

INVISIBLE

RESISTANCE TO

TYRANNY

How to Lead a Secret Life of Insurgency in an Increasingly Unfree World

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INVISIBLE RESISTANCE TO TYRANNY

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Paladin Press • Boulder, Colorado

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*Invisible Resistance to Tyranny:
How to Lead a Secret Life of Insurgency in an Increasingly Unfree World*
by Jefferson Mack

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ISBN 10: 1-58160-308-8

ISBN 13: 978-1-58160-308-8

Printed in the United States of America

Published by Paladin Press, a division of
Paladin Enterprises, Inc.,
Gunbarrel Tech Center
7077 Winchester Circle
Boulder, Colorado 80301 USA
+1.303.443.7250

Direct inquiries and/or orders to the above address.

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C H A P T E R 1

A TERRORIST WAKE-UP CALL TO WAR

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government.

Declaration of Independence
Second Continental Congress
July 4, 1776

They came out of a morning sky, American commercial aircraft piloted by religious fanatics who had hijacked four planes loaded with innocent passengers. Within hours almost 5,000 American men, women, and children were suddenly dead, murdered in a vicious act of terrorism that wrenched us all into a new kind of war. It is a war in which every individual American suddenly finds him- or herself on the front lines, the possible target for the next act of terror the enemy chooses to launch.

We have no way of knowing how long this fight will continue, how many more acts of terrorism we will suffer, or what sacrifice we will have to make to defeat our enemy. What we do know is that we will prevail.

We will not win because of our great wealth, scientific know-how, or sophisticated military machinery. We will certainly not win because of our political leaders' courage, strength, intelli-

prise attack. The attack on the United States on September 11, 2001, was a pure act of terror.

True Freedom Fighters Don't Kill the Innocent

A terrorist will commit acts of extreme violence in an attempt to force an enemy to act in the way he desires. The theory behind acts of terror is that ordinary people, frightened by the terror, will force their government to give in to the political demands of the people committing the terrorism. Acts of terrorism are always committed by unpopular political groups who can't achieve their goals through peaceful means or military action. Unable to win by diplomacy or waging war, they turn to acts of terrorism, hoping to further their cause by making the whole world their enemy.

The problem is, it doesn't work. It almost always has the opposite effect. It scares the civilian populations to the point where they will applaud any action their government takes to counter the terrorism, even if it means almost total loss of their own personal freedom.

We've have seen how miserably the theory of terrorism failed on September 11, 2001. Never, since the attack on Pearl Harbor 60 years before, have we seen Americans and their political leaders so united in a single common cause. We have seen how miserably it failed after the bombing of the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, when the federal government enjoyed wide-ranging approval to further curtail the rights of Americans who had nothing to do with that crime.

People who love and fight for freedom do not commit acts of terror, ever! Anyone who truly believes in freedom can never condone or participate in any act of terror. A freedom fighter, whether operating as part of an army or alone and in secret, will only consider committing acts of violence as a last-resort measure, when the situation has deteriorated to the point where civilians are being killed by a government out of control.

Those fighting for freedom want only to convince governments to leave them alone to enjoy freedom. When terrorists refuse to leave free people alone, freedom fighters respond with acts of war, not terror. The brave civilians on United Flight 93 committed the first act of war in response to the terrorism of September 11, 2001. Those heroes pointed the way, showing how each one of us, acting as a free individual, can help wage the war on terrorists, just as free individuals can wage war against tyrants.

Individual Resistance to Terrorism and Tyranny Starts with One Free Human Being

Every freedom-loving individual has a role to play in the fight against tyranny and terrorism. Acts of invisible resistance to both tyranny and terrorism occur when individuals—acting without direction or guidance from any leader—resist, obstruct, frustrate, expose, and interfere with tyrants and terrorists and those who actively support or execute the orders of tyrants and terrorists.

Individuals involved in invisible resistance act alone or in cooperation with a few trusted friends or others who also face the same immediate risks. They pick their own targets or, in the case of terrorism, their targets pick them. They choose their own form of action depending upon the opportunities available and individual abilities and limitations.

Individual Resistance to Terrorism— the Easy Part of the Equation

Individual resistance to terrorism requires the same mindset that we use when defending ourselves against criminal attack. Smart ordinary citizens don't go looking for criminals to attack; indeed, they do everything within reason to avoid any contact with criminals. We avoid dark streets and other places where criminals are likely to lurk. We put locks on our doors, keep a watch on those around us, especially when dealing with strangers, and we arm and prepare ourselves to handle criminal

attack should it occur. When criminals do attack, brave men and women fight back. We also cooperate with police authorities when we have information on criminal activities.

Those of us who want to do our part to resist terrorism will go about our daily lives and hope that we never actually have to deal with a terrorist. At the same time, we will be alert to the fact that they are out there, that they are planning more attacks, and that any one of us might suddenly find him- or herself in a situation in which how one reacts may not only mean the difference between one's own life and death but the lives of thousands of our fellow citizens.

Invisible resistance to terrorism consists of three basic rules of action:

1. Do every thing possible to ensure you do not become a victim of a terrorist.
2. If, despite those efforts, you find yourself involved in a terrorist action or engaged with anyone you suspect intends to commit an act of terror, be prepared to do everything possible to frustrate the will of the terrorist, including the use of deadly resistance.
3. Demand that our political leaders give full attention to fulfilling their oath of office to defend our country against such acts in ways consistent with the U.S. Constitution.

The terrorists who carried out the attacks on September 11, 2001, were living among us. While the pundits have talked about possible failures by our government in identifying them beforehand, there must have been many situations in which a *single, alert citizen* could have frustrated their plans. It might have been an airport security guard, an alert airline agent, a suspicious neighbor, a hotel clerk, or even a waitress or taxi driver.

We have to admit that none of us suspected that such things would ever happen. Now we are warned. Therefore, every one of us must go about our daily lives aware that someone we meet

along the way may be planning to commit an act of terror. We are already seeing evidence that Americans are intent on resisting terrorism. Crop duster pilots are taking key parts of their planes home at night. People on fishing trips are watching who might be dumping what in a reservoir. Citizens across the country are buying gas masks, water filters, medicines, and firearms. Many are changing travel plans by driving a car instead of flying so that they can always go armed, ready to resist with deadly force if necessary.

Our political leaders are also reacting. They know that we will hold them to their promises to find and punish those responsible as well as those who harbor and support them. We have made it clear that should they fail to do so, we will take our revenge on them at election time.

We will endure and we will defeat the campaign of terror that has been launched against us. But when that job is done, we will still have the problem of the drift of our country into democratic mob tyranny.

Individual Resistance to Tyranny— the Difficult Part of the Equation

Once we have identified, punished, or neutralized those responsible for the events of September 11, we will have a much more difficult problem to deal with—the problem of what has happened to freedom in our own country. The part that any ordinary citizen will play in the fight against terrorism depends on luck of the draw, with most of us having little or no opportunity to act at all except to live our lives without fear, but every one of us can take action against democratic mob tyranny.

Prior to September 11, 2001, those willing to fight for freedom had concluded that the greatest danger to our freedom was the drift into democratic mob tyranny deliberately manipulated by our own political leaders. We rightly understood that the enemies we must fear most are not the ones on a foreign shore but the enemies of freedom inside our own borders.

Now, even when we are under attack from a foreign source,

while we unite with our leaders and our fellow citizens so we can fight a vicious foreign aggression, we must still keep the above truth in mind. When we have defeated the foreign enemy, we will still have to resist the enemies of freedom in our own nation.

We have already seen politicians and bureaucrats demanding that we give up more of our rights to privacy, communication, and even speech as part of the cost of winning the war against terrorism. A whole new enforcement apparatus in government called the “Office of Homeland Security” has been created. As they always do in a time of crisis, our politicians are asking us to trade freedom for tyranny.

Those of us who demand freedom know too well how such ideas, which sound good when first proposed, will still be in place long after the crisis has passed and will be used to the detriment of freedom. As an example of how that happens, we only have to look at the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) laws, which were originally developed to combat organized crime but are now used against Americans ranging from antiabortion and environmental activists to doctors who arrange for private payment for their services. At the same time, politicians are brushing aside suggestions that we return to the well-proven solution to defeating both criminals and terrorists—the armed citizen.

