

**Republican Perspective**  
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**A 2016 RESOLUTION**

*“The natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and for government to gain ground.”*  
*Thomas Jefferson*

Well, boys and girls, it's time to turn the page on 2015 and look forward to the New Year! You probably have read enough about the highlights and the lowlights of 2015, so this Perspective will not bore you with the political forays of Republicans and Democrats.

As we make our New Year's resolutions, let me suggest one worthy of consideration. Resolve to stop the loss of your liberty. Americans subscribe to the ideal that we are a free nation as long as we comport to society's rules and laws. But how free are we?

Every year in the U.S., law is piled upon law, often in contradictory terms and without Constitutional consideration. Our tax code is now has 74,608 pages! The Code of Federal Regulations weighs in at 175,496 pages! There are over 500 California Agencies, all with their own set of regulations. So how free is the commoner?

What is the basis for these restrictions on our liberty? Too often, it is the Left's desire for utopia. The federal government has moved into every field into which it believes its services are needed. The federal and California governments are championed by Progressives who believe in the power of the State over individual liberty. The outcome are Leviathan governments, out of touch with everyday citizens but joined at the hip with varied elitists.

Progressives argue that government is only trying to do good. They believe these regulations and laws are necessary to make living better for all. According to 400 business CEO's, the regulatory environment is now the top issue that can have an impact on an individual company. No surprise, the two sectors most impacted are healthcare and financial services. Prosperity Bank's President stated that he now spends 50% of his time with regulatory requirements and that they are a threat to the very existence of community banks.

Several years ago, the Chicago Tribune reported that the federal government was “the biggest land owner, property manager, renter, mover and hauler, medical clinician, lender, insurer, mortgage broker, debtor, taxpayer and spender in all of history.” It has only grown worse and this should give you pause.

2016 will surely bring more affronts to our liberty. The Second Amendment will be attacked by the Executive Branch with disregard to past Supreme Court decisions and the will of the citizenry. New “mandates” under the guise of improving the air we breathe may well be the largest impact. These rules are not designed to liberate but crafted by elitists and extremists to control our daily activities and lower our standard of living.

As a major election year in 2016, we can expect to hear politicians tell us how much they “care” for the low and middle class. How they have “plans” to protect us from Mid-Eastern individuals that praise Allah while beheading or shooting innocent Christians (the current President & Attorney General do not like to define this type of activity for what it is). Let’s just pretend and call it “workplace violence.” Did you ever stop and think about how politicians who can’t protect the U.S. embassy in Libya, after multiple requests for increased security by our Ambassador, now claim they can protect all of the homeland?

We will hear how the rich need to pay their “fair share” Who is to decide what is fair? Are we approaching George Orwell’s *Animal Farm* where “all animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others?” “Inequality” will join “sustainability” as one of the most meaningless words in our lexicon. Success in any endeavor will be viewed as being unfair to the unsuccessful who for personal reasons chose not to work hard.

So, sit back and enjoy the ride as the country transforms from one of rugged individualism to one of dependence on government. At war in 1944, 18-22 year olds stormed enemy beaches, parachuted behind enemy lines, charged into battle facing certain death. In 2015, 18-22 year olds need “safe zones” on college campuses to protect their fragile emotions from offensive words and against “microaggressions.” Now that is unfair...