

**THE NEXT PARADIGM**  
**Common Sense for This Generation**  
**(WORDS AND MUSIC)**

A Book with a Companion Musical CD

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*“So I ask you, can we do better? The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate for the challenges of the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise to the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew.”*

Abraham Lincoln, 1862  
Second State of the Union Address

*“My motive and object in all my political works, beginning with **Common Sense**, the first work I ever published, have been to rescue man from tyranny and false systems and false principles of government, and enable him to be free.”*

Thomas Paine, 1806

*“Common Sense is not so common.”*

Voltaire, 1778

## FOREWORD

*“When a conviction is cherished, it is not guarded religiously like a family’s jewel, [...] it is exposed to the air and to the sun, it is left within free reach of all intelligent beings. Humanity does not consist in secretly possessing its mental riches, but in freeing them from the mind, dressing them with the wings of language so that they fly around the world to penetrate the minds of others. If all the philosophers had theorized in silence, humanity would not have left its childhood and societies would continue crawling in the limbo of superstitions.”*

*“Let’s be honest, even if the truth disturbs an entire nation.”*

Manuel González Prada

This book and companion musical CD is presented as a combination work in an act of hope, that together it more completely expresses the issues, ideas, history, solutions, and emotions facing our world today. Collectively, this work aspires to a society that does not yet exist, but can be created. The ending of each segment leads into the lyrics and historical notes of corresponding songs, with the ambition of jumping into a musical experience that more fully embodies the concepts addressed. These corresponding songs, which were originally released in the 60’s & 70’s, have now been re-recorded and are presented as new renditions by a collection of modern artists. Reading and listening in whatever combination is most natural to you provides the key to unlocking the potential for a deeper, more profound experience.

It is believed this book, the very paper it is printed upon, and the sounds of the CD, can be infused with honor, integrity, hopes, and dreams, and that through the sharing of these materials a friendship, a partnership, between us, as reader, listener, writer, songwriter, and musician can be established. For ultimately, this package of materials only takes us half-way to our potential, makes up but one-half a work, in that the other half is manifest through the power of your interaction with the words and music, through the thoughts and ideas you create as a result of your reading, listening, thinking, and contemplating. Only then does this work, in collaboration with you, in an act of giving, become the whole where true magic happens.

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*“These are the times which try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country, but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.”*

Thomas Paine, 1776

*“When you invite people to think, you are inviting revolution.”*

Ivana Gabara

*“...all freethinkers, if they do not want to be shown as illogical, must declare themselves revolutionaries [...] penetrating deeply into man’s free thought defending the total emancipation of the individual.*

Manuel González Prada

## PREFACE: To the Millennial Generation

Yes, these are the times which try men’s souls, but friends let us not be discouraged. There is hope on the horizon, and with your ignited realization change will come. The moment has arrived for you, the young men and women of our world, to go to your teachers and mentors, sit across the table from them, look them in the eye and tell them, respectfully, that there are aspects of our society that are screwed-up, make no sense, and need to be fixed. Changes need to be made.

The vision of the young is always clear, while the vision of the old is often clouded by the bias of having become a part of the very establishment, the existing paradigm, which requires change. You, the next generation should be wondering out loud - why are we not asking the big questions. In a society as smart as ours, why have we not by now invented our way beyond dependence on oil? Why do we have such an unfair tax system? Why can't our society be more successfully pluralistic? Why does our political structure allow for only two political parties? Why isn't there a more dynamic strategy to improve the plight of the 4 billion poor in our world? Why are our prisons growing and our schools crumbling? Why are we not, as a government, taking the big steps? Do not these failures trigger alarm bells in minds everywhere, and just as the innocent child cried out in Andersen's tale, is it not time for someone to securely shout out "The Emperor Has No Clothes"?

We look at the polarization of East and West, of Left and Right, of Liberal and Conservative, Secular and Religious, and do not perceive real solutions to our systemic problems. Isn't it time to collectively work from a dynamic central edge, drawing from all sides of the debate, and take bold, radical steps, to fix the cracks in our societal foundation? For if we don't, your children will be faced with the daunting task of rebuilding a world that has imploded because we chose to selfishly ignore the signs of a deteriorating culture. Listen for the echo of Ancient Rome's warning, "Those that the Gods destroy, first they make prideful."

In 1776 Thomas Paine published the work *Common Sense* and the first volume of *The Crisis*, with its famous line, "These are the times which try men's souls." He outlined to the American people the false premises of the British Monarchy and the

entitled posts in the House of Lords, and why it was necessary to rebel against that regressive government and cast out the tyranny of Great Britain. The logic attacking the system's failures presented then is a guide to the false premises of today, and offers us a template to address our world, the people of our world, and how we should modify the government of our world. This is not to suggest throwing out the American government, but rather to change it, for the wisdom of Paine and the Founding Fathers upon casting out the British, was to put in place a government that allows for adaptation, so the collective will of the people can be implemented. Now we must institute these needed changes and set the stage for the future of America and the international community. What Paine wisely said in 1776, is still true, "the cause of America is in great measure the cause of all mankind." To secure this cause the real tool rests in re-empowering a dynamic local democracy, in vesting the greatest government authority in the town council, and then with the pressure from a voting block of a proactive local voice, institute change. Simply stated, if everyone in their 20's became engaged in their local community and voted, they would pick our leaders. They would direct change. Change which must occur before this generation slips quietly into the establishment, where once this happens the opportunity to correct our course becomes lost.

In some ways we are asking, what would Thomas Paine think about today's world, what questions would he raise, and what solutions would he offer. What follows in these chapters is a brief description of the bold and radical steps we think Paine, or any unbiased perspective, would suggest be taken to secure society's future. In looking at these solutions, and how to implement them, our gaze is turned to those who were born between 1975 and 1990, comprising the 18 to 29 year old voting block; you are the

millennial generation. This generation, which follows in the wake of Gen X & Y, is said to be the next great generation. It is predicted that this generation will be radical by cleaning up the behavior of our society, not destroying or ignoring it. They will rebel by being courteous and serving with honor, dignity, purpose, and duty to civilization, not by being disingenuous or cynical. To this generation the challenge is to analyze these concepts, to criticize with a fresh eye, unhindered by the myopia of entrenched philosophical positions, and to always question from the perspective of how, “In an ideal world”, should society and its system of government work. Then and only then can we begin to put into place the geo-political mechanisms, the necessary evils of government, required to effectuate and manifest the needed changes. Ultimately these are dynamic ideas which can be adopted by both sides of the political isle; but more importantly what these concepts need are people, like you, to attach yourself to them, for they will only come to life when you become change.

Nothing more is offered than simple facts, plain arguments, and common sense. And if you hear or think that these ideas are naive, ask yourself, ‘why?’. Because they are unrealistic, too simplistic for a complex world, too unlikely? Don’t buy into this false logic; these ideas are unlikely only if people choose to make them unlikely. All that is asked is that you divest yourself of prejudice and prepossession, and be open to a generous enlargement of your views, beyond the paradigm in which you are currently bound.

Moreover, it is important to read this book and think about these ideas with a conscious mind, with a conscious intention to manifest that in which you believe. For as you think about these issues your thoughts will become a reality, and if you contemplate

these remedies they will ultimately be produced in our world. In an exercise to further advance this notion and mobilize your energy and efforts, the companion CD is attached, filled with music written by another generation that compelled change, sung by the artists of today, with the songs corresponding to the chapters in this book.

The last proactive generation came of age in the 60's, but the decades since have reshaped their textures. Once they were hippies, now they are suits; once they flashed Peace Signs, now they flash Blackberries; once they drove Beatles, now they drive Beamers; once they wore logos of love, and now they wear the logos of Louie Vuitton. The beat generation has become woven into the fabric of the establishment and is no longer capable of producing the wholesale shift required. Forty years ago they shouted out for change, they protested for progress, but what they started is still only an inchoate movement, and it needs help, help it has not received from X or Y. Realizing that the entrenched resist movement, and to create such movement takes inertia and time; we ask who will do the heavy lifting. Recognize that a hard rain is falling, the hour is getting late. As my grandfather would say, "tempus fugit memento mori" (time flies remember death). Though the inexorable tide of time has engulfed the generation of the 60's, the music of their movement remains, with words and rhythms that spoke so clearly to the mindset then, they are equally, if not more so, poignant and inspirational today. Leveraging the passion of this past generation, twenty-two songs from that era have been re-recorded by some of today's young artists, giving these songs a fresh and unique voice and style, embodying a new call to action, with a new depth and breadth.

The aspiration here is to prod you, the active participant, in this dynamic exchange, first with this text, and then with the added tool of hearing and voicing

in song, these ideas, so as to further nudge the subtle nature of our sentient integral beings toward manifesting positive change. As these thoughts and music have a physical vibration, a vibe, it is this vibe which will assist us all in producing these concepts as a reality in our world. When you read this work, play the CD, feel the complete experience, sing along, bring to life that in which you aspire and believe, for as a wise man once said, nothing happens unless first a dream.

## **Revolution**

By: The Beatles, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

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You say you want a revolution  
Well you know  
We all want to change the world  
You tell me that it's evolution  
Well you know  
We all want to change the world  
But when you talk about destruction  
Don't you know that you can count me out  
Don't you know it's gonna be alright  
Alright Alright

You say you got a real solution  
Well you know  
We'd all love to see the plan  
You ask me for a contribution  
Well you know  
We're all doing what we can  
But when you want money for people with minds that hate  
All I can tell you is brother you have to wait  
Don't you know it's gonna be alright  
Alright Alright

You say you'll change the constitution  
Well you know  
We all want to change your head  
You tell me it's the institution  
Well you know  
You better free your mind instead  
But if you go carrying pictures of Chairman Mao  
You ain't going to make it with anyone anyhow  
Don't you know it's gonna be alright  
Alright Alright

## **A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall**

By: Bob Dylan, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

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Oh, where have you been, my blue-eyed son  
And, where have you been, my darling young one  
I've stumbled on the side of twelve misty mountains.  
I've walked and I've crawled on six crooked highways  
I've stepped in the middle of seven sad forests  
I've been out in front of a dozen dead oceans  
I've been ten thousand miles in the mouth of a graveyard  
And it's a hard, and it's a hard, and it's a hard, and it's hard,  
And it's a hard rain's a-gonna fall

Oh, what did you see, my blue-eyed son  
And, what did you see, my darling young one  
I saw a newborn baby with wild wolves all around it  
I saw a highway of diamonds with nobody on it,  
I saw a black branch with blood that kept drippin'  
I saw a room full of men with their hammers a-bleedin'  
I saw a white ladder all covered with water  
I saw ten thousand talkers whose tongues were all broken  
I saw guns and sharp swords in the hands of young children  
And it's a hard, and it's hard, and it's hard, and it's a hard,  
And it's a hard rain's a-gonna fall

Oh, what did you hear, my blue-eyed son  
And, what did you hear, my darling young one  
I heard the sound of a thunder, that roared out a warnin'  
I heard the roar of a wave that could drown the whole world  
I heard one hundred drummers whose hands were a-blazin'  
I heard ten thousand whisperin' and nobody listenin'  
I heard one person starve, I heard many people laughin'  
I heard the song of a poet who died in the gutter  
I heard the sound of a clown who cried in the alley  
And it's hard, and it's hard, and it's hard, and it's hard,  
And it's a hard rain a-gonna fall

Oh, who did you meet, my blue-eyed son  
And, who did you meet, my darling young one  
I met a young child beside a dead pony  
I met a white man who walked a black dog  
I met a young woman whose body was burning  
I met a young girl, she gave me a rainbow  
I met one man who was wounded in love  
I met another man who was wounded with hatred  
And it's a hard, and it's a hard, and it's a hard, and it's a hard,  
And it's a hard rain's a gonna-fall

And, what'll you do now, my blue-eyed son  
And, what'll you do now, my darling young one  
I'm a-goin' back out 'for the rain starts a-fallin'  
I'll walk to the depths of the deepest black forest  
Where the people are many and their hands are all empty  
Where the pellets of poison are flooding their waters  
Where the home in the valley meets the damp, dirty prison  
Where the executioner's face is always well hidden  
Where the hunger is ugly, where souls are forgotten  
Where black is the color, and none is the number  
And I'll tell it and think it and speak it and breathe it  
And reflect it from the mountain so all souls can see it  
Then I'll stand on the ocean until I start sinkin'  
And I'll know my song well before I start singin'  
And it's a hard, and it's a hard, and it's a hard, and it's a hard,  
And it's a hard rain's a-gonna fall.

