

Preface - A Brief History of Elites & Their People

“The search for beginnings, no matter how far pressed, usually serves only to open more distant vistas of earlier developments.”

~~Alpheus Thomas Mason & Gordon F. Baker

Free Governments in the Making

There have been hundreds of books written by distinguished historians and economists who have attempted to explain the Rise and Fall of nations. Virtually all those books suggest that there is a cyclical pattern, beginning with an upward Rise, then a mature stage, followed by a Decline. However, none of those books have explained what causes the Rise, why they Fail, nor why some nations have fared better than others. The cause for such widely different outcomes seems to remain a mystery, but the bigger mystery is why haven't the experts come up with an explanation for what makes a nation Rise or what causes them to Decline?

Many writers have attributed a country's success to its geography, citing the importance of such features as climate, arable soil, navigable rivers, and natural resources. More recent explanations have attributed success to the social and political “conditions” of the time, or even to guns and germs, or to an “environment” that happened to be conducive to success. However, those factors are all inanimate and incapable of action. Only people can build shelters, boats, skyscrapers, and spaceships. Only people can establish a civil environment with laws, institutions, and rules that help them enjoy beneficial communities. Knowing all that, perhaps we should credit people for our historic innovations. Certainly, guns, environments, and arable soil can't do anything.

Searching for a correct and comprehensive answer will take us back more than 5000 years, to the time when our ancestors first settled into large communities. Prior to that time, humans lived as hunter-gatherers, living freely in small groups, with no reason to organize beyond kinship settlements. However, the Agricultural Revolution changed everything. New farm-based communities required administrators to record and manage the storage and distribution of all the expanded production.

The beginnings of the Agricultural Revolution occurred during or right after the Gobekli Tepi (AKA Gobelki) civilization which has been recently located and unearthed in South-eastern Turkey. That civilization was populated by hunter-gatherers about 12,000 years ago and featured some of the earliest stone temples. Its megalithic rock structures were built several millennia before the 4,500-year-old pyramids in Egypt, the 5,000-year-old Stonehenge formations in England, and the 7,000-year-old Nabta Playa society. The people of Nabta Playa, located in Africa, about 700 miles south of the great Egyptian pyramids, are thought to have built the Earth's oldest astronomical observatory. It was in these earliest settled communities where people initiated the domestication of animals and the large-scale farming that fed a rapidly expanding human population.

Ever since that time, a working class of people have toiled under the supervision of their leaders, with widely varying results. Simon Sinek, an expert on leadership and corporate management, writes, “The best organizations foster trust and cooperation because their leaders build what Sinek calls a Circle of Safety (which) leads to stable, adaptive, confident teams, where everyone feels they belong, and all energies are devoted to ...advance their leader's vision and their

organization's interests. It's amazing how well it works... Other teams, no matter what incentives were offered, were doomed to infighting, fragmentation, and failure.”[i]

The key point is that we have needed elites but should only put up with them if they help provide us with a safe and empowering community. It is simply a bargain: tit for tat! As Sinek puts it, “There is an anthropological obligation of an alpha to protect the tribe, and in return people repaid that protection with an intense loyalty... to this day we are perfectly comfortable with the alphas...getting certain advantages. (However) the advantages of leadership do not come free... We wouldn't give them all those perks for nothing. That wouldn't be fair.”[ii]

Unfortunately, human nature being what it is, most leaders forget their obligations and become tyrants. The problem with such leaders was illustrated long ago by Aesop, a slave living in Greece about 2600 years ago. Among the hundreds of morality tales attributed to him was the fable entitled “Lion and Wild Ass, Partners in the Hunt.”

Aesop's tale tells how a lion goes hunting with a few other animals. They all work together and are rewarded with a delicious dinner. But when they go to share the feast, the lion stops them and roars that he wants most of the spoils, and worse, he makes clear that his “partners” must wait until he has eaten his fill. The other animals, fearing the lion's wrath, meekly accept the few scraps that the lion leaves them.

That fable eventually gave birth to the expression, “the lion's share,” and may have inspired the Roman lawyer, C. Cassius Longinus, around 30AD, who coined the phrase: “societas leonina” when referring to a situation where the entire profits went to some people to the exclusion of the rest.[iii]

Like all fables, this one serves as a warning to us all. And its ancient origin tells us that nothing changes with human behavior and that greedy elites have plagued all the people on earth since time began! They always want to eat first and get more!

The problem with lions, and our elites, is that they are not team players. They do not want to compete on a level playing field against their fellow men and women. They get to believe that they are above the common people, that they possess special qualities that should give them a superior status. The danger they present to the common people is that they forget the bargain made. Instead, their assumed superiority justifies in their minds the right to flout the rules, to lie and cheat, to do anything, to maintain their “rightful” place on top—just like the lion, and that definitely leaves little for everyone else!

In most nations today, the elites remain focused on enriching themselves and dividing their subjects into antagonistic groupings. Instead of maintaining a “Circle of Safety,” where the population is cooperative and unified, the elites do the opposite: By dividing their people, and stirring resentments, they can maintain their position at the top. The elites don't even participate in the hunt anymore; they send the peons out to produce the bounty and just wait for them to turn most of it over to them! And they are winning: In most countries today, the

people are divided and fighting each other when what they should be doing is working together to fight the elites.

The only significant disagreement between the many oppressed groups is how to make the country serve all the people. Imagine what those groups could do if united and in agreement over the path forward. In this book's final chapters, the possibility of uniting all those abused members is outlined. The reality is that they are all being denied their fair share of the nation's bounty.