Terrorism will not be defeated by limiting freedom. Indeed, the limitations on our freedom to bear arms directly contributed to the ease with which the terrorism of September 11 was committed. The sad fact of history is that in every war our nation has fought, there have been government officials who saw the conflict as an opportunity to limit the freedom of American citizens in order to ensure their own positions and perks of power.

What Our Government Was Supposed to Be

Those who wrote the Constitution of the United States expected that document to strictly limit the government in what

it could do with the power the people bestowed on it. The Constitution set up a limited government as an association of equal and free citizens. Each citizen was guaranteed freedom to do anything he¹ chose so long as he didn’t use force against another citizen except in self-defense. While laws could be enacted by majority vote of elected representatives, the majority could not pass any law to take advantage of any minority or deny any individual any basic human right, as set forth in the Bill of Rights.

The Constitution was supposed to limit what elected leaders could do so that it wouldn’t matter much who held office. Politicians would not be very important people except in time of war. Elected officials would not win elections by pitting one group of citizens against another. Leaders would not be people who would tell any lie, promise anything to anyone, and spend as much money getting elected as they could collect from the fools who believed their promises.

Those who formed our federal and state governments knew that the citizens of the new country would have to be constantly alert to protect their freedoms. Every single day, politicians, authoritarians, the lazy, the weak, and the easily frightened would be maneuvering to find ways to change such a free society into something less free. As Benjamin Franklin told a woman after the Constitution was drafted, we had a Republic . . . if we could keep it.

How Things Went Wrong

American politicians quickly discovered that they could keep themselves in office and expand their personal power by playing one group of voters against another. They eventually sold the idea that the majority of voters had the right to decide what everyone else will do, even if big chunks of the minority didn’t want to give up their afternoon drinks, their target pistols, their snowmobiles, their gas-guzzling SUVs, or their right to spend all the money they earned in the way they wanted.

Elected officials learned that the majority was all too willing

to tax an economically successful minority for its own advantage. The United States, led by self-seeking politicians and a professional cadre of bureaucratic parasites, began the drift that has been twisting our country into a new form of tyranny—democratic mob tyranny. As politicians granted more and more privileges to different groups while playing them off against each other, we found ourselves increasingly less in control of our own lives until we found ourselves in the situation we are in today—weighed down by a crushing burden of taxes, laws, and regulations everywhere we turn.

The Cultural Disease of Supreme Government

The American political system can be compared with a patient suffering from a parasitic disease. The carriers of the disease are elected politicians, those who hope to replace them, and those who expect to gain personal advantage from a supreme central government. Each of the three factions hopes to control the power of government force by convincing voters to depend on the politicians instead of their own efforts, hard work, and creativity. Each individual who learns to depend on government ceases to be a productive citizen and begins living off the plunder stolen from the productive citizens through taxes. As the disease spreads through the body politic, the productive class dwindles while the parasites multiply. Decreasing numbers of producers must pay larger percentages of their income to support the ever-growing parasitic class (and I am not only referring to people on welfare rolls—corporations and rich executives benefit hugely from government subsidies and favors).

If the spread of the disease is not halted, the entire system must eventually collapse. Before that happens, government officials must place greater limits on the freedoms of the productive citizens in order to force them to keep producing the wealth that the entire system depends on. Eventually this must lead to total tyranny as political leaders attempt to forestall the inevitable col-

lapse and death of the system. While increasing the misery, the tyranny will only postpone the collapse but not prevent it from eventually happening.

The truth is that too many Americans don't see a problem with any of this. They don't give a damn whether they are free or not but only whether they are safe or not. They only care about how much more they can get from the government than what they have to pay in as taxes. They welcome democratic mob tyranny because they are a part of the mob, believing that the system will make them safe, comfortable, happy, and free from all fears.

The Achilles Heel of Democratic Mob Tyranny

Throughout history, tyrants gained power through force of arms. They conquered people, subdued and enslaved them, then ruled them for life. The death of the tyrant didn't end the misery but only passed the leadership on to his heir. The only way the tyranny could end was in its conquest by another power or by violent revolution.

It does no good to murder those close to a tyrant. Nor does it do any good to murder thousands of his subjects in hopes of forcing him to give up power. A totalitarian ruler can easily suffer the death of hundreds of thousands of his subjects and the abject misery of all the rest as long as enough of them remain alive to produce the wealth required to support his lifestyle and purchase the allegiance of his personal guards and military forces.

We only have to look at the historical example of Nazi Germany, where no one could surrender until Adolf Hitler chose death rather than capture by the Soviet army. A more recent example is Saddam Hussein, who still holds power in Iraq despite the terrible loss of life in two great wars and the growing misery of his people caused by the United Nations' embargo undertaken in the hopes of fomenting revolt inside Iraq.

Democratic mob tyranny—in which elected politicians rule for only as long as they can convince the majority of the voting population to keep them in office—presents a different situation than the traditional totalitarian forms. With mob democracy, politicians must worry about the safety and contentment of the population because they need their votes to stay in power. This makes the system much more fragile than the old-fashioned one-man-rule tyrannies. Once enough people in the mob lose faith in the ability of elected officials to live up to their promises, their hold on power can collapse at any moment. If the officials can't correct the situation that caused the loss of faith with better propaganda or more payoffs, they almost certainly will lose the next election, if they last even that long.

As long as the mob of voters is behind him, the democratic tyrant has an almost unbreakable hold on his power. We can see how this has played out in the cases of two U.S. presidents: Dick Nixon and Willy Jeff Clinton. Nixon, largely because of protests over the Vietnam War, had lost the support of the majority of American voters. As a result, his conviction for abuse of power during the Watergate affair was such a sure thing that he didn't bother to stick around for a House vote on impeachment, let alone a Senate trial.

Clinton, on the other hand, had the support of the majority of the voters despite clear evidence that he was guilty of the charges in the House articles of impeachment. Too many Americans continued to believe the lies Willy Jeff was pitching about welfare programs, free health care, and new government jobs for those too lazy or incompetent to find jobs in the free enterprise system. Therefore, due to political pressure from the mob, the Senate buckled and voted against an impeachment trial.

Mobs can change directions, and sometimes they do suddenly and unexpectedly. When large numbers of citizens lose their faith in the politicians who rule them, they can get so angry that they take to the streets. When that happens, the tyrants who have been leading the mob can suddenly find themselves in seri-

ous trouble and soon out of a job and on the run. We saw this occur in the Philippines when mobs poured into the streets demanding an end to the corrupt Marcos regime. In the past 30 years, it also happened in Thailand, South Korea, Chile, Argentina, and Iran.

More recently, much to the surprise of our wonderful wizards of foreign affairs in Washington, it suddenly started happening throughout the communist world. In the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, Romania, Albania, Estonia, and in every other communist country except three,² mobs of citizens lost their faith in the promises of their tyrannical leaders and took to the streets to demand a new world without the old bankrupt, corrupt system. It even almost happened in Red China until the fledgling freedom movement was crushed in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

There was little or no armed revolution in most of the countries where such spontaneous revolts occurred. All that happened was that the mob that had once cheered the tyrants realized that their promises would never be fulfilled and that things were going to keep deteriorating for as long as those politicians held power. People without arms or leaders moved into the streets in massive numbers to demand their freedom, and freedom is what they got.

What We Can Do to Make That Happen Here

So you live in this great country but you don't like the high taxes, the heavy-handed regulation of your business, the government welfare system (both individual and corporate), what public schools are doing to your children, the drinking laws of your state, the war on drugs, or the daily hassle of government intruding in your life whenever you turn around. You know something is terribly wrong and you fear it will get worse, but you don't know how to start on the road back to freedom.

Should you start killing IRS agents or blowing up govern-

ment buildings in the name of freedom? Of course not! This book isn't written for psychos who wrap themselves in the rhetoric of freedom to justify the murder of innocents. This book is written for the ordinary guy or gal who wants to take back control of his or her own life and who is willing to take some risks to do it.

We still have a few things going in our favor. We have free elections, and there is relative freedom of the press, freedom to assemble, freedom of religion, freedom to petition the government, and the right to trial by jury with legal counsel. Just about anybody can start a political movement to try to get freedom back without worrying too much about government reprisals. A politician may sic the IRS dogs on you, but you don't have to worry about being hauled off to a concentration camp or face a summary firing squad (at least not yet).

And there's another major point that for now appears to be working in our favor. Politicians have to have the enormous wealth a free economy produces in order to steal enough in taxes to pay off the promises they make to get elected. This gives us a timeframe in which we can use nonviolent means for dealing with our politicians in ways that will limit their ability to control us through force and fraud.