## MUSICAL NOTES

During the evolving consciousness of the 60's & 70's the writers and musicians of the day actively engaged in communications and dialogue, both directly and indirectly, often addressing each other in a form of call and response through their words and music. "Revolution" was the first overtly political song for Lennon and The Beatles, offering their statement on the times, they began to speak about societal issues important to the emerging cultural movement. First recorded for the **White Album** as a softer version, the Beatles felt it was too slow for a single, so Lennon insisted that it be re-recorded with a musical texture that was as revolutionary as the lyrics. This resulted in a sound that includes distorted guitars, (opening with a Chuck Berry riff) and McCartney's vocal scream, juxtapose with dynamic rhythms and gorgeous harmonies. Originally intended as the A-Side of the single, "Revolution" was pushed to the B-Side upon release, in favor of giving the A-Side to "Hey Jude." The hard hitting rock version on the single, released first, was called "Revolution", while the softer version was placed on the **White Album** and called "Revolution 1", and was released 3 months later. As a single released in August of 1968, "Revolution" sold 6 million copies by end of that year. At that time, John Lennon said hearing Dylan allowed him to make the leap from writing empty pop songs to expressing the actuality of his life and the depths of his soul. In their effort to explore a deeper understanding of the world we live in the Beatles had taken a trip of reflection to India in early 1968, where Lennon wrote "Revolution." Upon recording the driving rock version, the Beatles felt the song needed a fuller instrumental complement,

so they asked their friend keyboard player Nicky Hopkins, who was an amazing session musician, known for his stints with The Who, The Rolling Stones, Jefferson Airplane, and The Jeff Beck Group, to give the song its powerful keyboard sound. So moved by the concept of revolution, later Lennon created a striking and innovative sound collage with Yoko, influenced by the work of John Cage, which they entitled “Revolution 9.”

Several years earlier Bob Dylan ignited the social movement with his anthem, “A Hard Rain”, filled with metaphors for injustice, an unrealized world, and the guilt of handing down a dangerous society. Laced with literary references from Dante to Steinbeck, Dylan offered lyrics and music with deep and foreboding references, and his contemporaries took notes. Artists like the Beatles, Creedence Clearwater Revival, and many others wrote songs influenced and inspired by Dylan, and Dylan in turn wrote songs moved by the works of his musical contemporaries. Written in the basement of a friend’s apartment in Greenwich Village during the Cuban Missile Crisis, Dylan said of “A Hard Rain”, “I wrote that [song] when I didn’t figure I’d have enough time left in life . . . . didn’t know how many others songs I could write . . . I wanted to get the most down that I knew about . . . into one song . . . the most that I possibly could . . . and I wrote it like that. . . every line in that [song] actually is a complete song . . . it’s worth a song . . . every single line.” “A Hard Rain” was released on the album **The Freewheelin’ Bob Dylan**, in May of 1963.

1. A MISSION TO REPLACE THE GASOLINE ENGINE:  
THE NEW MANHATTAN PROJECT

*“And No One Was Angry Enough to Speak Out”*

Inscribed on the Inner Wall of  
The Great Pyramid of Gisa

*“The man who, in retrogressive societies, speaks and writes with courageous independence provokes recriminations and storms [...] nobody attacks a privilege nor ridicules a superstition without being cursed by a thousand voices and menaced by a thousand arms.”*

Manuel González Prada

*“Necessity is the Mother of Invention”*

Ancient Proverb

Here is the frightening truth. It took the world 125 years to burn through its first trillion barrels of oil and we will burn through the next trillion in 30.(1) Today the world consumes 82 million barrels of oil each day, half of which runs the 750 million cars, trucks, and buses on the road.(2) The other 41 million barrels and its derivatives assist every aspect of your life, from the clock that wakes you in the morning and the soap that washes you in the shower, to the asphalt roads you ride to school or work, to the food you eat, the alcohol you drink, and the bed you sleep on. The U.S consumes 25% of the

world's oil, has 4% of the world's population, and 3% of the world's oil reserves.(3) That's 39 barrels of oil per year per person in the U.S., while in China and India it's only 5.5 barrels, but the catch is: China and India consumed 40% more oil in 2004 than they did in 2003, and today Beijing alone registers 1,000 new cars every day.(4) With a collective population of 2.4 billion people (compared to the 295 million in the U.S.) in a quickly developing economy, consumption is skyrocketing and the math for the future does not look good. We all are painfully aware of the high price of gas at the pump today. Imagine the price when the pressure on demand increases in just a couple of years due to the exploding economies in China and India. What happens when 2.4 billion people each consume 10 or 15 barrels per year, much less 30 or 39? The world is in an energy tunnel and that light you see ahead is not the other side.

So how long will the oil last? Though seemingly a simple request, this question is rigged. The large petroleum Transnational Corporations (TNCs) will tell you there's 100 years of oil in the ground, and the environmentalists will tell you that the production peak has already occurred at the largest oil deposit known, i.e. Saudi Arabia, and reserves will last for only another 20 years, so it's all down hill from here. Dwindling supplies and exploding demand are forming society's perfect storm. If this is even close to true, why are the leading governments letting this happen? Why are we not asking, how do we get off the grid? Is it not time to take oil off the geo-political table (unless of course you work for ExxonMobile)? Is it not time to develop a technological solution to replace the gasoline engine? Is it not time to see through the façade of propped-up oil supplies, revealing the actual need that exists, and let the truth of that need be the mother of real invention? Clearly the world's oil producers want to keep prices high, yet manageable

for the average Joe, for this will help discourage the development of alternative solutions, and keep those petrol dollars flowing. ExxonMobile is currently generating the largest corporate profit ever in recorded history, \$110 million a day, comprising an annual profit of \$40 billion.(5) That is mind-bending. If you were making that kind of cash would you want to change the system? But if we can somehow see through this misinformation haze, the reality of society's true need will catapult research and development.

If the world were to become free from its dependence on oil, everything changes. How the world deals with the Middle East changes, how the citizens of the Middle East deal with the world changes, international disputes lessen, terrorism begins to evaporate, and the cost of every good you consume and every service you avail yourself of becomes cheaper. We see this from a political perspective in Sudan.(6) The Khartoum Government, as we speak, is committing ethnic cleansing, yet the UN is doing next to nothing. Why? Because the Security Council will not pass a Resolution to declare Darfur a military action. Why? Because the Chinese will veto that Resolution. Why? Because China, desperate for oil, has entered a Faustian pact with Sudan, giving them an oil output contract with the Khartoum Government (so they don't want régime change), in exchange for their implicit agreement to veto any UN military action, even though the Khartoum Army practices genocide daily.

If so much depends on oil, why haven't we found a replacement for it? Why haven't we at least really tried to find a replacement? If Henry Ford were alive today clearly he would be amazed that no one had come up with a better idea than the internal combustion engine.

Alternatively, as the supply of oil becomes less, and the price of oil rises, everything becomes more expensive. You think \$70 a barrel makes prices in the grocery store high, try \$300. And though you might be able to afford a modest price increase, for the 70% of the world's population living in \$2 per day poverty, even the slightest rise in prices means more starvation and increased squalor.

In the 60's President Kennedy announced a "Mission to the Moon" changing the world forever. Now we must implement "A Mission To Replace The Gasoline Engine," to remove our dependence on oil. Much like the Manhattan Project in the 40's brought the free world together to insure that the massive power of atomic energy was secured, this New Manhattan Project must bring America and the International Community together, and collectively find a solution to oil. Together we must overcome the next to impossible, and as atomic energy was secured and the Moon was conquered, so now everyone must have a new engine that replaces oil. Though the exact solution has yet to be found, whatever the solution is, it must be a plentiful and renewable resource, such as hydrogen, water or sea water, natural gas, or waste or electricity or vegetable oil -- a solution that will power all the cars, buses, and trucks everywhere on the globe. Finding this answer will not be easy, but this initiative must be the world's highest priority. It must sit atop the agenda of every government on the planet. This initiative must be fully-funded and have a time schedule of 10 years, creating true geo-political freedom in our lifetime. In 1974, as the world waited in long lines at the gas pumps due to OPEC shutdowns, President Ford mandated an "Energy Independence" project, with a 20 year timetable to develop an alternative to oil. Now 30 years later, we still have no solution

because we let our government slide on its commitment. It is time we demand a change. We must demand a sustained commitment.

The magnitude of this task can not be overstated. We cannot shout it loud enough nor long enough. We must keep our voice constant until the major nations fund the needed research and the solution is found. Whatever the cost, it is less than the cost of oil dependence. \$100 billion, \$500 billion, pennies compared to the price of dependence on oil, including the downstream costs of the war on terror, additional military operations, and marketplace restrictions, and if the price tag for this technological solution is underwritten by the entire international community, it is manageable and well worth the investment. Unlikely as it may seem, the U.S. and China are perfect bed fellows for this Project. They have compatible resources and comparable needs, and could easily fund this Project as a bi-lateral venture.

As we work to develop the solution there are many possible answers to be examined, like hydrogen internal combustion engines (ICEs), natural gas, hydrogen fuel cells, solid hydrogen fuel for ICEs, and air-rammed compression-assisted engines. All great technology, however the problem is we don't have an overall focused and funded game plan, which is exactly what we need. The U.S. has promised \$1.7 billion over 5 years for the development of hydrogen technology, but that's nothing in this game.(7) If the world has spent \$300 billion in Iraq this year, with a small cash return on its investment (though ethical and political returns are visible), it can surely spend \$300 billion to replace the gas engine which will return 100-fold in cash savings, including reduced military expenditures, reduced trade imbalances, and lower costs to goods and services over the next generation, much less untold trickle down economic prosperity.

Now the realist in you may say, hey, the Gas, Oil, and Automobile Lobby (i.e. the American Petroleum Institute) will fight the development of a new engine, or better yet, technology to convert existing engines off oil, to the bitter end. These Fat-Cats will protect, through oil dependence, their companies' self-interest, over the world's interest. And yes, this can be seen today as the Big Oil companies maintain high gas prices by keeping refining capacity limited. If you can't refine the oil, it will not turn into gasoline, thus reducing supplies, raising prices. Think about this, over the past 20 years U.S. demand for gas has increased 33% and U.S. refining capacity has been reduced 10%. Why? Less gas, greater demand, higher prices; recall those record profits.(8)

Though we have a real need to replace oil, and necessity will always be the mother of invention, the harsh reality is that the forces of need can be manipulated by the power structures within society. History is peppered with examples of TNCs directing societal advancement when the marketplace is undecided or less than dynamic due to artificial suppression of needs and available technology. Such manipulation occurred with the invention of the refrigerator. For thousands of years mankind had a need to preserve food in order to facilitate the feeding of the family and the tribe. Evidence goes back to 1000 BC when the Chinese first cut and stored ice. Later the Romans preserved meat and fish with salt (salt was so valuable that the Roman Emperor would pay his soldiers in salt, for at that time they had yet to develop a monetary currency, and it was this payment in salt, or "*salarium*" in Latin, which evolved into the use of the word salary). Then during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries advancements in box construction lead to the storage and shipment of ice, which became a huge transnational business. For almost 300 years thereafter nothing changed, until an Australian printer noticed that when

he cleaned his press with ether it got very cold, and this became the basis for the development of an ammonia gas refrigerator. Thereafter, within the next 10 years, an electric refrigerator was developed. Now here is the intriguing fact -- the gas-driven refrigerator is equally as efficient as the electric, it is easier to make, and more dependable, yet it did not become the technology you have in your house today. Why? For the same reason we do not have a replacement for the gasoline engine.