In brief, oppression by an elite has always been a problem for all the people in all the countries on earth. Something has to be done because too many people have been excluded, taxed, silenced, and regulated. It is the author's hope that these lessons from history's past struggles can guide all people on this abundant globe today because nothing has changed—it is simply a continuing war between elites and their people. And we need a clear and simple path forward.

This book is divided into four sections each containing four chapters:

Part I - A brief historical look at how we got here, how the elites have always ruled, usually for the worse, and how the people of a few "start-up" nations managed to build successful democracies without them. The fourth chapter reveals why the academics have failed to explain the Rise and Fall of Nations. (3000 BC to 1000 AD)

Part II - Explains the accelerating advance in technology that created modern industrial states, why they developed in only a few places, and how oppressive elites prevented freedom and progress throughout most of the world. (1000 AD to 1750 AD)

Part III - Here we examine how elites have made the simple mechanics of government and the economics of the marketplace into complicated theoretical questions: To justify their role at the top they have hidden the truth that ordinary people, relying on their innate skills and common sense, have been the builders of great nations. (1750 AD to 2020 AD)

Part IV - This part looks to the future, the dangerous growth of "globalist" elites, what to do about the United Nations, and how to gain control over our domestic affairs, curtail foreign meddling, and unite all oppressed citizens. There is much to be done if we want our governments to work for ALL the people. Voting for leaders who will happily distribute crumbs to their supporters is not a real solution. The closing pages outline possible alternatives if we fail to take our countries back! (2020 to 2050)

Part I -- Why Elites Hate Governments of the People, by the People, and for the People (2000BC-1000AD)

Chapter 1- The Rise and Fall of Nations—A Mystery Solved!

"The ultimate tragedy is not the oppression and cruelty of the bad people but the silence over that by the good people." Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Garden of Eden, which offered everything peaceful and bountiful for human existence, must have been a rather uneventful place before people arrived. Then, Adam and Eve, or whoever were the earliest Homo sapiens, made their appearance. Suddenly things began to pop! They built shelters, ate the low-hanging fruit, and had children, good ones and bad ones, and that's how it all began.

Prior to those first modern humans, the world's rich and arable soil, its navigable rivers, the pleasant climate, the healthy forests, and the water teeming with fish, had all lain fallow with nothing happening. If a tree fell, the silence was unbroken, for there was no one present to hear it crashing to the ground.

Archaic humans, such as Neanderthals and Homo Erectus, had lived all over the world in such surroundings for two million years "with no more impact on their environment than gorillas, fireflies or jellyfish." [iv] But then we arrived, modern men and women and everything changed. Our ancestors formed communities, built boats, traveled the world, devised machinery, split the atom, and now we are traveling in space. All in the last 10,000 years. The archaic humans had lived here a hundred times as long and done little to nothing! And all the favorable climate and geography that the Neanderthals lived in didn't accomplish anything either.

We were blessed with large and complex brains that allowed both reasoning and abstract thinking buttressed by a power for speech to communicate the resulting thoughts. The earth had never seen such competent beings before that time—new advanced beings that had the ability to totally transform their environment and reshape it into a comfortable, safe, and abundant world for their families to live in. And we did just that!

It should be self-evident that people, modern human beings just like us, built the modern world. Certainly, rivers didn't do it, nor the arable soil. The cause of all progress had to be 100 percent human action. What else could have caused the trees to be cut down, converted to lumber, and assembled into shelters and boats?

Thus, by the simple process of elimination we can solve the mystery of what determined the Rise of successful nations. There is nothing else on earth other than people that could have done it!

The more interesting mystery is why has there been so much variation around the world in the progress achieved? There are still people living in Stone Age cultures, with little or no understanding of reading and writing, arithmetic, or chemistry. And at least a billion people live in the direst poverty with little access to transportation, schooling, or modern medicine. How can that be and why haven't the experts properly explained why so many have been left so far behind?

We know from the recent and sudden success of nations all over the globe that all people have comparable abilities and potential. Colin Renfrew has confirmed that the varied histories of the world's people "cannot be explained by any inherent or emerging genetic changes... Modern molecular genetics suggests that, apart from the normal distribution range present in all populations, in matters such as IQ, all humans are equal." [v]

As further proof, it is clear that the people of such different locales as Singapore, Japan, the Arab Emirates, Ghana, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Chile, have all been equally adept at pursuing both the technology and the economic systems that were pioneered by Europeans. So why haven't the experts explained what held some nations back and why some others advanced so far?

Incredibly, expert historians and economists haven't even agreed that it was people that created the progress that most of us currently enjoy! In spite of their extraordinary schooling, superior academic performance, layers of advanced degrees, and years of study, they are still debating whether the development and progress of modern communities was caused by navigable rivers, or possibly guns and germs, or even by such inanimate things as forests and mineral deposits. What is wrong with them? Common sense should make it clear to everyone that rivers and mineral deposits can't do anything.

The origins: the human diaspora

In order to make sense of where we currently find ourselves and our nation, it may help to understand how we got here. History is a great teacher because just about everything that's ever happened in the social sciences has been recorded and examined since the first large communities appeared 5,000 years ago. All those communities were populated by people just like us. The best way to learn from that history is to simply study those past times and learn from all those past generations. They all had the same needs and wants as us and faced the same kinds of problems that we do.....