

National Security & Foreign Policy

Whether the U.S. decides to withdraw from its historically active foreign policy stance or continues with a slightly more restrained promotion of freedoms and democratic principles across the globe, we will continue to be a target of aggression due to our inherent position as the world's leading economic and military superpower. We will also carry on in the foreseeable future as the prime target of Islamist threats and attacks due to the Judeo-Christian background and current make-up of American society.

The ability of the United States to proactively and reactively protect and defend her vital interests provides the umbrella of security that protects and deflects threats necessary for the effective and efficient machinations of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The maintenance of the best trained, best equipped, most versatile and highly disciplined armed forces on the planet, working in tandem with an unparalleled Intelligence Community are priorities of the highest order.

It is during times of perceived weakness that nations are most vulnerable. Now is not the time to tear at the fabric of protection we currently enjoy. We must continually strengthen, reshape, and update the American National Security apparatus to meet today's challenges as well as the challenges and threats that lie ahead and our Foreign Policy objectives should bolster our National Security objectives.

The United States must remain a formidable military force for the foreseeable future while substantially drawing-down our military actions abroad unless directly threatened. Lined in the Constitution is the greatest task assigned to OUR federal government...protect its citizenry. Not the citizenry of other lands nor the assets of other lands. The over-reach of US foreign policy has had countless intended and unintended consequences. While I am a believer in the theory of Democratic-Peace, we can no longer FORCE the ideals of democracy abroad (nor do I believe we have to at this point in time). Sanctions, especially unilateral, have a long history of failure with virtually no history of success. I am a proponent of pre-emption as long as the security of Americans is at risk...we should never have to ask for approval to protect OURselves. I feel as if military force should only be used, as was intended, with the consent of Congress and that WAR must be declared. With that being said...OUR current actions in Afghanistan and Iraq are constitutionally called into question.

Foreign Policy must be redesigned for America by Americans with constitutional intent and purpose as its foundation. America must engage the world through its foreign policy...we should never dictate to the world by asking what we ourselves would not accept.

Now...with that being said, I must say that currently a comprehensive Foreign Policy agenda or plan does not exist with this current administration. Other than an appeasement and apology approach, the current foreign policy apparatus is lost and is

literally flying by the seat of its pants with hopes that a serious international crisis does not erupt (witness the Afghan surge debacle and the indecisiveness witnessed by the world). In short, US foreign policy is in shambles with a complete lack of direction and leadership.

Economic Security

Outrageous deficit spending coupled with extremely lopsided balance of trade ratios has placed our current economic situation on an unsustainable path that is becoming more difficult to reverse with each passing day. Every man, woman, and child in the United States is now responsible for over \$37,000.00 each of national debt. Our children and grand-children are being born with a debt that we have created yet they will have to pay for. The current central planning form of American government has implemented policies that, not only do they not mesh with American character, culture, and history, they are actually harming our economic present and future. United States debt being held by foreign nations places serious constraints on American abilities to influence events and issues in a manner that benefits American interests. It is essential that Americans control America's destiny. To solidify this belief will require a sustained and very difficult effort here at home to bring spending under control while expanding our economy based on the tried-and true principles of free market *laissez-faire* capitalism. The time of increasing taxes to pay for government shortcomings due to out of control expansion and entitlements must end.

Far greater and impressive minds, throughout history and across the globe, than those we currently have in Washington have attempted the Socialist policies now being implemented. History tells us to expect only two outcome possibilities: 1) a system that is either wholly inadequate or, 2) a system destined to be an abject failure.

Energy Security

The United States now imports more than double the amount of foreign oil than it produces. Roughly half of American energy consumption comes from petroleum with almost forty percent being derived from natural gas and coal and the remainder being renewable sources, such as solar and wind power, and nuclear energy. A simple exercise in common sense dictates that serious efforts need to be undertaken to increase

domestic oil production and refining capacity while implementing a long-term domestic nuclear, clean-burning coal, natural gas and renewable energy policy with emphasis on understanding and discerning proper Bio-fuel emphasis.

Breaking down the current barriers to domestic oil exploration, production, and refining capacity is an immediate necessity. In conjunction with this domestic petroleum output program, the U.S. **must** pursue the most cost effective and efficient method of electrical energy production current technology provides...Nuclear power.

An energy dependent America is a vulnerable America and energy security is an Achilles Heel. Just like economic security, we are now beholden and subject to the whims of others in order for our great nation to flourish and prosper. Developing and implementing a viable, multi-layered, long-term approach to securing the energy requirements of America is a first-class priority.

Domestic Security

I believe the cornerstone of homeland security is the development and implementation of a real and sustained policy which ensures the borders, ports, and all points of entry into the United States are 100% monitored and secure. Nothing of any real consequence can be achieved until these items are realized. Anything short of this will constitute a failure of government to take seriously the importance of protecting Americans in the homeland. I place the issue of illegal immigration in this context. Illegal immigration is exactly what the term denotes: It is illegal and all laws pertaining to its enforcement must be adhered unless the voice of the people says otherwise.