The manufacturing power structure at the time, Frigidaire, General Electric, and DuPont realized that the electric refrigerator was a more profitable unit to make and sell; so collectively they pushed the electric technology and abandoned the gas technology. This is exactly like our current situation, where the gasoline engine is promoted and alternative technologies are suffocated. We need a massive research and development stimulus to overcome the artificial suppression of gasoline replacement technology by the oil companies. Once a solution is available, then marketplace forces will provide the proper level of efficiencies and utility.

This issue of replacing oil is further complicated because American companies have not made the advances on a new engine design that the European and Asian car manufacturers have, and they don't think they can catch up, so they are afraid of losing future market share. See, the Europeans and Asians are 5 years ahead of the U.S. in the design of a hydrogen internal combustion engine. In fact BMW has a Hydrogen ICE car with a top speed of 185 mph, and Honda has a home hydrogen generation unit that allows you to fill your tank each night.(9) Collectively these technologies are very close to solving the oil dependence problem with an answer that can be implemented worldwide without a need for new infrastructure like pressurized tanks or filling stations. The

problem is, however, that the U.S. companies do not want to have to pay to license this new technology once developed, which would cut into their profits, so they prefer the status quo, to the detriment of all of us.

America not only needs to join this technology race to replace oil, it needs to move to its forefront. It needs to lead this New Manhattan Project. It needs to see beyond the negative impact such advances will have on a few select companies, to the incalculable benefits for everyone with a replacement to oil. We need to stop giving this issue lip service and treat it like the war that it is, and fund it like the war that it is. A solution is close, but it requires resources and focused commitment to completion, and we can not let powerful special interests deter these technological advances. The Stone Age did not end for lack of stone, and if society is smart the Oil Age should not end for lack of oil. Technology is the answer, and a major investment in a true long term solution is much wiser, with much greater societal return, than short term investments like new oil field exploration or oil conservation measures. Though these short term remedies have merit, we have limited dollars to invest. Scarce capital resources means we need to choose the long term solution. We need to produce a replacement to the gasoline engine. So gather round people wherever you roam, time is a-wasting, and the times are a-changing.

## **The Times They Are A-Changin'**

By: Bob Dylan, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

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Come gather `round people  
Where ever you roam  
And admit that the waters  
Around you have grown  
And accept it that soon  
You'll be drenched to the bone  
If your time to you  
Is worth savin'  
Then you better start swimmin'  
Or you'll sink like a stone  
For the times they are a-changin'

Come writers and critics  
Who prophesize with your pen  
And keep your eyes wide  
The chance won't come again  
And don't speak too soon  
For the wheel's still in spinnin'  
And there's no tellin' who  
That it's namin'  
For the loser now  
Will be later to win  
For the times they are a-changin'

Come senators, congressmen  
Please heed the call  
Don't stand in the doorway  
Don't block up the hall  
For he that gets hurt  
Will be he who has stalled  
There's a battle outside  
And it is ragin'  
It'll soon shake your windows  
And rattle your walls  
For the times they are a-changin'

Come mothers and fathers  
Throughout the land  
And don't criticize  
What you can't understand  
Your sons and your daughters  
Are beyond your command  
Your old road is  
Rapidly agin'  
Please get out of the new one  
If you can't lend your hand  
For the times they are a-changin'

The line it is drawn  
The curse it is cast  
The slow one now  
Will later be fast  
As the present now  
Will later be past  
The order is  
Rapidly fadin'  
And the first one now  
Will later be last  
For the times they are a-changin'

And now thinking about  
The Aquarian age  
When she sees what we've done  
Mother Nature will rage  
And upon all mankind  
A war she will wage  
Not too late  
For our Mother to save  
But if we don't do it now  
We will dig our own grave  
For the times they are a-changin'

## **Break On Through (To The Other Side)**

By: The Doors, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

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You know the day destroys the night  
Night divides the day  
Tried to run  
Tried to hide  
Break on through to the other side  
Break on through to the other side  
Break on through to the other side, yeah

We chased our pleasures here  
Dug our treasures there  
But can you still recall  
The time we cried  
Break on through to the other side  
Break on through to the other side, yeah

C'mon, yeah  
Everybody loves me baby  
Everybody loves me baby  
She gets, she gets  
She gets, she gets high

I found an island in your arms  
A country in your eyes  
Arms that chain us  
Eyes that lie  
Break on through to the other side  
Break on through to the other side  
Break on through, owwww

Oh yeah  
Made the scene  
Week to week  
Day to day  
Hour to hour  
The gate is straight  
Deep and wide  
Break on through to the other side  
Break on through to the other side  
Break on through to the other side  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah  
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah

## MUSICAL NOTES

A year after releasing “A Hard Rain”, Dylan followed up with “The Times They Are A Changin.” Inspired by Scottish and Irish Folk ballads, “The Times” was released less than two months after the assassination of JFK as a new call to action for the frustrated younger generation. Reflecting on the concept of a generation gap and political divide, Dylan embodied an inclusive interpretation of the lyrics, saying “those were the only words I could find to separate aliveness from deadness. It had nothing to do with age. . . . I can’t really say that adults don’t understand young people any more than you can say big fishes don’t understand little fishes. I didn’t mean [The Times] as a statement . . . it’s a feeling.” With “The Times” rising in the charts as a single in England in 1965, this propelled his previous album **The Freewheelin’ Bob Dylan** to No. 1, which was the first time in two years that an album by an artist other than The Beatles or the Rolling Stones was No. 1.

As The Doors burst on the scene in 1967 their first Single, off their first album, was “Break On Through.” The album, **The Doors**, became a Gold Record, climbing to Number 2 on the Charts, with Morrison and keyboard player Ray Manzarek, who met in film school at UCLA, making a promotional short film for the song, considered the first Music Video. Jim Morrison was a tormented poet, influenced by John Rechy’s book *City of Night*. Morrison also revered William Blake, and was so influenced by the line “the doors of perception” from Blake’s poem “The Marriage of Heaven and Hell”, that

the first words became the origin for the name of the band, with the entire line, “The Doors of Perception” later becoming the title to Aldous Huxley’s psychedelic treatise. Jim wrestled with his demons by defying conformity. After Jim’s death, Cadillac offered the band \$15 million to license the song for commercial use, which John Densmore, the drummer, steadfastly refused, saying, “People lost their virginity to this music, got high for the first time to this music. I’ve had people say kids died in Vietnam listening to this music, other people say they know someone who didn’t commit suicide because of this music . . . on stage when we played these songs, they felt mysterious and magic. That’s not for rent.”

2. THE END OF INCOME AND PROFITS TAX – TIME FOR A NATIONAL TRANSACTION TAX -- FAIRNESS FOR ALL

*“Ladies and Gentlemen, today I am going to do something that a Politician never doe. Today I am going to tell you the truth.”*

Gov. Jack Stanton  
Presidential Candidate  
Movie: “Primary Colors”

*“I would like to electrocute everyone who uses the word ‘fair’ in connection with income tax policies.”*

William F. Buckley

Why does the Federal Government choose to raise revenue by taxing Income and Profits? Has it always been this way? Is this the best tax structure for the people? And doesn't it seem like we pay way too much tax? It seems as if we are always paying taxes, either sales tax at the store, additional gas taxes at the pump, property taxes, school district taxes, and then the ever present weekly withholding of income taxes from our paychecks. Impossible as it sounds, when you add up all the city, county, state, and federal taxes, the government takes 47 cents out of every dollar you earn.(1) That is just not right.

History demonstrates that governments often raised taxes to pay the costs of war. Likewise, the people many times have gone to war over increased taxes. In 1812 the Feds levied a tax to fight a war. They did it again in 1861 to pay for the Civil War,

which became so expensive that the Feds instituted the first Income Tax. But, if you can believe it, the Supreme Court struck it down saying an Income Tax was unconstitutional, leaving the Feds at a complete loss.(2) See, the Founding Fathers were so pissed off at the British for taxing from afar that when they drafted and signed the U.S. Constitution, they made sure the Feds could not tax a person directly and that they could not tax a person's income. Problem was that in the early 1900's the US economy was struggling, the Feds needed money, the poor felt the rich weren't paying their share of taxes, and the cost of a looming World War was staring President Wilson in the face. So, the Congress changed the Constitution by passing the 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and then by early 1913 the States ratified it and an Income Tax became our shared reality.(3)

But, if there was no Income Tax until 1913, how was the Federal Government funded? For over 130 years, from 1776 until 1913, the Feds existed on Transactional Taxes or retail sales taxes, and to a small degree Estate Taxes. These Transactional Taxes were on gasoline, tobacco, and alcohol, primarily, and secondarily on a few smaller volume items like customs and duties for imported goods and equipment. As the services the American people wanted the Federal Government to provide grew, so did the need for more revenue. But the question is: Why did America abandon the Transactional Tax for an Income and Profit Tax?

That answer is laced with political rhetoric and old-fashioned spin. See, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century the Republicans were in power behind Teddy Roosevelt, a very popular President, but hard times existed and a large lower class liked the idea of a tax to "Soak the Rich", in that the original Income Tax envisioned only applied to the upper 2% of the population. So the Democrats proposed just such a tax, and the Republicans, who

first rejected the idea, ended up accepting it after a couple of years, in an effort to counter the label that they were the “Party of the Rich”, so long as a few well-placed exemptions were allowed. And there we have it, the modern day special interest group was born; exemptions equal favoritism for those with influence.

Today, the Tax Code is complete madness and patently unfair. It is a complicated, punitive, and impenetrable maze that requires wholesale revision, not partial editing to expediently meet the short term needs of some current crisis. Complying with the 45,000 pages of the Tax Code is so cumbersome it is estimated that the cost of just dealing with the IRS adds 22% to the price of every item you purchase.(4) That means we lose 22% of our purchasing power because we have an archaic tax system. Imagine the downstream loss of opportunity for our society because we waste 22% of our ability and energy to innovate, invest, purchase, and risk. The lost potential is enormous. Imagine if a single working mother had a 22% increase in money to support her family. Imagine if everyone had a 22% pay raise. Would we need as much welfare? Would we need as much educational assistance? Would there be as much crime? You be the judge.