If we do not take advantage of this time to win freedom back with nonviolent means, our only choice will eventually be a bloody fight for freedom or total submission to democratic mob tyranny. Instead, we have to find ways to destroy faith in supreme government. We have to convince our friends, co-workers, and neighbors that supreme government is a bad deal, that money lost to taxes is money spent on parasites, and that much of the misery people suffer in this country is the direct result of government action. We have to encourage those who currently love their tyrants to see the incredible amount of abuse, waste, and fraud that takes place in the name of government and to get as mad as we are.

Don't Try to Get Your Freedom Back by Organizing

I know that sounds strange and goes against everything you have ever been told about the importance of organizing, the need to play on a winning team, and how there is strength in numbers. The problem is that the first thing that any organization has to have is leaders, and that is what no free individual wants to have. Leaders give orders and commands that must be obeyed. People who want to lead revolutions don't want to make you free. They want to be your new masters. That's why it is *not* necessary to join an organization to fight tyranny.

A truly free society is disorganized. In a free society, everyone does exactly what he wants to do and takes orders from nobody. Nobody is in charge. Free people don't do what they are told; they only do what they are asked when it is in their own interest or because the person asking also offers something of value like a cash payment, a job, a quick favor, or even love.

Some might think such a disorganized society would be easy to conquer, but it is not. Any society in which people refuse to cooperate unless they agree it's to their own advantage to do so can't be governed except with the permission of all the people or by the massive application of force. It is the "ordered" societies, where people are used to doing what they are told to do, that are easy to take over and govern.

How This Book Fits In

This book describes how individuals can carry out personal campaigns that, when combined with similar campaigns by hundreds and thousands of other individuals, will give those who hold political power so much trouble they will soon regret the day they stole freedom.

If you are the only person in the country who does these things, you get the personal satisfaction of knowing that there is one free human being left. If a lot of other people start doing the

same things, we will have an invisible insurgency of freedom. It will be an insurgency that parasitic politicians and their armed enforcers won't be able to put down because *they won't be able to find it*. There won't be any leaders to arrest, no places to send their armed troops, no organizations to infiltrate, no captured insurgents to parade before the media, no activists that the thugs of the IRS, FBI, BATF, OSHA, EPA, or the new Office of Homeland Security can target for reprisals.

The total sum of thousands of individual acts frustrating the political leaders will give the appearance of a massive organization. The tyrants will look for leaders who aren't there, secret headquarters that don't exist, and couriers that carry no messages. Instead, all there will be is the invisible resisters, multiplied thousands of times. Once there are enough of them, the time will come when just one of them will initiate the final event in the reign of tyranny. Then others will follow, and suddenly the streets of America will be clogged with people demanding freedom.

We have one more thing going for us. Even though freedom lovers are always in a minority,³ they are the most productive, hardest working, creative, and intelligent people in the society. That means that once they begin to resist tyrannical rule instead of cooperating with it, they will have an impact far beyond their small numbers.

An Important Warning

In the following pages I describe a number of individual actions that are still legal in this country and which help protect the personal freedom of anyone taking such action. I also describe actions some people are already taking that are illegal and could result in their arrest and imprisonment. Finally, I discuss acts of open rebellion and insurrection which might someday be the only hope of ever regaining a free society. Any descriptions of current illegal activity or possible future acts of insurrection are provided

for academic study only. The author neither recommends nor advocates that any individual engage in such activities. Indeed, it is the author's conviction that the best way to regain lost freedom is to use every possible legal, nonviolent maneuver without engaging in illegal or violent acts of any kind.

1. For ease of language, the author will use the masculine when referring to unidentified individuals. Such a person could, of course, as easily be a woman as a man.
2. North Korea, North Vietnam, and Cuba. China remains a communist country, but only because the leadership has managed to suppress the same kind of sudden public outburst of discontent. Even so, as a result of the Tiananmen Square protests, Chinese leaders were forced to significantly increase the freedoms allowed their citizens to keep the lid on more spontaneous revolt.
3. Only one-third of the population in the thirteen American colonies supported the Revolution. Another third supported the British, and the rest tried not to get involved at all.

C H A P T E R 2

WHO WANTS TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN WITH A BAD GOVERNMENT?

What is a good citizen? Tyrants describe good citizens as loyal subjects who obey the law—every law—without question. A tyrant's good citizen works hard and pays taxes, even if there's nothing left over to feed the kids. Such a good citizen never complains, no matter how stupid or crude a government official treats him or her. Give a tyrant enough such good citizens and he will rule forever, fat and happy, while his subjects sweat, suffer, toil, and die in needless wars to make sure the tyrant keeps living the good life.

Tyrants and their lackeys spend a great deal of time and effort trying to convince the people they rule that a moral person must be a good citizen. Back in the Dark Ages they called it the "divine right of kings." Nowadays they call it patriotic duty, or civic responsibility, or the right thing to do, but it all adds up to the argument that any decent, honorable person must put the

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interests of all the people—that really means the interests of the man in charge—above their own personal interests.

Bad Citizens Live Better Lives

A true constitutional republic has free citizens, not good citizens. When people wake up and realize that they don't enjoy all the freedom they have a right to, the first thing they can do is stop being good citizens.

Any tyrant who has a country full of bad citizens has got a problem. A tyrant has all sorts of ways to deal with a rebel, a criminal, a jungle fighter, an insurgent, or a political activist. Those people stand out. They are easily identified, almost like they have signs hung around their necks. One finds such people in dark alleys, basements, forests, jungles, and jails. But how does a tyrant tell a bad citizen from a good citizen? Bad citizens, after all, are not bad people. They, too, want to eat, so they'll keep on working at the factory or the office, or planting the potato crop, or playing the stock market, or creating a new business, or doing whatever else it takes to make a living.

What bad citizens won't do is help the government make their lives miserable. They continually try to maximize their own personal freedom. They ignore, evade, or break any bad laws to get that freedom. Yet they do so in ways that allow them to remain invisible to the tyrants, who want only good citizens living in the land.

Bad citizens file their income tax returns but cheat while minimizing the risks of getting caught. A bad citizen turns the heat up when the government says the heat should be turned down. Bad citizens lose their census forms, or fill them out incorrectly. They arm themselves for self-defense with the kinds of weapons they want, not what politicians say they can have.

Bad citizens don't spend all their time trying to make the work of the government more difficult, but they don't sacrifice

WHO WANTS TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN WITH A BAD GOVERNMENT?

their own pleasures or happiness just because some political leader tells them the sacrifices are in the common good.

Bad Citizens Can Be Patriots as Well as Good Neighbors

Just because someone doesn't love bad politicians and would-be tyrants doesn't mean he doesn't love his country. Nor does it mean he is a bad neighbor. People who love freedom love the land, the nation, and the neighborhood they live in. They will be the first to fight criminals, terrorists, or invading armies. They will always be among the first to cooperate with friends and neighbors in achieving mutually desired goals. They will be tolerant but not nosy, always willing to allow others to exercise their freedom in all things. They will be the best neighbors.

Too Many Bad Citizens Make Bad Government Impossible

The one big reason why the Soviet Union never worked very well, and eventually collapsed under the weight of massive economic failures, was that too many Soviet citizens realized they were never going to get a fair share out of socialism. They stopped being good citizens of a bad government. They started looking out for themselves rather than the good of the state.

Smart citizens don't get caught being bad. They keep what they do a secret. They don't brag to their friends and neighbors about what bad citizens they are. They don't tell the mayor or a county commissioner how proud they are to be bad citizens. They know that to remain free they must be invisible as far as government officials are concerned.

The more bad citizens there are, the harder it is for the people who steal freedom to stay in power. The tyrant's problem is that he is always outnumbered. He has guns and the thugs to use them. He can build jails, concentration camps, and forced labor detention centers. He has spies and informants and the ability to tap phone lines and search anywhere he chooses. But he can't

put everybody in jail. He has to have people to till the fields, drive the trucks, work in the factories, and staff his bureaucracy and enforcement agencies. So he has to convince most of the people that life isn't all that bad and that there is hope of a better future.

