his dinner like a good boy, he'll be shot from all sides and probably die.

Historically, our government has behaved like the large man waving the only automatic rifle in our restaurant. The government had power and we didn't.

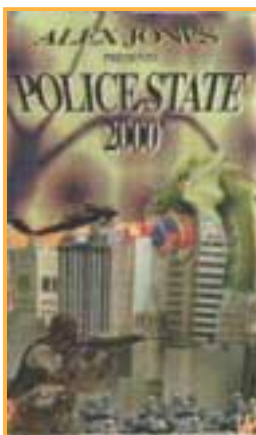
But today, thanks to personal computers and the internet, most of the surrounding "patrons" are also armed. If government dares wave its weapons in our restaurant, we'll gun it down with e-mail and widespread public exposure that government simply can't endure.

Decentralized structure

The internet was designed by the Pentagon during the Cold War as a communications network that could survive nuclear war. The key to this survival was the internet's *decentralized* structure. The internet is a "web," not a hierarchy. Because there is no *centralized* command structure, there is no single target to hit and destroy.

For example, if a man in San Diego wants to call New York over the internet, his call might be automatically routed through Houston, or Chicago or even Toronto and still reach New York.

If the link from San Diego to Chicago isn't working, the internet will automatically connect the call through Houston. If Houston's down, the call will go through Toronto. It might even go by way of Hong Kong and London and a score of other cities and switches that we've never heard of.



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Because the internet was designed to be *decentralized* – and thus *indestructible* – it's also virtually uncontrollable by our own *centralized* government.

When government designed the internet in the 1960s, it was intended only for multi-million dollar mainframe computers of government, defense contractors and big universities. No one anticipated the invention of personal computers. No one dreamed that Joe Sixpack might ever get on the internet with a \$1,000 laptop more powerful than the most expensive 1960s mainframe. If government had anticipated the PC revolution, I doubt that the internet would've been created. But they didn't anticipate the PC, and so technology has overwhelmed (or at least redefined) politics.

The critical point is that the internet is a *decentralized structure*. Because all power is relative, the implications of a decentralized communication structure go far beyond the internet itself.

All traditional governments are based on the concept of *centralized* power. Because the internet is a *decentralized* structure, it poses an unprecedented challenge to the whole concept of *centralized* government. Armed with the internet, ordinary individuals have become increasingly powerful while centralized authority has necessarily grown increasingly (relatively) powerless.

A new equality

Technology is advancing at the speed of internet, and the world is truly becoming "globalized" in way the New World Order never imagined or desired.

This modern "globalization" is not one of a single centralized command structure that struts and rules the world. Instead, thanks to the internet, Philippine kids can paralyze American computers with "I love you" e-mail while Austrian inventors market a new fusion technology and a high school girl from Skokie makes a killing on international currency speculation.

God made all men, but the internet made 'em equal. There is an unprecedented freedom (power) on the internet that allows virtually anyone to get rich quick, if they have talent, a good idea, a computer, modem and a little luck. And no one knows where the next genius millionaire will come from. He could be a Ph.D. from Harvard or a high school dropout from Watts.

This equal opportunity renders traditional ideas of wealth, class structure and power meaningless. Our government's urge to directly control us is fast becoming as obsolete as the Maginot Line France relied on to prevent German invasion in the 1930s. Nazi brains and innovative technology simply blitzkreiged around the Maginot Line's "fixed defense" and France fell in days.

The same thing is happening to our National government. Just as France relied on an ancient fixed-defense, our government relies on an archaic technology – *centralized* power – and is therefore being rendered obsolete by the political power shift caused by the *decentralized* internet.

Centralized authority in a decentralized world

Right now, hooked up to the internet, I have as much potential power as an average Congressman. And so does everyone else who's on the 'net.

You and I may never exercise that power, but it's there for us if we have the talent and determination to use it.

Proof?

Matt Drudge. One little man and an internet connection released the Lewinsky story and thereby nearly impeached a *President*. No Congressman has ever exercised more awesome individual power.

Some people suppose that since Clinton was only the second President in two centuries to face impeachment, we shouldn't expect another impeachment for another century.

I'm more optimistic.

In the internet world where every individual is hugely empowered, anyone who finds the right information can emulate Matt Drudge and precipitate an impeachment. As a result, I ex-

pect to see at least two more impeachment trials in the next ten years. If another clown like Clinton gets into office, he may be hit by *several* impeachment trials during his term of office.

Point: by empowering individuals to an unprecedented degree, personal computers and the internet have effectively *disempowered* all forms of *centralized* authority – especially government.

These altered power and control relationships flow largely from the internet's *decentralized* structure. All internet users are equally empowered precisely because there is *no centralized control* over the internet.

Government is, by definition, *centralized* control (power). The internet is, by definition, *decentralized* control (individual power). The two can't coexist. Unless government gains direct control over the internet, modern centralized government may soon go the way of European monarchies.