Taxing income and profits by its very nature discourages the generation of income and profits. It attacks the very meritocracy which given a proper environment creates inclusive capitalism, and in turn creates a society of opportunity. Under the present federal tax structure, under the contradictory Code as written, a dollar earned or generated by a company and paid or distributed to an individual can be taxed 4 separate times.(5) Even more disturbing, current tax structures are inequitable because they are laced with specialized exemptions and deductions, i.e. by allowing for the reduction of taxable income or profits in certain cases we unfairly favor those earmarked segments of

the population that receive, and can utilize, the embedded deductions. A deduction for marriage and children disproportionately favors and promotes weddings and offspring over those single and without children. Deductions and exemptions for real estate inequitably enrich those that own property, artificially promoting real estate industry participants, to the detriment of all who do not own property. An Income Tax with allowable deductions will never be fair or equitable because the sanctioned deductions, secured by powerful lobbies, will always grant favor to those who can bend the ear of government. While you are outside that Special Interest you will see the inequity, but once you are inside, your vision will become clouded, for you are only human. As Churchill once said, if you are not a Liberal in your 20's you have no heart, and if you are not a Conservative in your 40's you have no brain. And we all know conservatives like to own property, so they will never vote to remove these deductions. In the years ahead when you become someone who owns property, you too will never vote to eliminate the tax code's favoritism of real estate, unless somehow you work to see through the veneer of your own self-interest for the greater good.

See, the truth is Income Taxes and Profit Taxes are regressive; they actually penalize the middle and lower classes, though past Administrations have told you otherwise. So the next question is if Income and Profit Taxes are so confusing and so unfair, then how should the government collect the taxes needed to run its services, yet do it in a neutral, balanced, and equitable manner?

The Ancient Greeks, when faced with the difficult decision of choosing who should be the new emperor, went to the Oracle who declared, anyone that unites this rope twisted into a complex knot by the former King Gordius (the Gordian Knot) will be

named the new ruler over all of Asia. After several unsuccessful attempts by lesser men, Alexander arrived offering a solution. He cut the Knot with his sword. Impressed by his innovation the Gods approved of his actions, and named him Alexander “The Great.” Following Alexander’s example, it is time for America to slice its Income and Profits Tax knot, it is time to throw them away, return to its pre-1913 Transaction Tax structure, and replace them with a simple flat tax on all transactions.

A Transaction Tax, a tax with no exemptions, a national sales tax, a small tax on each and every transaction in the economy, this is the only fair and equitable means to take the peoples’ money, as the Founding Fathers knew. Under a Transactional Tax those that make the most money within the system pay the most tax because they will deploy the most money in the marketplace, and those that make the least pay the least tax. A fair ball game, the way it should be for all of us. Additionally, with a Transaction Tax all those who visit the U.S., traveling to our cities or touring electronically by investing in our stock markets, enjoying our society and culture, will now pay their proportionate share of the tax burden too, where today under an Income Tax structure they slip through the cracks, paying nothing, yet benefiting greatly.

Furthermore, the most bureaucratic, regressive, and expensive government agency that the U.S. currently runs is the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and under a Transactional Tax, the IRS can almost close its doors, saving us over \$10 billion annually (hey, maybe that money could be put towards something worthwhile like education, but we will get to that).(6) Compounding the inequity of an Income Tax structure is the reality that its complexity by definition benefits the rich, who can hire the accountants and lawyers to legally navigate around the Code. This exploits the special interest

exemptions that have been created, and penalizes the middle class and the poor who can not afford such advice. Implementing a Flat Transaction Tax on all Goods and Services is the fairest means of Taxing the U.S. Citizens, or the Citizens of any country for that matter (Note: Singapore has successfully implemented a Transaction Tax in conjunction with low income tax brackets).(7)

Of added concern is the fact that laced within an Income/Profits Tax system with deductions is the reality that such a Tax System is the most powerful behavior modification tool that the government has at its disposal. You can be sure that the boys in the halls of power know this and use it to subtly support the issues and even the moral values that they deem appropriate. Which raises a host of other questions. Should government be legislating any morals at all? What is the real purpose of government anyway? Is it to maximize individual freedom? Is it to re-distribute wealth? Is it to promote certain activities it deems beneficial to sustain order and the general welfare? The answers you pick to these questions impact every step you direct our government to take, and if our government is going to push us in certain directions, then maybe we should understand exactly how the Tax System goes about modifying our behavior.

Let's look at real estate. How does the Tax Code get you to act the way the government wants you to, or maybe better said, how does the Tax Code get you to act the way some special interests who have influenced government want you to act? This is accomplished in a couple of steps. First the government gives a deduction against taxable income for interest paid on real estate loans taken, so you pay less tax and save cash if you borrow money to buy real estate. This artificially increases demand for home loans (with the tax break on interest you have the incentive to take out a loan making

banks happy), which artificially increases demand for the buying of homes (with your new loan you want to buy a house so realtors are happy), which artificially raises the prices for homes (more demand for housing raises prices making builders and construction companies happy and the cycle begins again).

Second, the Code allows for depreciation (fictional losses) on real estate to lower one's income and profits, in that fictional losses can be deducted from the total amount of cash income or profits, by those who own real estate, i.e. the rich. Fictional losses, you say? How is a loss "fictional"? One either loses money or one does not lose money . . . a loss can not be fictional, can it? Well let's see. If you make a profit you pay a tax, right, but if you have a loss, the loss offsets the profit, so you only pay taxes on the net balance. Now that appears equitable on its face. If you make \$1,000 and at the same time you lose a \$1,000, the net balance or profit is zero, so no tax is due. However, the Code's favoritism for Real Estate goes one step further. Say you make a profit of \$1,000 and you own some real estate, then you can deduct from your profit the depreciated value of the real estate, based upon the estimated useful life of the real estate. Meaning if you own a \$100,000 piece of property, and it theoretically is projected to have a 10 year life, then you can take a \$10,000 loss per year against your profits (this is particularly screwed up because in all actuality the real estate will appreciate over the 10 years and will be worth more than the \$100,000 paid, but that is another story for another day). So the fictional loss, or the loss that was not a real dollar loss, is the depreciation, in this case the -\$10,000. This loss is deducted from the real profits, in this case the \$1,000, so under the current tax code you have a -\$9,000 loss, even though you actually made \$1,000 in cold hard cash. This is why the rich pay no taxes on the profits, get

richer, and don't pay their fair share to support the government, like you do every week when the Feds take that money out of your paycheck. This is the real problem with the system, the rich legally avoid taxes, so there is not enough money to pay for government services, and then the middle class ends up carrying a disproportionate share of the tax burden.

Beyond fictional losses, the special interest treatment of real estate is even more profound. Listen to this. Say you own an office building, and say you paid \$1 million for it. A few years go by and you sell it for \$2 million, so you have a \$1 million profit. In theory you should pay \$150K in tax. But under the Code, if you take that \$1 million in profit and buy more real estate, then you pay no tax. That's right, zippo, zero, nada; the tax is delayed and held in abeyance until you sell that next piece of property (it's called a 1031 exchange).(8) Now it's great to have a vibrant and dynamic marketplace with a meritocracy, truth be told this is government's highest priority, but we should not be giving away our tax dollars to prop up, through special interests, certain industries like real estate.

The sublime beauty of the Transactional Tax is that it is industry-neutral, it is good for the poor, and the rich want it too. Truth is many of the rich have a conscience and want to pay their fair share of taxes, and even the rich who don't have a conscience still want the Flat Tax because it is a stable tax structure. More importantly it is equitable, it provides a sound business marketplace, it offers a solid foundation for capitalism - fertile ground for everyone to go about their interests.

But the Code is yet still more convoluted. The mysterious nature of the Tax system can work at an even more sophisticated level, to the detriment of the efficiencies

of the marketplace, when the Code is manipulated to make profits look like they appear, when in reality no profits are there. Remember Enron? The game works like this. Say a company needs to fix equipment to process electricity, and it costs \$100,000 to fix the stuff, and if you replace the equipment it costs \$500,000. Foolish as it may sound, the company will choose to spend the 500K and buy new equipment. Why you ask? Well, under our accounting system spending 100K to fix the equipment is a straight line expense and lowers the company's profit, while buying new equipment for 500K is a capitalized expense, and goes below the line (i.e. EBITDA: Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization), which means that on the company's financial reports the profit number is not lowered. In fact it appears like there is an extra \$500,000 in profit, making Wall Street happy, at least for a little while. But the truth is the company spent \$500,000 on equipment it could have fixed by spending only \$100,000. In the real day-to-day world fixing the equipment would have been financially healthier for the company, but our tax system unjustly motivated them to spend \$500,000 in a way that makes it look like it did not spend the money at all. All to satisfy the Special Interest's of the equipment manufacturer. Now is that crazy or what? A Transactional Tax structure takes all the fabricated incentive out of the capitalization treatment game, and a company would be judged as it should be judged -- on its true profits and losses, a transparent, clear playing field for all to see.

A Flat Transaction Tax does not artificially support the accounting ruse or any industry, like real estate, and rest assured there are many other industries receiving these bennies too, for example: oil and gas, mining, and farming, including the sugar industry; they all receive special treatment under the Code. Every year Special Interests groups

give each member of Congress on average \$500K in political contributions.(9) What do you think is their return on this investment? And Washington Lobbying Firms generate \$3 billion in fees annually, just to protect special interests. If you spent \$3 billion wouldn't you want something for your money?

Remember your history, preferential tax treatment has been around a long time. The American Revolution was triggered by the very type of Special Interest tax exemptions we still see today. The Boston Tea Party was not just about "Taxation Without Representation." More directly it was about giving Special Interests preferential tax treatment. This was the real touchstone of the revolution. See, the British Parliament passed the Tea Act of 1773, which granted the East India Trading Company an exemption on taxes. So, under this Act the East India Trading Company, the 'British Merchant Warriors' could sell tea cheaper than the local boys in the 13 Colonies because they did not have the cost of taxes like everyone else, which allowed East India to artificially prosper due to influence and connection (like the special interests of today). It is no small wonder that the East India Company's most prominent shareholder was King George III. This governmental act stifled the burgeoning free market, and back then Tea and Tea Houses were the thing. Everyone drank tea and loved to socialize at the local establishments, much like the coffee houses of today. Imagine if all of a sudden you could only buy coffee from one outlet. With all the little guys gone you would be frustrated looking for a cheap, hot cup of joe.

Buoyed by this classic good ol' boy cronyism, the British drove all the local small tea entrepreneurs into bankruptcy. In turn this started to suck the hope out of the local economy, and the absence of hope fertilizes human rage. What else could one feel,

what else could society expect, but rebellion? The Colonists were pushed into a corner by a Tax Act. They had no choice but to lash out. Take note, taxes with deductions and exemptions are never fair, they artificially suppress opportunity and should cause revolution.

Now let's be clear, we are not talking about a flat tax on income or a flat tax on some transactions, or a flat tax on some combination of the two, with high rates, as has been proposed. But rather a small flat tax on all transactions.

This is how it works. It is called an Automated Payment Transaction (APT) Tax, and it is a small tax on each and every transaction in the economy. No exceptions.<sup>(10)</sup> What you may not realize is that in these other flat tax proposals many items are exempt, and so the more exemptions allowed, correspondingly less tax revenue is collected, and in turn a higher percentage tax rate must be levied, making everything more expensive to all of us who pay taxes. Each exemption is a Special Interest that has lobbied Congress to the detriment of every one of us foot soldiers of the economy, for we are the ones actually paying our taxes, and it is the Special Interests who are not. These Special Interests, these exemptions are what makes the current tax structure unfair and inequitable to the common citizen.

But if we eliminate all current Federal Taxes, and all the exemptions that are currently allowed, and then replace it with a flat transaction tax on a very broad base of products and services, with no exemptions, we will have a fair tax at a very low rate. This is the only equitable means to take the people's money. By taxing every transaction, including all the stock, bonds, futures, and financial instruments traded (which are currently not taxed), a small percentage can be charged, about .06%. This is just over one

half of one percent every time someone buys or sells a good, service, or financial instrument. But then all other Federal Taxes are eliminated, no income or profits tax, no deductions, no exemptions, and so, everyone is treated fairly. We level the pitch, and the game of tax deferral or avoidance ends.