The tyrant will go after the visible troublemakers, the guys who loudly announce they will no longer pay taxes, those who defy the law in front of witnesses and then hole up in an armed compound with a few friends and wait for government enforcers to come and get them, or the ones who fight government from the hills. Those kind of people are easy to identify and kill or cart off to prisons. With no newspapers daring to tell the truth about the tyrant, with nobody willing to talk out loud, the tyrant will count on good citizens to continue to act like good citizens once they see what the tyrant can do to bad citizens he can identify.

Good Citizens Make Tyrants Possible

Nazi Germany wasn't filled with people who wanted to throw Jews and Gypsies into gas chambers, make slaves of Eastern Europeans, or rule the world from Berlin. Nazi Germany was filled with good citizens who wanted a political leader they could believe in. In the beginning, even the Jews thought that if they would be good citizens, obeying every law and order, they could survive what was coming.

Hitler did everything he could to make all good German citizens think they were better off with him in charge, even if they did have to give up a few freedoms. Hitler was more frightened that all those Germans might stop being good citizens than he was of the Allied armies. He catered to the citizens, he entertained them, he promised them better things. And most Germans kept being good citizens right up to the bitter end.

Cuba, North Korea, China, Vietnam, Iran, and Iraq are filled with good citizens hoping that by being good citizens they will help things get better. Only things keep getting worse. The good

citizen works harder but gets less to eat, enjoys life less, and has less hope for a better future. Good citizens brag about working within the system to change things, but nothing ever changes that much.

The only time things get better in a country run by tyrants is when lots of people start acting like bad citizens. Back in the days of the Soviet Union, farmers started cheating on the time they spent in the collective fields so that they could spend more time working small private patches where they got to keep or sell what they grew. Eventually those private patches were the only thing that prevented mass starvation.

In Poland, a lot of good citizens got fed up with the continuing misery resulting from total government control of the economy. So they walked off the job in support of a strike organized by an illegal union. For the first time in years, a bit of freedom started to creep in. The government tried hard to stamp that out, but eventually the bad citizens won the day.

Before it actually happened, very few students of the communist world ever expected that it would collapse under its own weight in what was an almost peaceful event. That's because they never saw the invisible resistance that was bubbling through Eastern Europe. As the pot of misery boiled over, more and more people living in those countries started acting like bad citizens. Then one day, all those bad citizens for some reason spontaneously poured into the streets to demand that the tyrants get out of town.

Terrorists Don't Like Bad Citizens Either

Terrorists expect that the people they target will be helpless to defend themselves, people who won't be armed with weapons or prepared to fight back. They expect people who are conditioned to be victims, who cringe in fear when confronted by those who threaten them with violence if orders are not obeyed. They expect people who will silently sit and wait for someone

else to save them. On the other hand, a person with the attitude of a bad citizen is the last thing a terrorist wants to face when he tries to perpetrate his evil deeds.

Bad Citizens Have Kept America as Free as It Still Is

In this country, people who were not being allowed the freedom they demanded and deserved have repeatedly turned into bad citizens. Every time enough Americans joined in such an invisible insurgency, freedom won the day.

The best historical example of bad citizens serving the cause of freedom was the Underground Railroad, which helped thousands of fugitive slaves make a run to freedom. The Underground Railroad began when a small number of individuals decided that slavery was so wrong they were willing to commit a felony to help slaves escape their masters.

The Underground Railroad was a totally chaotic system, composed of hundreds of individuals, each acting on his own, cooperating only with others he trusted, and almost always with no supervision from any leader. The chaotic nature of the system was what made it so difficult for law enforcement officers to deal with it. Arresting one individual only created a small hole in the net that was quickly filled by others. Most of those who participated in the endeavor were never identified. The Underground Railroad was invisible resistance to tyranny.

In 1919, a majority of the voters in the United States decided they knew what was best for everyone and passed the Eighteenth Amendment, taking away the freedom of a man to relax with a beer after an honest day's work. Hundred of thousands in this great country chose to be bad citizens. They didn't organize themselves into a "let's bring back the booze" political party. They didn't stage massive sit-ins that interrupted the life of a lot of other people. They didn't start blowing up police stations. All they did was keep on drinking alcohol. Other bad citizens were more than willing to smuggle or distill or brew the

booze and sell it for a profit. It took until 1933, but the social manipulators and the do-gooders finally gave up and agreed to throw out the "Great Experiment," and tens of thousands of people went back to being good citizens, at least as far as taking a drink was concerned.

In the 1960s, black people in the South got fed up with sitting in the back of the bus, getting chased away from the voting polls, and being turned away from the best restaurants and hotels, no matter how much money they had in their pockets. So they started acting like bad citizens. They sat where they pleased, even when threatened with retaliatory violence from the police and politicians of the day. They organized huge voter registrations drives, and when their lives were threatened by racist mobs or organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan for doing so, brave blacks armed themselves and shot back in self-defense. Now a black man can go into any public facility he wants, can vote for whoever he wants to, and can eat where he pleases.¹

In the 1970s, Dick Nixon gave us the 55-mile-an-hour speed limit, which was absurd on most of the major highways in the United States, especially those in the West. Large numbers of drivers not only kept right on driving at higher speeds, but they figured out the best ways to beat the system. A new industry was born and grew rich by selling truckers and motorists radar detectors and citizen band (CB) radios so they could help each other keep track of the movements and locations of the highway cops. Eventually so many people were driving faster, especially on many of the interstate routes, that all enforcement efforts became a joke. It took more than 25 years for the petty tyrants in Congress to admit the inevitable, and now people in most western states can drive at 75 miles an hour or more and do it legally.

There are still invisible insurgencies going on today. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), other federal enforcement agencies, and state and local police department spend billions of tax dollars each year trying to stamp out the use of recreational drugs. Yet every year the price of illegal

drugs goes down while availability goes up. Anybody who wants to smoke pot, shoot smack, or do a bit of ecstasy can do so any place in the United States.

The people who tout the totalitarian principle of gun control keep telling us that the majority of Americans want some kind of restriction on private firearm ownership. The number of laws that have already been passed limiting gun ownership is staggering, and new laws create whole classes of new criminals who refuse to comply with them. They don't surrender their assault rifles in California, they carry concealed weapons without bothering to register, and they buy guns from underground sources by the thousands.

So what! No majority in a free country has the right to take away the freedoms of any minority. That's what freedom is all about, and owning a gun is a damn good way to help make sure nobody starts interfering with your personal freedom. As long as the people who understand and believe that principle insist on keeping their guns, no matter what the law says, we are going to be able to keep them.

Bad Citizens Get Good Laws

After years of steadily spiraling upward, our taxes are finally starting to come down. That's not because it's what Congress and the president really want. They have no choice. Americans used to be pretty good taxpayers until things got out of hand and the government became a leviathan of inefficiency, corruption, and unbridled power. Many of our fellow citizens finally woke up and realized that the political frauds in Congress were financing a power trip on the backs of the taxpayers.

So a whole lot of taxpayers have turned into bad citizens. They figure every angle, both legal and illegal, to reduce their own taxes. We are now a nation of tax avoiders and evaders. Every increase in the tax structure is matched or exceeded by losses as more ordinary middle class citizens figure out ways to

cheat on their taxes. Millions of Americans and more millions of illegal immigrants work off the books and never file a tax return on what they earn. Others report income the government already knows about but don't report any income the IRS won't learn about through their vicious 1099 forms. The elected officials' only choice is to try and convince us through lowering tax rates that things are fair once again. It's another example of bad citizens making good government.

Think of all the other laws that are regularly violated in this country by hundreds of thousands of Americans. Every day across the country, Americans by the thousands

- hire illegal aliens;
- pay for sex with prostitutes;
- engage in illegal gambling;
- produce, trade in, or use illegal drugs;
- drive with no driver's license or liability insurance;
- poach wildlife;
- use insider information when buying stocks;
- work without required professional licenses;
- drive after having a few drinks;
- smuggle goods to avoid states sale taxes;
- operate illegal radio stations;
- ignore copyright laws by making copies of favorite movies;
- shoot off illegal fireworks on the Fourth of July;
- spank their kids;
- cheat on their income taxes;
- let their teenage children drink wine at the dinner table; and
- carry concealed weapons without a permit.

You might not personally approve of all of these illegal activities. Neither do I. But each example demonstrates how much we are a nation of bad citizens. That's why we still have as much freedom as we do. If more Americans start doing this kind of thing, maybe our politicians will finally begin to under-

INVISIBLE RESISTANCE TO TYRANNY

stand that you can't take an American's freedom away and make it stick.