The next President may pull manfully on the levers of power, but his exertions will be increasingly vain since those levers only work in a *centralized* systems of power. In the decentralized internet world, there may be no big government because there is no centralized power.

The new elite

On the internet, there's only talent. If you have talent, you can

prosper mightily. If not, you fail.

Does government have talent? Are government employees and officials noted for their intellectual brilliance and creative imaginations?

No. They're not all knuckle-dragging lechers, but most are by nature and conditioning unequipped to cope with the internet's fierce competition and fast evolution.

In a sense, only *individuals* can be quick enough to exploit the internet's opportunities. Organizations are inherently too slow to cope. By the time you assemble an organization, the internet has probably evolved so much that whatever you wanted to do has already been done or is no longer needed. Market opportunities appear and disappear like ducks in a carnival shooting gallery. Shoot fast and shoot straight or your chance may be gone.

The time and resources required to build and maintain virtually all organizations (promotions, memos, health insurance programs, day care, etc.) are all bureaucratic friction that dissipate organization energy, slow it's response times, and render it uncompetitive on the internet.

The only people who can move fast enough to keep up on the internet are *individuals* who can make instant decisions unencumbered by organization protocols and the need for "permission" from a centralized authority for an individual to act.

Of course, large organizations will retain a lot of financial muscle in the internet world. But in the end, they'll only be able to buy the operations that've been built and made profitable by truly talented individuals.

This implies that massive organizations and bureaucracies are about to go the way of the dinosaur – precisely because their mass makes them too slow to survive.

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Proof? Just twenty years ago, the world's computer industry was dominated by five massive corporations. Today, only IBM remains, and then only as an also-ran. Big Blue's days of glory are bye-bye. In just twenty years, the giant has become almost dwarflike.

Similar fates await most massive corporations, big governments, and even would-be global dictatorships. Whatever power or advantage their massive size once conferred, today, their mass condemns them to a short life-expectancy.

No NWO now

Internet decentralization is rendering all centralized, bureaucratic organizations obsolete. The New World Order (NWO) is no exception. Based on a pre-internet political model where centralized authority and control were possible, the NWO's organizational foundation is now drowning in the internet tide.

Perhaps the most remarkable argument against world government was presented in stratfor.com's Nov. 29, 1999 Global Intelligence Update. There, analysts explained the importance of "unsynchronized business cycles".

Each national economy operates on a "business cycle" wherein the people become prosperous, unemployment falls, prices rise, inflation sets in, interest rates rise, the economy cools into recession (and sometimes depression) and later bounces back toward recovery, prosperity, low unemployment, etc., and the whole cycle begins again. The duration and amplitude of individual business cycles vary, but inevitably what goes up must come down . . . and then go up again, too.

When two countries *simultaneously* experience inflation, unemployment, recession, and then prosperity, their business cycles are "synchronized". This "syn-

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chronization" is essential to the "centralized control" that defines a global dictatorship.

stratfor.com explains:

"The World Trade Organization is moribund only a few years after its creation. Its failure is rooted in the fundamental reality of today's global economy: *de-synchronization of regions of roughly equal bulk*. Ever since the Asian meltdown, the world's economic regions have been completely out of synch. . . . That means that the creation of integrated economic policies is impossible. What helps one region hurts others. Thus, organizations like the WTO cannot function. Instead, regional institutions are emerging."

To illustrate the NWO's dependence on global economic synchronization, suppose the U.S. economy accelerates into inflation. Alan Greenspan and the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates. As interest rates rise,

they draw domestic investment capital out of comparatively risky ventures into safer (now, more profitable) bonds.

But in the globalized world, rising American interest rates also attract *foreign* investment. Therefore, when our interest rates rise, capital is also sucked out of *foreign* economies causing them to also "cool down" right along with ours.

But suppose that the Japanese and American economies are not "synchronized". I.e., suppose that while the U.S. economy overheats into inflation, the Japanese economy is simultaneously cooling into recession or depression. To escape their recession and spur more economic activity, the Japanese will need *more* capital, *more* foreign investments and *lower* domestic interest rates – at exactly the same time the *higher* U.S. interest rates are sucking investment capital out of the world.

In order to cool our inflation,

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our high interest rates will attract capital that might otherwise have been invested in Japan. Thus, our attempts to save ourselves may deepen Japan's recession into a depression. Of course, if we refuse to raise our interest rates in order to help Japan, inflation will harm and anger the American people.

What's a politician to do?

So long as two nations' business cycles remain "unsynchronized," one nation can't rise without the other falling. As a result, both nations will resent each other and the cooperation and coordination necessary to establish a centralized authority like the NWO will remain virtually impossible.

Whodunit?

For the NWO to triumph, all the nations of the world must synchronize onto the same business cycle.

But can global business cycles be forcefully synchronized? No.

Why? Again, my "usual suspect" is the Internet.