Under the ATP no one files a tax return, simply every transaction, every real estate deal, all bank, brokerage, or other financial accounts, all funds moving in or out of that account, will now be taxed at a very small rate. To calculate the rate we take the amount of government funds needed for the budget and divide that by the total volume of transaction in the economy. In the U.S. the rate is estimated at .06%. The transaction are taxed and collected immediately, via the banking system, and with such an automated system for tax collections, this totally eliminated the need for filing tax returns. And remember with no costs for accountants and bookkeepers to prepare your tax filings and comply with the IRS, we return 22% of the value to every piece of the economy.

And don't worry about the Social Security obligations, under the ATP Tax enough revenue will be generated to cover this program because everyone will be paying their fair share, even the rich guys who'd been getting away with paying no taxes will now be paying taxes. Moreover, all those grey area tax filings (surely you know someone who pushes the envelope when filing their tax returns) will be gone, and those black market dealers that are forced underground with illegal commercial activities will now be paying their taxes, too; see crooks may not file tax returns, but they still buy stocks, cars, and clothes. With the flat tax there will be more than enough money to cover all of government's obligations, out of this new larger, broader, fairer, general tax

fund, where no Special Interests are able to secure legislative favoritism for their industry or themselves.(11) Simple is superior to complex.

Now, some will criticize the ATP Tax structure as too burdensome on the poor, saying that the poor will have to spend too much of their paycheck on food and clothes, but don't believe it. But again recall, if we implement a Flat Tax, we all get a 22% embedded raise (because there is no cost of dealing with the IRS) and providing a financial support network for the poor can be accomplished by the government giving low income families a tax rebate (a check based on income and estimated transaction taxes paid) to assist them with their living standard. Others will criticize a .06% rate as too low a percentage to raise the revenue currently generated by the Income/Profits Tax. Again, don't believe it. First of all, more people will be paying tax, including the rich, as well as all the financial transactions, and those who were living at the legal margins. The ATP Tax is revenue natural to the Federal Government. Then add-in that 22% raise everyone will get, so now more money is changing hands, which fuels the economy, and with that much cash circulating the number of transactions will rise and in turn so will the government's revenues.

In the end the choice between an ATP Tax and an Income and Profit Tax is a nonpartisan one. It is a choice between two systems and the question is which one is best for society. The more partisan issue will be that conservatives will want a lower flat tax rate and have less federal government services and the liberals will want a higher rate and have more national services. Regardless of who prevails in that debate, the wisdom of the more equitable structure is clear. With the Transactional Tax all will be treated fairly, and the only guys who will be crying are the lobbyists, lawyers, and accountants.

## Who'll Stop the Rain

By Creedence Clearwater Revival (CCR), covered by \_\_\_\_\_

Long as I remember  
The rain's been coming down  
Clouds of mystery fallin'  
Confusion on the ground

Good men through the ages  
Tryin' to find the sun  
And I wonder  
Still I wonder  
Who'll stop the rain?

I went down Virginia  
Seekin' shelter from the storm  
Caught up in the fable  
I watched the tower grow

Five year plans and new deals  
Wrapped in golden chains  
And I wonder  
Still I wonder  
Who'll stop the rain?

Heard the singers playing  
How we cheered for more  
The crowd had rushed together  
Tryin' to keep warm

Still the rain kept pourin'  
Fallin' on my ears  
And I wonder  
Still I wonder  
Who'll stop the rain?

## **The Tax Man**

By: The Beatles, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

Let me tell you how it will be  
There's one for you, nine'teen for me

Cause I'm the tax man  
Yeah I'm the tax man

Should five percent appear too small  
Be thankful I don't take it all

Cause I'm the tax man  
Yeah I'm the tax man

If you drive a car-car I'll tax the street  
If you try to sit-sit I'll tax your seat  
If you get too cold I'll tax the heat  
If you take a walk I'll tax your feet  
Tax man

Well I'm the tax man  
Yes I'm the tax man

Don't ask me what I want it for  
If you don't want to pay some more

Cause I'm the tax man  
Yeah I'm the tax man

Now my advice for those who die (tax man)  
Declare the pennies on your eyes (tax man)

Cause I'm the tax man  
Yeah I'm the tax man

And you're working for no one but me  
(tax man)

## MUSICAL NOTES

CCR was a band born out of 10 years of artistic struggle. Originally called the Golliwogs, John and Tom Fogerty, looking for a new beginning, decided to change the band's name, and were inspired by a series of events. They chose Creedence after a friend by the name of Credence Nuball, because his first name had the connotations of believability and integrity. Then they followed with Clearwater because it held a sense of environmental consciousness, and ended with Revival, injecting the band with the aspiration of a resurrection. CCR combined tight rockabilly/country arrangements with John's deeply felt lyrical images of Americana, developing a mythology much like their Canadian peers The Band. Moved by Dylan's earlier anthem, "A Hard Rain", John Fogerty's response was also filled with political protest, laced with governmental and biblical references. Fogerty is quoted as saying he wondered who would stop the rain of bullshit coming out of Washington. "Who'll Stop the Rain" was released off the album **Cosmo's Factory** in 1970, and was Single B-Side to "Traveling Band."

A few years earlier, in 1966, The Beatles released "Tax Man" from the album **Revolver**, a bitter song about the oppression of high taxes in England. One of the first prominent songs by George Harrison, he wrote this tune upon discovering how little money he received after taxes. Harrison had some assistance with the writing from John who gave him a few one liners. It turns out Lennon's help rocked the boat a little within the group, revealing a sensitive issue, in that up until then all the writing had been done

by just John and Paul. Interestingly, George was politically bi-partisan in his criticisms of the tax system, for he referenced both Prime Minister Wilson of the Labor Party and future Prime Minister Heath of the Conservative Party.

### 3. A NEW UNITED NATIONS: INDEPENDENTLY FUNDED AND ELECTED

*“That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness), it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government. . .”*

Declaration of Independence  
United State of America, 1776

*“All of us will ultimately be judged on the effort we have contributed to building a New World Order.”*

Robert F. Kennedy, 1967

*“Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;  
Where knowledge is free;  
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;  
Where words come out from depth of truth;  
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection;  
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit;  
Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action-  
Into that Heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.”*

Rabindranath Tagore, 1910

Step back from our world for a moment and perceive this international society we all live in from a distance, from the 30,000 foot level, and ask yourself what do you see and what does this global community need? As your focus crystallizes on a multicultural world where a person can have lunch in London and dinner in New York, where people instantaneously message friends on the other side of the planet, it is clear that a new, unique, dynamic, and authorized international government needs to be

instituted to regulate our ever-increasing cross border activity. It is time to create a real United Nations, a UN with legitimate power not just veiled authority. This means a New UN with an Army, Police Force, Prosecution Office, Public Defender, and Court System. We need a UN funded by the people, elected by the people, and beholden to the people, beyond reproach, a beacon of integrity and a bedrock for the rule of law.

We must be careful here, however, because less government is always better, and local government must always be more powerful than regional, national, and international government. Ever mindful of Paine's warning – society in every state is a blessing, but government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil (1), we must presume that generally, whatever government does, it does poorly, and where we must have the necessary evil of government, it is best, if possible, to place the greatest power closest to the people. Critical public decisions should be made by the local democracies, by the local politicians who will personally answer your phone calls or see you at your community coffee shops, churches, and diners, where these leaders must respond to you through direct conversation and regular elections. Whether it is welfare or healthcare or better roads, it is best to vote for these services and raise taxes (implementing a transactional tax, mind you) for these services at the local level. Then you can effectively choose whether or not you want these services, and whether or not you want to live in that local area. Government must always be largest locally, smaller nationally, and smallest internationally. Until the town Mayor is the most powerful and highest paid civil servant in all of government, trouble will brew. And when the local mayor has a larger salary than the President or the Secretary General, then you will know we are approaching the sweet spot.

In light of our global community, however, an effective super-framework is just such a necessary evil that we must tolerate. Taking Paine's words to heart, we must balance the need to put a proper authority in place to regulate the transnational interwoven aspects of our world with the reality that governmental power is best seated closest to the people, and that international government, by definition, is as far from the people as a government can get. Acknowledging this necessity for an international structure in light of the wonderfully multi-national and integrated world we share, the question is, can we build a structure that works? Unfortunately, history offers up little wisdom on this account. Only in the past 30 years has ubiquitous instantaneous information and daily trans-continental travel created the exigent circumstances requiring a robust international government. So we find ourselves in uncharted waters. However, we can draw some counsel from the past struggles of people as they worked to institute new governments. For example, these tensions have been manifest in the art of our culture, from the Greek bas-reliefs of justice in the city-states, to the Renaissance frescos of Siena, Italy depicting "Good Government" versus "Bad Government", to Picasso's Anti-War painting "Guernica" at the UN, but ultimately these offer little insight.

The harsh truth is the current UN structure, a good start in 1945, is pretty screwed up and needs revision. A New UN is required. Recently there has been lots of talk about reforming the UN, which is great, but this talk is born out of the scandal at the Oil-For-Food Program, and the Secretary General's family's transgressions, not out of real examination and analysis.(2) Though some in the intelligentsia may call the demand for a New UN poor geopolitical judgment, a harsh reality looks us straight in the eye, until we have a UN with power not just authority, with integrity not just the veneer of

character, strong nation/states like the US will act unilaterally or with limited international support.

Look, we can debate it, discuss it, argue about it, even go stick our heads in the sand, but nothing will change the undeniable fact that the world is moving inexorably to ever-increasing cross border migration of people, goods, and services. We can either set up an efficient system to deal with this reality or we can ignore it to our own apocalyptical detriment. If we do not develop an efficient and equitable system which serves all the people (the UN Charter does start “We the peoples”) (3), then this void will continue to be filled by less than desirable components. Nature abhors a vacuum, and any gap left open by the lack of an effective international government system will be filled by Transnational Corporations in the best of times, and local drug lords and mafia bosses in the worst of times.

The New UN’s mission should be simply to provide for the ‘Common Defense of Democracy and People’, ‘Secure the Blessings of Liberty’, ‘Guarantee a Democratic form of Local Government’, and ‘Guarantee the Rule of Law.’ Under such a framework we begin the long and slow process of acknowledging, understanding, and accepting the planet as a single world, a single market, with a single people, where we are all members (truth is, new DNA research concludes that the notions of race are scientifically incorrect, there is only one race, one people, we are all relatives, like it or not we all have the same ancestor). (4)

Such a New UN must be a true advocate of democracy, for it is only in a democracy that the fertile ground of opportunity will emerge, and access to opportunity is the foundation of a meritocracy.(5) And only a meritocracy allows for the development

of human potential, for the rising of the poor, and equality for all. Though we can celebrate that for the first time in history half the world's population lives under democratic governments, we must be alarmed and angered at the fact that nearly 40% of the current UN member nations are failed democracies.(6) This constitutes the greatest risk to the world as a whole and should be the highest priority for a New UN. We are all aware that a failed democracy can be an enormous undertaking, but this should not slow the collective work of the world's governments to foster, promote, and strengthen grass roots democracy in all corners of the globe. As Churchill reminds us, "Many forms of government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those others that have been tried from time to time."