Our Political Leaders Have Made Us All Criminals

In the modern United States, our federal and state leaders impose so many laws, restrictions, regulations, and requirements on us that government enforcers can build a criminal case against almost anyone they have identified as a serious threat to their continued hold on power. You don't even have to be a real threat to them if they can use you as an example to show their power over the rest of us. Look what happened to the family of Randy Weaver and the followers of David Koresh.

Let any politician, political appointee, law enforcement officer, or other government supremacist discover that you openly advocate limited constitutional government and you will immediately be labeled a terrorist, a gun nut, a racist, a right-wing extremist, or some other hateful epithet that puts you in a category of people deserving the full weight of government violence. Once you have been demonized, then they will start looking for some law violation that you probably didn't even know existed. It may be the IRS, OSHA, FCC, DEA, BATF, or the local sheriff out to bust you for a violation of the building code or sanitation laws, but someone will eventually be coming after you.

Every Bad Citizen Is an Invisible Resister of Tyranny

No government can arrest 20 percent of its population, shoot 25 percent of its workforce, or hire every third citizen as a police officer. In even the most tyrannical regime, any individual who decides to avoid and evade the government will be able to achieve a much greater degree of personal freedom than those who openly confront it. Sadly, I know human nature well enough to conclude that many people are too frightened to take

WHO WANTS TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN WITH A BAD GOVERNMENT?

even the minimal risks involved in being a bad citizen of a tyrannical government.

But let's suppose that 5 or maybe even 10 percent of the citizens in any unfree country decided that they would not only maximize their own personal freedom but would begin resisting the leaders who took their freedoms away in every way possible short of initiating violence. How long could any government survive if that many people, acting independently and without organization, started to commit invisible acts of resistance against their oppressors?

For anyone living in a country where politicians limit personal freedom, learning to be a bad citizen is just the first step to greater freedom. It gets one used to defying authority, ignoring orders, and looking out for oneself instead of the political frauds who take freedom away. More important perhaps, it gets a person used to acting in secret, covertly doing things that improve his personal situation while screwing up the system. He also learns to be proud of what he is doing, but without having to brag about it.

The very essence of becoming an invisible resister to tyranny is to avoid drawing the attention of the enemy while going about the business of maximizing one's own personal freedom. An invisible resister to tyranny looks for every opportunity to withhold cooperation and to engage in secret acts of civil disobedience in ways that keep the enforcers from identifying the offender. Just how far one will go in ignoring or breaking the law in striving to maximize freedom is a personal choice that must be made by every individual.

What It Takes to Be Invisible

Those engaged in invisible resistance are invisible because they are living peaceful, happy, and successful lives without drawing the unfriendly attention of any government agent. They have learned to play the system to their own personal

advantage. To all outside observers they appear to be living an ordinary life. They go to work and have good reputations with their employers, or they run a business with contented customers. They live in comfortable homes, drive safe vehicles, have a happy home life, get along with neighbors, and pay their just debts. They carry driver's licenses, and they have Social Security numbers, checking and savings accounts, investments, and credit cards. They even file tax returns and pay income tax on at least part of what they make.

They never deliberately call public attention to themselves, and they only provide personal information when there is a clear economic advantage for doing so or there is an unavoidable legal requirement. Even so, their names will be in the national databases because there is almost no way to live well in modern America without that happening. However, if government agents look in those databases for their names, all they will find will be evidence of legitimate economic activity. There will be no reports of arrests, convictions, or outstanding warrants; no bankruptcies, civil suits, or bad credit dealings.

This is the secret of invisible resistance to tyranny. Those who understand it will be able to move through society without making any waves, even though they are ignoring or breaking dozens of laws. They can travel in any direction with no fear of interference. They can pass through a government checkpoint with no more than a nod from the officer checking their documents. They can engage in any activity inside the walls of their own home or any space they control with no fear of discovery.

They may be hiding fugitives in their bedrooms, plotting schemes in their dining rooms, building outlawed guns in their basements, or running a spy ring to collect evidence of political corruption. Yet no matter what they do in secret, no one outside their immediate circle of fellow invisible resisters will have any reason to suspect them of being anything but peaceful, law-abiding citizens.

A Note on Terrorism

Of course, passing as good citizens is exactly what the terrorists responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon did while they waited for the final day. But the way to attack terrorism is not to stamp out the freedom of millions of citizens. No matter how many laws are passed to control and track our finances, communications, employment, entertainment, and use of the Internet, motivated terrorists and criminals will still be able to hide among us as ordinary people. Terrorism can only be stopped by hitting it at its source (i.e., those who command and finance the activity) or at its point of attack, or by eliminating the conditions that turn people toward terrorism. All laws that try to limit mobility and communication only limit the freedom of peaceful, law-abiding citizens while making it easier for terrorists and criminals. The best example of how this works are the many unconstitutional gun control laws that practically guarantee that only criminals and terrorists will be armed while their victims remain unarmed and virtually defenseless.

Freedom lovers who learn how to live free while remaining invisible are in an excellent position to take action against terrorism should the happenstances of life place them in a position where they can fight against it. A terrorist will see such individuals in the same way a tyrant sees them—more sheep helplessly waiting for the slaughter, not as dangerous threats ready and willing to fight back in every possible way.

1. One example of this took place in Monroe, North Carolina, in 1957, when the president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was given a charter for an official National Rifle Association (NRA) gun club, where blacks were encouraged to learn armed self-defense. Some NAACP members used these skills on the night of October 5, 1957, when they fired in self-defense upon a large Ku Klux Klan motorcade that had arrived at the home of Dr. Albert Perry, a leading civil rights leader in that area.

C H A P T E R 3

FOUR STEPS TO INVISIBLE RESISTANCE

We obviously do not live in a free society when we have a government that forces us to pay taxes that are then used to feed the lazy, subsidize the lifestyles of the already wealthy, provide health care to the improvident, and finance the indoctrination of our own children. Our own money is also used to prohibit us from engaging in all sorts of activities from starting a business without some bureaucrat's permission to engaging in various recreational activities that would hurt no one but ourselves.

At the same time, we do not live in a totalitarian society in which government agents make all the personal decisions for every citizen. We can travel in any direction and buy or sell just about any product or service we want or can provide to others. Indeed, with the exception of paying taxes, the compulsory education of our children, and the tight control over medical care

and the pharmaceutical industry, we make almost all of our daily personal decisions without any interference from any government agent. We decide where we will live and work, what we will eat, how we will grow it or buy it, what we will do for fun, what and where we will worship, how we will spend our free time, and, with some limits, what we will do for recreation.

In such a society, the first thing each freedom lover should do is to make the most of all the freedom that can be grabbed while learning how to resist democratic tyranny and regain the freedoms we have lost. Even the new threat of terrorism does not alter this situation. Indeed, to stop any or all desirable activities because of a fear of terrorism is to give in to the goals of the terrorists!

There are four steps we can all take to begin the process of protecting our freedoms and resisting the tyranny of a democratic mob, even while we help defend ourselves and our country from foreign-based terrorism:

1. Maximize personal freedom.
2. Get educated about freedom and how our politicians are taking it away.
3. Build personal networks of freedom-loving individuals.
4. Spread the truth about the advantages of freedom to others.

Step 1: Maximize Personal Freedom

As bad as our elected politicians are, they are not responsible for all the misery in our lives. Most Americans who complain about their lack of freedom are not in that fix because of the threat of government violence but because of some other fear. They may fear the disapproval or anger of family, friends, neighbors, priests, or even strangers. They may fear economic failure, loss of income, injury, and death by disease, accident, crime, or terrorism. They may fear a final judgment, or even crowds, heights, or enclosed spaces.

All too often, many haven't even figured out what they real-

ly want. Others want something that is impossible to obtain: they want the love of someone who loves another person; they want to succeed in a profession for which they have no natural talent; they want to find a get-rich-quick scheme; or they dream of achieving happiness by winning a fortune playing the lottery, slot machines, or the race track.

Others don't set their own priorities as to what is most important for success and happiness and what they can do without. Instead, they go through life acting on the impulse of the moment. They lose freedom of future choice because they make bad choices in the present. They marry the wrong person or, worse, make babies with someone they don't want to marry at all. They go into debt to buy things they don't need. They can't distinguish between what they must have to survive and what they want because everyone else wants it. They stay stuck in a job they hate because they fear failure more than they want happiness.