Prior to the internet, the flow of capital from one nation to another was controlled by the world's top bankers. If they decreed that Japan would have more money, then the Japanese economy would flourish. Conversely, if Japan offended the almighty bankers, they could restrict the flow of capital into Japan and precipitate recession and even political turmoil. This monetary control provided the foundation for political control over much of the world. (See "IMF Colonizes Korea," AntiShyster Vol. 8 No. 2.)

But since the internet caught on, massive amounts of money are moving at the speed of light between international stock markets and scores of other investment brokerages. This financial flow moves strictly according to the whim and research of thousands

and even millions of *individual* investors around the globe.

Collectively, these decentralized individual investors and entrepreneurs are moving more money than the world banks. As a result, the bankers' former centralized control over the international flow of capital has been reduced to a mere influence. The bankers are still important players but like IBM, they no longer dominate their industry.

Control equals wealth

With the loss of control comes danger. While bankers could once safely manipulate national economies by increasing or restricting the flow of capital, they don't dare do so in the internet world since they just might lose their fortunes.

For example, suppose Germany took a political position that stubbornly opposed the world bankers/ NWO's objectives. In the past, the bankers could threaten to restrict

Germany's access to credit and plunge the German economy (and voters) into chaos. So German officials would politely accede to the bankers' demands.

But today, if world bankers try to depress the German economy by selling German stocks and bonds, the mass of individual investors of the globalized economy may quickly recognize the bargains in Germany and buy or invest in everything the bankers try to depress.

Result? The German economy might be largely unharmed, but the bankers will lose a fortune trying to artificially depress the political system.

Without exclusive, centralized control over the flow of capital, bankers can't manipulate the political system without risking huge financial losses. And bankers won't risk their fortunes, since once it's gone, so is their remaining influence and illusion of grandeur.

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"democratically" over the internet, the old banking aristocracy is fading into history and with it, the foundation for centralized world government.

International competition

The ability to perceive real value (truth) and the ability to act quickly on that perception in open, unrestricted competition are all that matter on the internet. But these principles don't merely apply to corporations and industries. They also apply to nations.

Imagine a highly restrictive and despotic government. Will that nation risk allowing its people access to the internet? No. But without internet access, can the people of that nation effectively compete – let alone prosper – in the modern economy? No. As a result, nations burdened with strong, centralized governments will slide quickly into poverty.

On the other hand, imagine

a nation where the people are free to innovate and compete. Will that nation prosper? Probably. Other nations might, by luck, do better. But in the internet world, prosperity will be most likely in those nations that are most free and therefore most able to innovate.

Suppose Bill Clinton wants to impose some draconian Executive Orders to stifle domestic investments and cripple our economy. So what? Wee-wee on him. I can move my money over the internet in seconds to Hong Kong where I can make a better investment. And an hour later, if I spot a better deal in Luxembourg, I'll move my money there. And two hours after that, if the President of South Africa issues a decree that makes South Africa the most free, innovative nation on earth, I'll move my money there.

Every time I move my money, the nation that receives it will be enriched by my investment and the nation that loses it will be impoverished. Nations will therefore compete for my investment dollars (and yours) just like the Dallas Chamber of Commerce competes with Ft. Worth to host the National Firemans Association annual convention.

In that competitive environment, does any government dare to impose centralized power? If it does, capital will flow out of that nation within minutes (maybe milliseconds) and the public will be quickly impoverished and angry.

This isn't mere conjecture. Look at Russia. Their *centralized* government has resulted in an economy that is currently smaller than Portugal's. The average male's life expectancy has fallen to 57. Russia is a third world nation and unremarkable except for their nuclear missiles. The new Premier Putin reportedly wants to centralize more power into Moscow. If so, Putin is a fool

and unlikely to last long since Russia won't be saved by increasingly centralization – it will be killed.

Point: because the flow of capital is no longer controlled by a centralized authority, the nations themselves will be forced to compete on the open (honest) market for investment capital. The basis of that international competition will be the degree of freedom and education afforded to each nation's citizens.

If so, this international competition will be determined largely on which government imposes the least restrictions, taxes and lies on its people. If Japan charges a 20% income tax, America will be forced to charge a 19% income tax to win the competition for investment dollars. But if England charges an 18% tax, the investment capital will go to the Limeys – until Indonesia guarantees a 15% income tax, Sierra Leone guarantees a 10% income tax, and finally Red China guarantees only a 3% income tax. And then somebody will offer no income tax, and so on.

It doesn't seem possible, but the logic of the internet implies that in a decentralized world, international competition will be based on which nation has the least government and most individual freedom. Big, centralized government is not merely archaic in the internet world, it is an unaffordable liability.

The internet's decentralized structure is fostering a time when everyone – even politicians – will be forced espouse Thomas Jefferson's observation, "That governs best which governs least."

Fantastic, hmm?

(And as you'll read in the next article, it's even kinda funny.)



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