With a New UN in place, performing its proper international roles, this would eliminate the burden on the superpowers, who today must perform these international obligations in a patchwork fashion. In turn a New UN would lessen the disproportional burden on the taxpayers in these superpowers, who are footing the bill for these international services at an inequitable level. And keep in mind that though countries like the US and Great Britain are the superpowers acting in these unilateral military fashions today, tomorrow's superpowers will be China and India. If these countries start taking unilateral steps without a more dynamic New UN system in place, we will be forced to deal with the geopolitical realities of single-sided military action by tomorrow's superpowers without the safeguards of international checks and balances that a New UN would provide. Be aware, China now spends \$29 billion annually on defense, twice what

they spent in 2000.(7) Take heed, China currently has over 20 million single men between the ages of 18 and 29 who can not find brides, and this number will be 40 million single men in 10 years.(8) China does not have enough women in their population because of their one-child policy and their cultural preference for a male heir, which collectively produces an exaggerated number of female abortions, manifesting a vastly disproportionate male/female percentage. It is now estimated that 100 million women have been lost in China and India due to this cultural preference.(9) Even more frightening, these men are now being conscripted into the Chinese Army, which is reminiscent of the 1500s when the Portuguese practiced primogeniture to the downfall of Africa and South America. See, the King of Portugal instituted a law mandating that first-born sons inherited everything. This meant all the later-born sons had no assets with which to attract a wife. So these later-born sons assembled together and lobbied the King to commence a military conquest so they could seize property for themselves and the Crown, and the King agreed, to the dismay of places like Angola and Brazil. These Portuguese-commenced wars allowed the excluded sons to acquire land and assets, which permitted them to rise in social position and secure marriage partners, all at the expense of the conquered peoples. Recognize these events which fill our rear view mirror. Though the US may have a technically superior Army, it is still only an Army of 500,000. (10) Could they, or anyone for that matter, outlast a Chinese Army of 30 or 40 million?

As a dynamic first step the US, as today's leading superpower, should acknowledge this need, safeguard against a single-sided military action, and embrace the concept of a New UN. The US needs to bow to the will of the international world, as all

nations need to bow to the will of the international world. Symbolically it is important for the US to lead this initiative for a 'New UN', for this would bear many fruits, including winning back the trust of the American people and world public opinion, and promoting an open debate on how to make a 'New UN' reality. There is nothing to fear by taking these steps, for in today's international world, no legitimate assault on the US, or any country for that matter would be tolerated. Legitimate nation-states will always have the right of self-defense, and will always have the choice to act unilaterally. As the world rallied around the US with 9/11, so it would under any occasion of military attack. In the end the US's commitment to a strong UN would lead the way for a true sharing of the burden of providing international stability and prosperity. The UN, for all its bureaucratic inefficiencies, is the only governmental organ in the body politic that speaks for all the people, it is the only institution with a long view, and this needs to be cultivated.

Critical to the operation of a 'New UN' would be its ability to implement and enforce a world wide Rule of Law, for this is how we truly level the playing field for all individuals, this is how we create a meritocracy for large nations and small nations, for rich nations and poor nations, in order for everyone to compete in a truly free market. This is the paradigm of a 'True Meritocracy', creating the highest and best use of each component of society (but we will discuss this later). Under the umbrella of a 'New UN', the Rule of Law must evolve, and corruption must be attacked everywhere it exists. This means installing a police force with power, as well as checks and balances, including a just court system, to guarantee that no government officials are bribed, that civil contracts will be enforced, and that there will be repercussions for violations. These are required

first steps, for then and only then will markets be free and operate efficiently, giving rise to human advancement. Moreover, a 'New UN' vested with real power would remedy the short falls of the current UN system, as is dramatically evidenced by the current failures in Sudan, where the existing UN structure simply continues to place humanitarian Band-Aids on gaping geo-political lesions.

Expanding the UN's Security Council is an important initial step conceptually, but in today's world a fresh new structure is needed, a more comprehensive overhaul is required, instituting the 'New UN' with the real power to act, yet throttled by proper checks and balances on its newly engineered authority. We need to discuss bold ideas like placing the military forces of NATO under the UN, making the Blue Helmets a true military force of honor and integrity, creating a UN Army that demands each soldier conduct themselves with respect, under a strict military code of conduct, where any transgression is severely punished. We need to consider incorporating the International Court of Justice into a UN Court System. We need to debate allowing for direct taxation and funding of the UN, and holding direct elections for the executive leader of the UN.

To equitably pay for these services to all of society, this 'New UN' needs to be funded by all the people of the world. And we know that the fairest tax is a Flat Transaction Tax, an ATP Tax, so we need to implement a tax on every transaction which occurs worldwide, wherein under such a system the wealthy nations will pay their share, because they have bigger economies, and smaller countries will not be burdened, yet still contribute. In light of the enormous size of the world economy, a Flat Transactional Tax of say one tenth of one percent of sales in the Developed World and one twentieth of one percent of sales in the Undeveloped World would adequately provide for a New UN's

annual budget, giving it the resources to accomplish its re-defined mission. It is time that all people of the world support and fund this new International Structure, a structure needed to properly govern our worldwide society. If financed with a Transactional Tax, all the people of the world would equitably underwrite and benefit from an appropriate international government that effectively serves the interest of all citizens.

With proper financing comes proper accountability, and so now we can mandate direct elections for the leader of the UN. The technology certainly exists to hold a world-wide election. Right now our tax dollars pay for the UN . . . are we not entitled to have a direct voice of the people heard? Surely the people of the world can elect at least the chief executive of a New UN, and accept that we indirectly elect the legislative branch of the UN through our national elections for Presidents and Prime Ministers, who appoint the member states' Ambassadors to the General Assembly. The New UN needs to be a voice of the people, by the people, and for the people; not an institution of, by, and for, its member nation-states.

Let us be idealistic. Let us demand that member nation-states provide their people a real local democracy, for such democracy takes the fuel from the fire of civil rebellion. Under a transitional timeline, local democracy should be required in order to continue as a member nation-state in the 'New UN'. This can be true even under a dictatorship, for strong local democracy will give critical powers to the people, it will give them a piece of the process, even if they live with a self-appointed national leader.

At some level, for a secure, peaceful, international society, our communities must be filled with individuals who are educated and confident in the depth of their own traditions, as well as in the traditions of their global neighbors. America has been a

shining example of this reality, for in the US if you came from Ireland, you became an Irish/American, if you came from Africa, you became an African/American, if you came from China, you became a Chinese/American. What other country could proudly boast of such a reality? But America is losing this talent, and though she is still educated and confident in her own traditions, she is losing her ability to know and embrace her neighbors. As part of this disturbing shift we see there is a one-way flow of pop culture from the West to the East and with this one-directional stream the West receives next to nothing of the creative, philosophical, and artistic work from the East. So today, sadly, we know precious little of the art, music, literature, and fabric of the Muslim World or the Asian World. Even more unsettling is the clear reality that caught in this 'Western Tide', the people of the East are slowly drowning in the waters of this 'Western Cultural Flood', causing them to desperately scramble and claw for air.

Due to this reality Americans, and many Westerners, need to make an effort to go out into the international world and live abroad for a few years, difficult as it may be in our terror-filled society. Today, 80% of all Americans do not have a Passport. This needs to change. We need to take steps to experience other cultures and perspectives. You need to go and move to an Undeveloped nation, go to university abroad, learn a language, for as much as you will benefit, the land and the people you visit will be enriched equally as well. As part of such an initiative we need to expand and integrate the many volunteer programs like the US Peace Corps, UN Volunteers, and German GTZ; for as the twenty-something's search their souls and choose their paths in life, these ideas need to be considered, these actions need to be taken, each of us needs to expect more from a job than a paycheck, and give more to a job than hours of labor.

Clearly, the concept of a 'New UN' will take many years to gain traction, but the needed movement of the world's people towards this reality is undeniable. This type of systematic change asks us to gaze far into this century, to look beyond the moment, and see safeguards that will last an epoch. To begin this process we need to start publicly thinking, speaking, and acting toward this shared perspective. As the holy man says, the journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step. As such a first step, we need to start exhibiting the symbols of international unity, displaying the archetypes that unite us all. Each of us, at every level, local, state, and national, needs to start flying the Colors of the UN with our own countries' Flags, at every public occasion, be it at our parades, or at our ball games, or in our schools. Such acts will build the mythos, embedding the belief and understanding that we all can coordinate our lives respectfully and with dignity and honor, demonstrating that a pluralistic world truly is the basis of a civil society. As part of this evolution, it is time to start examining places and countries on the globe where multicultural groups have collectively established a society that is efficient and successful, like Canada and Lebanon, and begin to understand why their structure works.

In considering these concepts, see with clarity and do not acquiesce to the feeling that embracing a New UN is un-patriotic. Quite the opposite, it is the organic evolution of our patriotism and the patriotism of every nation. Remember your history. Nationalism in its extreme is the seed of fascism (recall Nazi Germany). Recognize that natural law dictates that all people, in all countries, have certain unalienable rights, and among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that to secure these rights, governments are instituted by the people, and that at the foundational level this is now a global endeavor. Socially, culturally, governmentally, we are all riding on the same train.

## Land Of Hope and Dreams

By: Bruce Springsteen, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

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Grab your ticket and your suitcase  
Thunder's rollin' down this track  
You don't know where you're goin'  
But you know you won't be back  
Darlin' if you're weary  
Lay your head upon my chest  
We'll take what we can carry  
And we'll leave the rest

Big wheels roll though fields where  
Sunlight streams  
Meet me in a  
Land of hope and dreams

I will provide for you  
And I'll stand by your side  
You'll need a good companion for  
This part of the ride  
Leave behind your sorrows  
Let this day be the last  
Tomorrow there'll be sunshine  
And all this darkness past

Big wheels roll through fields where  
Sunlight streams  
Meet me in a  
Land of hope and dreams

This train . . . .  
Carries saints and sinners  
This train . . . .  
Carries losers and winners  
This train . . . .  
Carries whores and gamblers  
This train . . . .  
Carries lost souls  
This train . . . .  
Dreams will not be thwarted  
This train . . . .  
Faith will be rewarded  
This train . . . .  
Hear the steel wheels singin'

This train . . . .  
Bells of freedom ringin'  
This train . . . .  
Carries broken-hearted  
This train . . . .  
Thieves and sweet souls departed  
This train . . . .  
Carries fools and kings  
This train . . . .  
All aboard

This train . . . .  
Dreams will not be thwarted  
This train . . . .  
Faith will be rewarded  
This train . . . .  
Hear the steel wheels singin'  
This train . . . .  
Bell of freedom ringin'

## **Color Esperanza (The Color of Hope)**

By: Diego Torres, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

Se que hay en tus ojos con solo mirar (I know what is in your eyes with simple watching)  
Que estas cansado de andar y de andar (That you are tired from walking and walking)  
Y caminar girando siempre en un lugar (And to walk always turning in one place)  
Se que las ventanas se pueden abrir (I know that the windows can be opened)  
Cambiar el aire depende de ti (To change the air depends on you)  
Te ayudara vale la pena una vez mas (It will help you to bond the pain once again)

Saber que se puede (Knowledge that it can be)  
Querer que se pueda (Wanted that it can be)  
Quitarse los miedos (Take of the fears)  
Sacarlos afuera (Remove them outside)  
Pintarse la cara (To paint the face )  
Color esperanza (With the color of hope)  
Tentar al futuro (To touch the future)  
Con el Corazon (With the heart)

El major perderse que nunca embarcar (It is better to lose itself than never to embark)  
Mejor tentarse a djar de intentar (Better to touch itself, than to not let try)  
Aunque ya ves que no es tan facil empezar (Although already you see that it is not so easy to begin)  
Se que lo imposible se pede lograr (I know that the impossible thing can be obtained)  
Que la tristeza algun dia se ira (That the sadness some day will go away)  
Y asi sera la vida cambia y cambiara (And thus will be that life changes and will change)