People who fit into any of the above categories don't have to worry about government thugs locking them up. They are already in cages of their own making. Indeed, such people become easy prey for a political tyrant who will promise them a new world order more to their liking if they will only do what they're told. Instead of looking for freedom, these are the people who happily march to the drumbeat of tyrants like Hitler, Lenin, Mao, the mullahs, and whomever will be elected our next president.

Before challenging the violent threats of tyrannical politicians and their hired thugs, you must first solve all the other problems that prevent you from maximizing your own freedom of action. Resolve your problems with your family, your job, your friends, your credit rating, and your own emotional fears. Discover what it is you really want, what you can actually achieve, and what you will have to give up in the process.

Each individual must make up his own mind about how he can best maximize his own freedom. Your life is your own to

live as you see fit. If you make bad or misguided decisions, it is you who will suffer the consequences. For those who never learn to admit their mistakes and start over, those consequences may follow them to the grave. Most often, the consequences will not be violence or the threat of violence. They will be lost opportunities, frustration, out-of-control debt, bad health due to vicious habits, loss of employment, financial failure, and destructive personal relationships. These are problems you have to solve on your own.

No one should set out to solve the problems of political tyranny until he has solved the personal problems of his own creation. When you have done that, you will be ready to start challenging the political tyrants trying to control your life.

Step 2: Get Educated about Freedom

As has been proven time and again, to alter the government in this country does not take violence, but education. My job is to get the country back into believing and living under the supreme law of the Constitution, not to kill those who are leading the country astray.

– Peter McWilliams

Almost all of us who want freedom were indoctrinated at some point in our lives by government supremacists. We went to government schools, we studied in colleges under professors who advocated government supremacy, we read the government supremacist propaganda in the daily newspaper, and we watched the government supremacist news on television. We may have grown up in families that believed the lies and myths, and we were surrounded by relatives, friends, and co-workers who shared those beliefs. Yet somehow we broke out of the pack and discovered a true love of freedom.

The way that happened is different for each of us. For some, it may have been the frustration of wanting something that was

forbidden. We began to wonder why such a thing was forbidden, and the more we examined the situation, the more we realized that there was no good reason why our desire should be denied. For others it may have been a more intellectual enterprise. We discovered the writings of Ayn Rand, Ludwig von Mises, Frédéric Bastiat, F.A. Hayek, Milton Friedman, Harry Brown, or some other advocate of freedom.

However it started, each of us began a journey of self-education that we will continue for the rest of our lives. Added to that, education has become easier than ever in the computer age. While most of us once had to depend on the government supremacist press and broadcast media for our news, the Internet now offers dozens of different alternative news sources, some of which are deeply committed to the ideal of freedom.

Everyone who wants freedom enough to fight for it should learn as much as possible about the process of living free, even in an unfree society. Such an education should include both the practical aspects of living free and the philosophical justifications of freedom.

The fact that the reader is holding this book in his hands is evidence of a desire to learn more about freedom and how to get it. Learning how to avoid the attention of government thugs while living free will be a lifelong task of continuing education. The suggestions made in this book should be considered only the beginning of such an education.

One of the most practical aspects of getting educated in the modern world is learning to understand and utilize the tools of the new electronic age. Acquire and learn how to use a personal computer if you have not already done so. No other single thing you can do will be more important in extending your education and your ability to covertly support the cause of freedom. With a computer and an Internet connection, you will have instant access to a vast database of knowledge and information that will make you a more effective invisible freedom fighter.

A computer allows you to do the following:

- Research laws, regulations, and hundreds of different databases on politicians, government, and both the enemies and friends of freedom
- Find news stories and background information on politicians and bureaucrats that are not covered in the government supremacist media
- Communicate by a phone connection with any other computer anywhere in the world using secure encryption
- Produce flyers, handouts, letters, and information sheets that can be distributed covertly
- Store encrypted personal data and information without fear of discovery by overreaching law enforcement agencies or other enemies
- Learn about the use of firearms, the construction of weapons, and the techniques of resistance

If you are still a computer novice, once you get on the Internet, learn to use the search engines like Yahoo, Excite, Lycos, Google, and Alta Vista. Then start searching for information on these different subjects:

- Encryption, PGP, computer security, TEMPEST Attack
- Liberty, libertarian, freedom, Constitution, Bill of Rights
- Second Amendment, free speech, property rights, gun control
- Militias, conspiracies
- Separation of state and school, home education, educational reform, school choice
- CIA, FBI, BATF, OSHA, FCC, and any other government agency that is threatening your freedom
- State and local government agencies
- The names of public enemies of freedom, including all politicians, leaders of special interest groups, journalists, and media figures

The Internet is a wonderful thing, but what government creates, government can destroy. Therefore, learn how to communicate

with computers by telephone without going through the Internet. Anyone who is doing anything he wants to keep secret should avoid the Internet and use direct computer-to-computer telephone connections along with the best encryption method available. After mastering encryption, learn how to protect your personal data and how to defeat electronic attacks on your equipment.

Step 3: Build Networks of Freedom

Search out and identify others who share your commitment to freedom and who understand how and why we lost the limited government that was supposed to be our best defense of freedom. Finding people who share this belief is not always easy. Like you, others have learned that the best way to maximize personal freedom is to avoid the attention of the government supremacists, especially those who hold enforcement power. But isolating us from each other is exactly what the enemies of freedom want to achieve.

To find others who share your views, start advertising yourself as a freedom advocate. The invisible resister of tyranny doesn't do this by parading in the street carrying protest signs, writing letters to elected representatives and newspapers, confronting politicians in public meetings, debating enemies of freedom in Internet chat groups, running for office as a third party candidate, joining a citizen militia movement, or engaging in such open acts of defiance and rebellion as refusing to use a Social Security card or work in a job where the employer collects withholding tax.

There are many freedom advocates who are doing such things, and I wish them all well. Likewise, I applaud anyone who chooses to follow their example. However, the only reason political leaders allow such highly visible rebels to continue to openly oppose big government is because they offer no serious threat to a system that is getting bigger and more powerful with every new law passed and every order given.

When the highly visible freedom advocates do succeed in

seriously threatening the power of the political establishment, they quickly learn the extreme measures that the enemy will take to keep the power it holds. When that happens, it will be the freedom advocates whom the tyrants don't know exist who will have to man the barricades in the fight for freedom.

Those who prefer the route of invisible resistance will have to find their potential allies one person at a time. The way to do this is to make it a point of letting everyone you meet in almost every social situation know where you stand on the issues of individual freedom. This is best done in one-on-one discussions or while engaging small groups of people in everyday social situations.

The purpose of this initial activity is not to convert others to the cause of freedom. What you want to do is find others who already believe in freedom and who don't like what our elected officials have done with the power inherent in today's big government.

To achieve this, do not go around demanding that people listen to your opinions. It is not even necessary to be the one who introduces politics into a conversation. Watch for opportunities and when the conversation turns to political elections, government programs, gun control, the war on drugs, welfare policies, the public school system, or any other subject concerned with freedom, state your position on the issue. Make it a short, simple statement, but put a bit of feeling into it.

Do not engage in long debates, and especially do not get drawn into confrontational arguments. Never advocate any illegal activity, make threats of violence, or brag about anything you might have done to frustrate big government. If given an opportunity, do offer a simple explanation for why you think supreme government must fail in the long run.

Doing this will not make you a lot of new friends. Indeed, you may find yourself being invited to fewer homes and social events. What is important is that sooner or later you will identify other people who share your views on freedom. As for the government supremacists you will encounter, even if one of

them calls you a dirty name, then turns around and walks off, you have at least forced him to confront the fact that everyone doesn't agree with the notion that big government is the answer to every human problem.

Identifying and Nurturing Contacts

You will soon learn to identify those who agree or at least sympathize with your positions. They will be the ones who voluntarily express their own disgust with big government or offer their opinions on why they think government doesn't work. They may bring up things like the atrocity at Waco or the bloated perks enjoyed by members of Congress and bureaucrats. Maybe they'll mention that they've read and enjoyed all the works of Ayn Rand or Claire Wolfe, or that they're a member of Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership, or that they've attended a Tyranny Response Team rally. It could be more subtle—nods of agreement, interjected words of support, or simply an obvious silent interest in what you have to say. These are the people you want to gravitate toward, feeling them out without alienating or pressuring them in any way.