I do not interpret Domestic Security as the legalization of domestic surveillance of American citizens. On the contrary, Domestic Security should include the mechanisms required to secure OUR right to privacy and the freedom to interact without fear of further government intrusions.

Social Security

In its present state, the Social Security trust fund will be disbursing more than it receives in just seven years and will be depleted in 28 years. The reasons are as varied as they are numerous. There is no easy solution and it will require sacrifice by those of us who now pay or will begin paying into the system very shortly. Those who are nearing retirement and are in retirement should not have to pay that price. The first step necessary for making S.S. a viable system once again will be to ultimately place it in the hands of the individuals it was, and is, intended to assist.

Given the history of government failures relative to the safe, responsible, and efficient use of OUR money, we can no longer trust government to do what it says. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid have been expanded beyond sustaining levels with the So-Called "Trust Fund" being plundered almost from inception. Was this the choice of We, the people? I do not believe so. Only through the systematic devolution of this expansion process can we achieve a true system of Social Security in the hands of, and at the discretion of, American citizens.

Government Reform

(Adherence to the Constitution)

The scope and size of the United States federal government is the result of a perverted evolution, complete with all the evil mutations that present themselves to us today as "socialist" policy. The extent of government intrusion into the private lives of American citizens and its quest for centralized planning of the American economic machine is an absolute contradiction of American traditions, values and principles which include the belief that man has the God given right and ability to determine his own destiny.

Sincere attempts at Government reform must have, at its foundation, the will and voice of the citizens. It is NOT theory that American government derives its enumerated powers as a result of the notion of government of the people, by the people and for the people: It is Fact! It is also true that the current make-up of American governance is no longer attentive to the will of the people, nor does it show any inclination to be so, and prefers to dictate to We, the people, rather than properly inform us and heed our wishes based on truth and transparency and should be translated by us to mean that Government Reform is both required and is to be necessarily far reaching. Strong willed, non-career, servants of the people are the best suited to carry out such a task. The call of country and fellow citizen must be the principle focus rather than personal gains of power, influence and/or wealth.

Religion

"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, which among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." No serious discourse regarding the above statement in Our Declaration of Independence can argue that the word "Creator" does not translate to "God".

Likewise, any argument attempting to cast doubt on the notion that Judeo-Christian principles undergird American shared beliefs, which in turn contribute to our established cultural norms, is an act of intellectual deceit. By that, I mean that those on the far-left of the political spectrum view OUR Judeo-Christian background and present composition as a threatening system of beliefs to their acquisition and maintenance of power.

<http://godinthetemplesofgovernment.com>

Education

The No Child Left Behind Act must be put on the road, to itself be left behind; left behind as a lesson that federal government intrusion into K-12 education is not the cure for the educational deficiencies facing our public school systems. While there does exist within NCLB the three fundamental ideals required for improving educational efficiency and ability, that of standards, assessments, and transparency, this foundation must begin at the local level and end at the state level. Federal intervention will only hinder real and lasting progress.

An objective look at recent history tells us that throwing more and more money at a nationalized education system does not translate into a better education for OUR nations children. The decisions pertaining to education should be made by those closest to the situation at hand; from State Education Boards down to parental input.

Abortion

Just over fifteen years ago, as my wife and I sat in a Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit with our oldest son Collin as a patient, my views relative to my Pro-Life convictions were forever solidified. The most innocent and unprotected of human souls were surviving and eventually thriving where just years before they had no chance to do so. Roughly seven years later we were doing it again with our youngest son. Conception is the beginning of life, to terminate a human life without a voice is morally reprehensible.

Taxes

The tax burden being placed on American citizens, by OUR federal government, is placing severe downward pressures on our economy at almost every level. From depriving Americans of their lawfully gained property that, in turn, diminishes total

available income to families and individuals; to the current corporate rate of taxation that places constraints on our global economic competitiveness abroad and at home.

Small businesses, the backbone of American enterprise, are placed under severe strain and must react with cost-cutting measures that usually include downsizing. Increased taxes has never, in the history of the world, created a stronger and more vibrant economy nor supported ingenuity or the improvement of quality of life for all - it is naive to believe that 'maybe this time' it will work.

The current progressive tax system adheres more to the philosophy of "From each according to his ability; to each according to his need." This is not the American character and is why I am an ardent supporter of Fair Tax. The Fair Tax system, with its accompanying prebate program, is the most efficient, equitable, and free-market promoting system of taxation that has been proposed to date with the added bonus of decreasing the scope and reach of federal government.

Second Amendment

The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution states plainly: "*A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.*" It is this Amendment that provides American citizens with many tools, not the least of which is the right of the first law of nature; self-defense. Another tool, and arguably the most important, is our RIGHT and ability as citizens to resist tyranny.

OUR Founders undoubtedly recognized the utility of the Second Amendment as an integral piece of the just and proper tools necessary for a free people to maintain a free nation. As an avid hunter, shooter, gun collector, and self-defense advocate I cringe at each and every attempt by any government entity to infringe on any of my constitutionally guaranteed rights...The Second Amendment attacks hit a particularly raw nerve. It is due to our RIGHT to keep and bear arms that all other rights can be guaranteed.