Sentiras que el alma vuela por cantar una vez mas (You will feel that the soul flies to sing once again)  
Vale mas poder brillar ques solo buscar ver el sol (More valuable shining brightly than simply looking to the sun)

## MUSICAL NOTES

Rock'n Roll was born out of gospel and the blues, and Springsteen's "Land of Hope and Dreams" is evidence of this tradition. Reworking the old blues spiritual "This Train Is Bound For Glory", Springsteen suggests a more compassionate view. Though there are many versions and renditions, the original lyrics for "This Train" are generally believed to be:

This train is bound for glory, this train  
This train is bound for glory, this train  
This train is bound for glory,  
Don't ride nothin' but the righteous an' the glory  
This train is bound for glory, this train

This train don't carry gamblers, this train  
This train don't carry gamblers, this train  
This train don't carry gamblers,  
No hypocrites, no midnight ramblers,  
This train is bound for glory, this train  
This train is build for speed now, this train  
This train is build for speed now, this train  
This train is build for speed  
Fastest train you ever did see  
This train is bound for glory, this train

This train don't carry no liars, this train  
This train don't carry no liars, this train  
This train don't carry no liars  
No hypocrites and no high flyers  
This train is bound for glory, this train

This train don't pay no transportation, this train  
This train don't pay no transportation, this train  
This train don't pay no transportation  
No Jim Crow and no discrimination  
This train is bound for glory, this train

This train don't carry no rustlers, this train  
This train don't carry no rustlers, this train  
This train don't carry no rustlers  
No street walkers, no two-bit hustlers  
This train is bound for glory, this train

Over the years “This Train” has been recorded by many artists, from Big Bill Broonzy to Johnny Cash to Woody Guthrie (who used the end of the song’s title for his Autobiography “Bound for Glory”) to The Indigo Girls. However, in some ways it was Curtis Mayfield who was the first to evolve the song into a new more inclusive perspective. Inspired by “This Train”, moved by the work of Martin Luther King, Mayfield is said to have written “People Get Ready” while in a deep spiritual state. About “People Get Ready” Mayfield has said, “The lyrics steered a bit honesty and truth. I wanted to bring a little gospel into the drive for reality with the song, and it also lent a pride to those who were oppressed and trying to define themselves on another level.” Composed in 1965 when Mayfield was with The Impressions, Curtis displayed an awareness of the growing need for social consciousness, which would influence many future artists. Interestingly, for example, several years later Bob Marley was in turn inspired by Mayfield, when he borrowed some lines from “People Get Ready” for his hit “One Love.” The lyrics for “People Get Ready” are:

People get ready, there's a train comin'  
You don't need no baggage, you just get on board  
All you need is faith to hear the diesels hummin'  
You don't need no ticket you just thank the lord

People get ready, there's a rain to Jordan  
Picking up passengers coast to coast  
Faith is the key, open the doors and board them  
There's hope for all among those loved the most  
There ain't no room for the hopeless sinner whom would hurt all mankind  
Just to save his own  
Have pity on those whose chances grow thinner  
For there is no hiding place against the kingdoms throne

People get ready there's a train comin'  
You don't need no baggage, just get on board  
All you need is faith to hear the diesels hummin'  
You don't need no ticket, just thank the lord

In "Land of Hope & Dreams" Springsteen took "This Train" even a step further, expanding and propelling the original text, writing additional new lyrics, boldly reversing the rejection of sinners and the unfaithful in some of the original versions, to a vision that excludes no one, in a testament of our truly-one community. In concert Springsteen would turn himself into a preacher, promising to spread "the ministry of rock 'n roll." He would drop to his knees, open his arms wide and work the audience into a rejuvenation, injecting them with optimism, offering lines that predicted "tomorrow there will be sunshine and all this darkness with pass", and with the E Street Band's collective sound akin to a soul revue, it was easy to believe.

Analogously, written during the depths of poverty and despair is South America, "The Color of Hope" is an anthem calling to the people, that by working together, they can rise up and build a better life. Originally released off the album **Un Mundo Diferente (A Different World)**, Torres expanded the song into a Movie of the same title, and in 2005 millions watched a live transmission of the song on MTV Unplugged. Diego

is the son of the renowned Latin Singer Lolita Torres. Known as the 'Bob Dylan of Argentina', Diego offers a glimpse of the universality of rock music, capable of speaking in all languages, capable of reaching people of all cultures.

#### 4. A WORLD-WIDE FREE MARKET – CREATING OPPORTUNITY AND ELIMINATING POVERTY THROUGH PROFITS AND DIGNITY

*“The propensity to truck, barter, and exchange one thing for another is common to all men, and to be found in no other race of animals.”*

Adam Smith, 1776  
The Wealth of Nations

*“What kind of society isn’t structured on greed? The problem of social organization is how to set up an arrangement under which greed will do the least harm; capitalism is that kind of system.”*

Milton Friedman

*Where-ever Law ends, tyranny begins*

John Locke, 1690  
Second Treatise of Government

Until we accept and embrace that this society has one world economy where artificially benefiting workers in the US with protectionism will injure workers in China or Brazil or elsewhere, and likewise protectionism in Europe will injure workers in the US or India or elsewhere, until we accept that only through the efficiencies of an international Free-Market, governed by the rule of law, will the highest and most dynamic use of materials, labor, ideas, and initiative exist, to the utilitarian benefit of all of us, then the fault line which divides the rich and the poor will only continue to widen and deepen. It must be one world-wide economic success, not the success of one region at the expense of, or lack of success in, other regions. If the gap between the haves and the have-nots expands any further the world is destined to fall into chaos and collapse

under the weight of its own oppression. Today, 4 Billion people or two-thirds of the population live in poverty. With the poor moving from the countryside to the cities, poverty in the Urban Metros has become so great that 1 in 2 people are Shanty-town squatters.(1) World-wide 6% of the people possess 60% of the wealth.(2) The hard reality is 65% of the world's population is living in financial desperation, we are talking \$2 per day poverty. This is almost incomprehensible. It begs the question, at what percentage of the population existing in abject poverty does violent rebellion begin? Do the riots start at 75% - predicted for 2020, or will the masses be held off until 90% - predicted for 2040?(3) We must act now or our children will live in a world of turmoil.

Strangely enough, the answer to poverty lies not with charity, international aid, or public works, or even education (though this is truly important and will be discussed later), but rather in creating an environment where opportunity is real and tangible. The answer lies in providing the appropriate institutions, the ones we in the 1<sup>st</sup> World so easily take for granted, which will guarantee the proper conditions of a free market. Then the wide-spread infectious spirit of entrepreneurship, and the individual dignity it manifests, will invade the culture and, surprisingly, permeate down to even the lowest levels of the economic pyramid.

The successes of a Free Market are everywhere in history, from the robust trading of ancient Egypt, to the prosperity of Renaissance Venice, to the exponential growth of the U.S. in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and now the churning economic engine in modern day India and China. The natural efficiency of a truly free marketplace, not only to deliver the most cost effective products and services to the people, but also to provide, through enfranchising opportunity, the subtle and incalculable psychological benefits of vesting

the individual participants with respect, confidence, and self actualization, collectively establishes powerful and enlightened foundational pillars for society. Under such a framework the benefits of free market inclusive capitalism will far outweigh the detriments of exploitive and ignoble acts implemented by some of capitalism's more egregious practitioners.

Specifically, we need to envision and build a free market, a capitalist system, which is an all embracing capitalism, reaching out and engulfing all segments of society, especially the poor. This again requires you to take a fresh approach, a new look at the existing paradigm, and with minds washed clean, to seek solutions to the problems of our current economic system and the poverty which exists in our civilization. We need to focus on the segregated poor, or as they are sometimes called the "4<sup>th</sup> World", who exist today outside the established benefits that capitalism offers. We need to address two issues, one is how to create a truly free market, and the other is how to bring the huge population mass of the poor into society's capitalistic framework.

Within a capitalistic market, muscle jobs will go to where muscle labor is plentiful. Areas that lose labor jobs must re-educate and leverage the resources available to them to develop new skills and create demand for their new talents. These are the steps of the natural migration of assets to their most efficient level, which ultimately produces the most inexpensive product in the marketplace, which will be important to you the next time you go down to the local mall to buy a new pair of Nikes. Ultimately, low level labor work-forces do low level labor jobs well. One example is farming, which is a type of work that is easy for the Undeveloped World to perform, with a ready supply of labor, yet the Third World does not do as much farming as it should. Why? Because we do not

have a free marketplace, so efficiencies do not seek their own level, and the people in Undeveloped economies have no work because the market for the goods they produce has been artificially suppressed. If there were a truly free International Market, such a market would allow for commodity prices to seek natural levels, in turn allowing Third World farmers to make a decent living, and so they would farm. But, the parochial protectionism of North America and Europe stops this from happening through the use of crop subsidies for First World farmers. This form of protectionism must end; from the global view it is the best and fairest chance for the 3<sup>rd</sup> World, or the 4<sup>th</sup> World, to find real work and join the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Beyond farming, the potential for a vibrant economy in the communities of the poor in all sectors - manufacturing, trades, services, and crafts - is enormous, but requires governments to provide enforcement of contracts, the clear and easy establishment of property rights, and zero tolerance of corruption. It requires existing large multinational corporations and independent entrepreneurs to think creatively, to realize the unique issues when dealing with the poor, and to understand how to properly access this market. With training and guidance the poor will eliminate their own poverty through profits, but it will take vision and support by all sectors of society and government, including Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), as well as entrepreneurial efforts, and a willingness by the younger generation to risk its time and energy to develop this market, notwithstanding these hurdles, and perceive that the return on this investment can be significant. A shining example of such an effort is the Lijjat company in India, wholly owned and operated by 40,000 women. Yes you read that right 40,000 woman/owners, who produce and sell “poppadums”, a tortilla like sandwich of lentils, rice and spices.(4)

You might call it the hamburger of the Subcontinent. The genius of Lijjat is that they figured out how to let their female employees complete the company's work while remaining at home. Each morning the women go to a central neighborhood location to meet their supervisors, pick up the ingredients to cook the poppadums, and then they return home, spending the day making their allotment in their own kitchens. The next morning they turn in their cooked poppadums, receive their payments, and pick up a new batch of ingredients for that day. The supervisors in turn take the made poppadums, have them processed, wrapped, distributed, and sold. This brilliant structure is now a \$65 million a year business, having been built by adapting and leveraging the conditions of the poor, and by empowering woman, a needed and prophetic example of what our future is capable of creating.