When you make such a contact, get to know them better, and make them your new friends. Introduce them to the friends of freedom you already have, and meet their friends who also share a love of freedom. Look for ways to do things together that will enhance your and their enjoyment of life and freedom. Here are a few of the kinds of things you can do with friends who share such a love of freedom:

- Start a discussion or study group that meets regularly to study the issues of freedom.
- Organize an investment club or a self-help group for dealing with tax problems.
- Form a cooperative group of parents who home-school their children.
- Organize and run a private school.

- Cooperate in a nongovernment community crime control project.
- Draw up a barter association for such things as baby-sitting care, home repairs, or legal or other professional services.
- Put together a circular news list sharing experiences and information on ways to maximize personal freedom.
- Form a political action committee with a specific goal, preferably with an impact on the local community.
- Form a sports or recreation group to watch sports, hunt, shoot, fish, bowl, bird watch, play poker, or whatever else pleases those in the group.
- Set up an e-mail message service to draw attention to problems and opportunities where individual action can maximize individual freedom.

Don't make public announcements, openly advertise meetings, or tell anyone about the group who hasn't demonstrated a keen interest in freedom. Don't turn these kinds of activities into formalized organizations with elected or appointed leaders and officers. Don't collect dues or attempt to raise funds to be used by the group for "good causes." Anything the group does should be based on voluntary support of time and personal effort. These should be associations of friends, doing things together because each friend gets a worthwhile benefit from the effort they make.

Maybe it doesn't even have to be that organized. Maybe the only thing you'll want to do is get together once in a while to party or tell tall tales. It doesn't really matter what you do together. What is important is that you put together a net of people you can trust and who share the same love of individual freedom that you hold dear. Until you have had the experience, you can't imagine how nice it is to sit in a room full of people in which everyone agrees that our government has become the primary enemy of freedom in our lives.

Because this is a group of close friends who have learned over

the years to trust each other, you will eventually be able to discuss anything relating to freedom and what can be done about illegal and unconstitutional government. As time passes, the network will extend far beyond your own circle of friends to include friends of your friends and then their friends. You will not know everyone in such a net, but you will be able to trust each of them just as you trust your immediate circle.

These are relationships that cannot be built overnight. It takes years. It was networks like these that formed the many links that made up the Underground Railroad. This kind of network can play an even greater role in any future emergency should the political frauds continue down their road to tyranny.

While such groups of trusted friends can prove to be a powerful tool for frustrating tyranny, they are invisible to the eyes of political leaders, their enforcers, and their supporters. There are no leaders to identify, no ways to infiltrate the system, nor even a way to determine that they exist at all.

Step 4: Spread the Truth to Others

Once you as a freedom lover have taken the above steps, then you are ready to start dealing with those who are still indoctrinated with the myths of supreme government. That will include a majority of just about everyone else you know.

It is easy to understand why so many people believe that supreme government is the answer to all human problems. For more than 150 years, political leaders have been pushing the idea that only they have the answers to all of society's problems. Up until very recently, they were the only voices being heard. They still command our education systems and our media, but the tide is starting to turn back toward freedom-oriented solutions. We have to help that tide by spreading the truth in every way possible. We must always be ready to help others who don't share our love of freedom to better understand why we feel so strongly about the subject.

Most people have never been challenged to think about the myths of supreme government. They have never had a chance to listen to the arguments for freedom. Once they are out of the public school system, they go through life on full automatic, never questioning what the school indoctrination personnel taught them and what politicians keep telling them. The only way they will ever learn the truth is if someone they like and respect tells them about such things. Yet all too often we pass up opportunities to educate others. Too many freedom advocates talk only to each other about these issues.

While invisible resisters might not qualify as good citizens, they should be good neighbors, cooperative co-workers, and enjoyable social acquaintances, the kind of people who mind their own business, make a decent living, and go out of the way to help someone in trouble that's not of his or her own making.

When you start reaching out to friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers who believe the myths of supreme government, you will talk with a lot of people who won't agree with you. You don't want to make such people think you are a dangerous nut likely to start shooting up the neighborhood. Instead, you want them puzzled by what you appear to be: a good neighbor who has what they believe to be strange ideas but who does not threaten their safety in any way. The more financially successful, emotionally well-adjusted, good-natured, and just plain happy you are, the more impact you will have on those you try to educate.

We must not stand dumb while others praise elected political leaders, welfare programs, government regulation, or the public school system. Instead, every invisible resister should consider him or herself to be a covert propaganda machine dropping doubts into the vacant minds of those who have never really thought about what supreme government is doing to us all.

The best kind of covert freedom propaganda is a comment or two dropped into a conversation in ways that do not provoke a loud argument but instead encourage new thoughts. If possible, tailor your remarks to fit the concerns of the person or the small

group with whom you are talking. Even those who love big government get angry about some of the things elected officials and bureaucrats are doing to them. Whether it is someone complaining about the war on drugs, U.S. troops in foreign countries, waste in NASA, high taxes, tax breaks for the rich, welfare programs, the court system, oppressive government regulations on business, the probable collapse of the Social Security system before they start drawing payments, or the failure of the government-mandated health care system, you can start out by agreeing with their concerns and encouraging their complaints. Then add a comment or two explaining why such government programs must always fail.

Look for every opportunity to draw attention to the threat of violence that is behind every government law and action. I am constantly amazed at how many government supremacists totally ignore the fact that government is the legalized use of violence. Ask them why the government must use the threat of violence to collect taxes in order to solve the problems of the poor, farm families, the consumer, the drug addict, the gambler, or the failed investor, especially when all of the past programs, agencies, and funding have not worked to solve these ongoing problems.

If they don't believe you, allow them to "discover" the truth by simply asking them what they think would happen if they chose to withhold a portion of their taxes for something they vehemently disapproved of, be it welfare programs at home, military adventuring abroad, or whatever. Their answer can only be that armed government enforcement agents will eventually come to their door and forcefully extract the money from them, put them in prison for refusing to comply, or both. And if they resist in the face of this forceful collection of tax money? They will be shot. Anyone who disagrees with this conclusion is being intellectually dishonest or naive in the extreme.

People will want to argue with you when you point out the violent nature of big government. Don't fall into that trap. Smile and say something like, "I'm not trying to convince you that you are wrong, I'm just trying to let you know what I have concluded

ed about the situation. I am opposed to government solutions because I am opposed to the use of violence in every situation except self-defense.”

Assure such people that you do understand their point of view. Indeed, you may well have held that point of view once yourself. Explain that you hope they will also try to understand your point of view. Rather than argue, offer to lend them a book (the shorter and more to the point, the better—nobody wants to be burdened with some 500-page tome, no matter how riveting you may have found it), or direct them to sources of freedom information that can be found in the local library or on the Web. Suggest that you will be more than happy to continue the conversation once they have read such material. Better yet, send them one of the many great works of freedom as a gift.

Most of the people we meet in social situations have never had any reason to question what they learned during their indoctrination in government schools. Educate them on what is really happening, as far as they will allow themselves to be educated.

Play on their fears as well. Most supporters of gun control, limits on freedom of speech, or demands for national ID cards don't understand that the final result may be bloody revolution. Warn them about others who are already talking about armed insurgency, who are organizing into secret citizen militia groups, or who are drawing up plans for “leaderless resistance operations” if government goes too far. Talk as a person who is clearly concerned about a possible violent insurgency but who would never personally get involved in such activity.

Another good way to play on the fears of government supremacists is to encourage them to think about how new laws or powers will be wielded by each person's worst political nightmare. If, for example, they are conservative in their views and support more prisons, ask them what would happen if an ultraliberal like Hilary Clinton became attorney general and got to decide what types of citizens would fill those prison cells? If they are liberal and support government funding of the arts, ask them

what would happen if a conservative like Newt Gingrich became head of the National Endowment for the Arts and got to decide what kind of paintings would be approved and disapproved.

Along the same lines, if someone complains about a particular politician he dislikes, agree with him and say that it's a shame that we encourage the perpetuation of a government system that hands tremendous power over our lives to such nasty people as Senator X or President Y. If government weren't so big and powerful, these people wouldn't be such a menace, would they? With a little help from you, the person may recognize that placing such power in the hands of individual politicians can have unintended, unsavory, and even dangerous consequences.

One tip: tempting as it is, don't openly attack by name individual politicians who you happen to dislike. Most people are irrationally loyal to particular politicians or will provide knee-jerk defenses of the political party they favor. A better approach is to concentrate on the general potential for abuse inherent in big government and to get people to want to take this power away from politicians whom they dislike.

Do this, and the people you deal with socially will know where you stand, but they will have no reason to fear you because of your reputation as a good neighbor and because you never advocate violence in their presence. Indeed, it will be you who questions their commitment to the use of violence to solve social problems. There will be no reason to report you to the local police or a federal agency. As far as the enforcement agents of political leaders are concerned, you will still be an invisible citizen, just one more nameless cog in the machine of law-abiding citizens that generates the labor and wealth that actually props up big government.

All of this is the very essence of invisible resistance to tyranny. We must change the world view of those good citizens who keep voting for political frauds. This is a lot more difficult than making war. But if we really want a free society, we have to destroy the myths that have guided most Americans for so many years.

This Could Be All It Takes

If enough of us initiate the above steps, it could be all we will have to do to turn back the tide of mob tyranny. It will not happen quickly because we will be tearing down the wall of support for government supremacy one brick at a time. It will take years to achieve, even decades, but it can happen. Each person who discovers the meaning of freedom and what it can bring to individuals and to the country can reach two people, who then can reach two more, and those in turn can continue to build the chain. It will be a slow-building reaction at first, but eventually, with a continued doubling of the numbers, it will grow into a massive crowd of freedom lovers spread across the country and we will have an explosion of demand for change. It will no longer matter what politicians promise to get elected because no one will believe their lies.

If we start spreading freedom by person-to-person contact, once we have just 10 percent of the American citizenry convinced that freedom, not supreme government, is the way to build a good society, we will just be three steps from having a massive majority of Americans once again committed to the ideals of freedom. After 10 percent, the next step gives us 20 percent, the second step gives us 40 percent, and the third gives us a massive 80 percent. It may take a long time to reach the first 10 percent, but while we are working on it there are other things we can do to help the cause.

**ACTIVE
RESISTANCE
WITHIN
TODAY'S
SYSTEM**

Supreme government so permeates our lives that all of us are going to have to obey some laws that we don't like very much. The invisible resister decides for himself which laws he will comply with, which laws he will ignore, and which laws he will deliberately defy. He makes those choices in ways that best maximize his own freedom, survival, ability to make a living, and success in living the good life.

One person might choose to never apply for a Social Security card or to burn the one he has, to make a living in the underground economy, and to pay no income tax of any kind. But such a person will probably not own real estate in his own name, open a bank account, or play the stock market. He will also find serious limitations on where he can find work or what professions he can practice.

On the other hand, it makes no sense for a talented medical professional to attempt to practice in the underground economy

when he can make much more, even after paying taxes, by working in the regular economy and complying with the many laws regulating the medical profession. Such a professional might comply with the legal requirements but also work off the books treating illegal aliens, Canadians coming south for medical treatment, or anyone not covered by medical insurance, Medicare, or welfare assistance.

Smart invisible resisters decide the issue for themselves based on the potential total take-home pay and general improvement in lifestyle, not which route requires the least compliance with unjust laws. Invisible resisters to tyranny should live well in the world that exists today while working to build a better world for tomorrow.

Look at the issue of driver's licenses as an example of the choices we must make and how we can approach a decision logically. It is possible to drive a car for years in the United States without a license or insurance. Indeed, tens of thousands of people across the country do drive uninsured cars with suspended or expired licenses or no license at all. The smarter ones avoid any contact with law officers by meticulously obeying all traffic regulations. Those who do not can expect continued police harassment in the form of traffic stops, followed by arrest, lots of time and money wasted in court, and eventually some jail time.

On the other hand, the driver with a legal license, a valid insurance policy, and no outstanding warrants can speed and break traffic laws with little fear of a serious confrontation during a traffic stop. Such a stop is a minor annoyance and results in a short delay in travel plans, even though the driver will have to pay fines and higher insurance costs as a result of any traffic ticket. He also runs a higher risk of a serious traffic accident.

A third person will get a driver's license, buy insurance, and drive carefully while obeying all applicable traffic laws. Such a person may drive his whole life without ever experiencing a traffic stop. He can, therefore, carry wanted fugitives, loaded weapons, large amounts of cash, and even recreational drugs in the vehicle with little fear of confrontation with a police officer.

Again, the most effective participants in invisible resistance are those who have the documentation that good citizens are expected to have and who appear to be honest, law-abiding citizens to any government agent who looks them over.

Demand Your Rights

Because political leaders in the United States still claim that they are governing a free country, they must pretend that they respect the Constitution and all the rights that document guarantees. The right to free speech, habeas corpus, trial by jury, immunity from testifying against oneself, safety from search and seizure without a warrant, and legal counsel are still honored, provided that the citizen demands such rights. Invisible resisters will make every effort to avoid a direct confrontation with enforcement officers, but when confrontation does happen, they will do exactly what every citizen ought to do—demand and exercise their constitutional rights.

Every resister to tyranny must insist at every opportunity on exercising all rights that government officials, their judges, and their law enforcement officers still recognize and respect. They must do it politely but firmly. Law enforcement officers make a major effort to encourage those they hassle to voluntarily surrender their constitutional rights in every confrontation. They don't act politely when they do so. They demand and bully with implied threats and outright lies. They even falsely claim that the law requires that you provide such information.

When such a confrontation happens, if you have legal identification, a legitimate address, a telephone number, an occupation or some other form of legitimate income, and no criminal record or outstanding warrants, you are in the best possible situation to demand your rights. Don't give the enforcement officer any of that information unless he can cite a specific law that requires you to do so in the specific circumstances covering the confrontation.

Ask the cop for his identification. Get his name, badge num-

ber, rank, and the police agency he claims to represent. If he refuses to provide such information, you are standing on even more solid ground in refusing to say anything more than "I want to go now."

Once you have that information, then let the officer ask his questions. Answer every question by claiming your right to not provide that information under the terms of the Fifth Amendment. The more innocent you are, the firmer you want to be in demanding that right. Never volunteer any information to any government official under any circumstances. If the confrontation takes place anywhere outside of a car, don't even tell him your name or produce any identification. Don't tell any lies either. Instead, don't say anything at all. If you must say something, ask *them* questions:

- "Am I charged with a crime?"
- "Am I under arrest?"
- "Am I free to go?"
- "Can I call my lawyer right now?"
- "Can you tell me the section of law that applies in this case?"

That last question may be the stumper for the cop. Many enforcement officers don't know the law that well. Often they will insist you are breaking laws that don't exist.

The police office won't like your refusal to cooperate, but his only choice will be to let you go your way or to arrest you and risk a false arrest suit. Whatever he does, the more he investigates you, the less reason he will find to continue the investigation and the sillier he will look for having taken on the task.

It is even more important to refuse to answer any question if there is something to hide. It is unbelievable how many people put themselves in jail with their mouths. Even with the Miranda warnings and all the other protections against self-incrimination, most of the people in jails are there because they talked too much.

If government officials show up at your door, don't let them

in unless they show you a warrant. If they do show you a warrant, insist on reading it before giving them your permission to enter.

If they threaten to use force or begin to use it, do not resist, ever. But do keep saying you do not want them to enter your house, open your bag, search your car, or ask you any more questions.

Make notes and write up a detailed memo as soon as possible after you experience such a confrontation. If possible, record the confrontation with a tape recorder or a video camera. If one of your neighbors is part of your network of freedom-loving friends, arrange to have him do the recording surreptitiously so that the cops are less guarded in what they say and do.

Never tell them anything about your personal life, who your friends are, where you work, or who you know or don't know. Even if you are accused of a crime and are totally innocent, do not answer any questions or cooperate in any way. Police investigators frequently decide who the guilty party is before they have collected any evidence. Once they make that guess, they will only look for evidence that supports their jump to a conclusion. They will twist even the most innocent bit of information in ways that support their preconceived judgment.

Almost all criminals are convicted because they give the police information they don't have to give, or they tell lies that can be easily proven false. The sad fact is that most innocent people who have been falsely convicted made the same mistake. Information they gave a police officer thinking it would clear their name ended up as part of a twisted tale of lies and a conspiracy created by police and prosecutors.

Don't tell a policeman anything until after you have talked to a lawyer, preferably one who is part of your personal network of freedom advocates. Then let him handle all contact with the police.

This all sounds pretty simple, but it is unbelievable how many people in a jam don't follow this advice. The clever cop, the devious IRS agent, and the successful detective have a device that works damn near every time. They will ask their victim a ques-