The issue of poverty is compounded by the imbedded problem, the harsh reality, that we live in a world with too many people for the natural resources available. The planet is finite and we need to start thinking about how many people Mother Earth can support, and how many poor do we want living a life of total struggle? We must begin to have a strategic plan for population control to save the planet. The cold truth is that the resources of the earth can not properly support today's population of 6 Billion people, much less the 10 Billion of 2040. We do not have the oil, water, food, or land to sustain so many people, especially when the majority of the population starts to rise above the poverty line and begins to consume natural resources proportionate to the increase in their living standards (this fact is heightened when medical advances further extend life spans putting greater economic pressure on society's institutions, recall Vonnegut's *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*). Right now we already have 4 Billion people

in deep poverty. As a first step should we not lower this 4 Billion to a manageable number and create a world where more of our population can experience a decent level of living, before we expand our total population to 10 Billion? Is not the world better served with 6 Billion satisfied people, i.e. maybe only 3 Billion poor, before we grow to 10 Billion people and 9 Billion poor? Granted, questions of population control are laced with many intertwined threads, both moral and practical. But, forget the moral for the moment and consider the practical. Today, parts of Europe are experiencing serious population decline, and need people to support their local economy and society, while at the same time the undeveloped world is experiencing an exploding population. Regardless of local concerns, there are too many people from a global perspective. If some parts of civilization have too few people and other parts have too many, it is common sense to begin looking at ways to migrate people trans-nationally in an efficient manner and provide the most effective use of our global work force, rather than increasing the birth rate in areas of a diminishing population. The World's rich but shrinking nations need to take labor from poor but growing ones, providing the remedy for their dilemma. In turn capital will flow along a reverse path, benefiting the poor nations, a solution for all components. The free movement of labor will provide for the highest use of our existing population. Alternatively, if we do not allow for immigration, and birth rates continue to balloon in undeveloped countries, the cumulative population growth will bring ever more people into this world than the earth can care for, which will result in fueling and expanding poverty. At some point your children will have to deal with this crisis because you chose not to.

And are not these unsatisfied poor the source of many of our serious geo-political problems: crime, drugs, genocide, robbery, theft, and rape? As Marcus Aurelius once said, poverty is the mother of crime. Hey, if you had to live on \$2 a day you would be pissed off too. If all you had was a future with an absence of hope, you too would be full of rage; alienation would be your call of the day. Correspondingly, if we can reduce or eliminate poverty, will we not reduce or eliminate crime, governmental burden, and maybe some terrorism?

Sadly, in our interrelated world the child of poverty has many bad habits beyond crime. Consider the interconnection of food, natural resources, and environmental conditions when exploited by the poor due to their horrific conditions and you will see how the sublet yet surprisingly powerful repercussions can be totally devastating. A look at Haiti exposes just such a nightmare. Over the past 10 years the Haitian people have been so poor that they have had no money to buy gas or coal or electricity to cook and feed their families. So hundreds of thousands of Haitians have taken to the hills and country side of this island nation to chop down trees for the wood they need just to stay alive. This elimination of almost all the trees in Haiti has created tremendous environmental problems. Without the trees, the topsoil has run down the hills of the mountainous island leaving the land incapable of growing any crops, so the farmers are out of work. Moreover, the topsoil runoff has infiltrated the estuaries of the harbors and inlets, and this has killed the breeding grounds of many species of aquatic life, destroying the fish stocks in the region, leaving the fishermen with no fish to catch and out of work too. Such circumstances fuel the 3<sup>rd</sup> World's seemingly perpetual cycle of no economic development, no jobs, poverty, and starvation.

Alternatively, there are positive examples of how the economy, the environment, and you the consumer, can all be benefited by a true free market. One such instance is an electric company in Alabama. This company runs all coal burning electrical power plants, and in surveying the industry it realized that the coal it is so dependant on, coming from West Virginia and Wyoming, is expensive and highly pollutant, a low-grade coal, which created environmental problems and high electric bills for its customers.(5) Looking for innovative solutions the company found an abandoned coal mine in Columbia which had major reserves of a high-grade low pollutant coal. They bought it, opened it back up, put thousands of people in Columbia to work, and purchased from themselves environmentally friendly inexpensive coal. The end result is both positive and negative from a local perspective, but efficient and utilitarian from a global one. Locally there is less pollution, which is good all the way around, but the many employed workers in Columbia means less sales of US coal (which will have a trickle down effect of less US jobs), but the less expensive coal means lower monthly electric bills, making many Alabamians happy; in balance weighing the benefits and detriments of these events, it is clear that this is a classic testament to the great efficiency and utility of the marketplace when allowed to operate freely.

So, if one believes the free market is the wisest path to diminish poverty, then it becomes paramount to establish the conditions required for the free market to function. This means establishing institutions for the rule of law, no corruption, the enforcement of contracts, establishment of property rights, and no governmental protectionism to favor a particular industry. Remember those Merchant Warriors from the East India Trading Company who had their way in America? Well, in an extreme example of a protectionist

regime, they really had their way in India. The British Government in the 1800's, again under the direction of the East India Company, sent the British Army into a factory of Muslim/Bengali weavers outside Calcutta. These craftsmen were the finest makers of silk clothes and tapestries on the Subcontinent. So exquisite were their products that the British made garments could not compete in the market. Nobody wanted the poorly made British knockoffs, and who could blame them when the finest garments on the planet were available for the same price. But the Brits would have none of this. The East India Company wanted profits and wanted them now (connected shareholders, like the King, had to be satisfied), and being the boys in power they would simply change the rules if they could not get it done in the marketplace, as one in control can do when chasing the Biblical twin vices of power and money. To overcome their failures in the market the British merchants had the Army round up all the Indian weavers, including their children, who by ancient tradition apprenticed in the factory where a father would pass down his craft to his son, and then the soldiers, in a swift and grotesque act, chopped off everyone's hands, fathers and sons.

Protectionism in today's world is less brutal, but no less effective. Currently the US Government restricts the importation of sugar into the US market, protecting the US sugar producers, and to compound its error the US Government uses your tax dollars to subsidize the sugar farmer so the price does not climb too high when you visit your local supermarket. Where is the wisdom in that logic, tax your paycheck to give money to the farmer, so that when you buy sugar at the Safeway it's cheaper? Go figure. All these shenanigans at what cost? A loss of jobs in the Undeveloped world, the inefficient taxing of your money to pay farmers to stay in a business the market will not support, and the

quid pro quo penalization of other industries. See, to combat the US Government's protection of American Sugar Farmers, foreign countries in turn restrict the export of American wheat or beef, hurting other US farmers and ranchers. So we experience all these negative by-products just because sugar has a powerful Washington lobby. Protectionism is myopic, it favors the few at the expense of the many. Certainly Spock would not allow it. In the end if you are an advocate of protectionism, one must ask, where do you draw the line? Does the protected line start at the National border, the State line, the County line, the City limits? Why there? Every day the utility of the free market moves jobs from Ohio to Florida, or Pennsylvania to Arizona. Should we artificially support Ohio jobs over Florida jobs? No way. Then why should we artificially support jobs in the US over jobs in Latin America or Asia? The efficiency of the market will serve the many. And remember, as part of a free market system, with every dollar you spend at Old Navy, Wal-Mart, or Saks, you exercise your right to support a position (actively or passively), and do not underestimate the power of your wallet. So if you want cheap jeans, then you have to accept jobs in Mexico, if you want a low cost dependable TV, DVD or laptop, you have to accept jobs in China.

The U.S. economy is the largest in the world, with an annual Gross National Product (GNP) of \$11.7 Trillion, the next closest is Japan with a GNP of \$4.6 Trillion, China's GNP is only \$1.7 Trillion.<sup>(6)</sup> Think about this, the US has 280 million people, yet it has an economy ten times the size of China's, and China has 1.3 Billion people. How is this possible? Through the free-market. The US has 25% of the world's GNP with only 4% of its population, to do this we must be selling some goods and services internationally, right? We owe our prosperity to the free market.

The truth is that America does not need protectionism to insure the health of its economy. If the American people want the best goods for the best price, and by buying international goods this produces a trade imbalance in the US, then what America needs to figure out is how to export more of its goods and services, how to export more of what it does best. This will contribute to the efficiencies of the many, and reduce the US trade imbalance. America needs to start thinking outside the box. America needs to figure out how to export more of the best services it has to offer, services needed around the world, such as services which provide the infrastructure for a free market. Maybe America needs to export its institutions of the rule of law, like its police talents, like its body of contract law, like its body of labor law, its body of property law, its anti-corruption laws, its system of contract mediation, its court system, and the support structures that implement these services. Imagine if Peru or Angola had the quality of a US police force, district attorney, public defender, contract law, property law, labor law, arbitration, and court system. The foreign investment would flow into those countries. At one level it is a very simple concept: either provide a system of robust rule of law that eliminates corruption, political and governmental, and you create an attractive and dynamic economy, with all its trickle down benefits, or in the absence of these institutions the vacuum will be filled by a Slum Lord marketplace where poverty festers and grows (and note under Slum Lord conditions the problems of the poor are compounded by the “Poverty Penalty”, see in the Shanty-Towns everything is more expensive, basic food stuffs, interest on borrowed money, clothes, everything has an added cost to cover the burden of paying the Slum Lord his inequitable percentage). Alternatively the environment of no corruption, enforcement of contracts, and rule of law, is, and has

always been, the golden key for a successful society. In 14<sup>th</sup> Century China, to insure the maintenance of such policies, rulers of the Ming Dynasty would skin a convicted corrupt official alive and then have their hide hung on the walls of government buildings to dissuade others from considering similar activity. We need a practice much less barbaric, but just as efficient, a reality that can be accomplished by a robust judicial system.

Think about poverty in the 3<sup>rd</sup> World and ask yourself, why is it that these economies do not develop, why are they stagnate and stifled? The answer is that they lack the jurisprudential infrastructure to make the risk/reward calculus of investment by entrepreneurs and corporations manageable. If a company invests cash, but then that cash is misused by one of the contractual parties, and that contract can not be enforced because of a corrupt court system or a corrupt cop, that company will never invest again, and they will tell all their friends of their bad experience. It is hard enough in our stormy world to beat the odds and achieve success, if the game is rigged due to a corrupt system, with no law and order, then the odds of success become so long no one will make the bet, take the chance, take that stab at romance; and the by-product is no jobs, no opportunity, and a lack of hope. So to develop a 3<sup>rd</sup> world economy, to reduce poverty, the first step must be a robust court system, a corrupt-free police force, and the first step to a corrupt-free cop is to pay a respectable salary and then prosecute even the smallest police corruption infraction to the maximum, just like the Ancient Chinese. The result will be honest cops, which will lead to honest courts, which will lead to enforcement of contracts, which will lead to capital being invested, which will lead to jobs and the rising of the poor, unlocking the bound assets of the Undeveloped World. Interestingly, though you may not realize this, the World Bank has but a single task, to reduce poverty. How

does it choose to tackle this mission? It focuses on public works and utility projects-the wrong approach, an approach that invites corruption and cronyism. Rather the World Bank should use its significant recourses to pay for police, legal frameworks, courts, and judicial systems, and then the capital markets, in a free and supported environment, will do the rest.

The world is poised with a unique opportunity. The free market is taking hold in places like India, China, Russia, Ghana, and Vietnam, and as a more inclusive capitalism is established, based in a rule of law that must grow more robust, then there will be less poverty, more access to opportunity, and in the end, the development of a pluralistic society. We need to embrace these concepts of a strong judicial system, a free and transparent private market, in a sustainable economic model, for these elements will reduce poverty by providing the fabric of real opportunity, and through this meritocracy, offer dignity and individual respect, creating the foundation upon which to provide everyone shelter from the storm.

## **Shelter From The Storm**

By: Bob Dylan, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

'Twas in another lifetime, one of toil and blood  
When blackness was a virtue and the road was full of mud  
I came in from the wilderness, a creature void of form  
"Come in," she said,  
"I'll give you shelter from the storm."

And if I pass this way again, you can rest assured  
I'll always do my best for her, on that I give my word  
In a world of steel-eyed death, and men who are fighting to be warm.  
"Come in," she said,  
"I'll give you shelter from the storm."

Not a word was spoke between us, there was little risk involved  
Everything up to that point had been left unresolved.  
Try imagining a place where it's always safe and warm.  
"Come in," she said,  
"I'll give you shelter from the storm."

I was burned out from exhaustion, buried in the hail,  
Poisoned in the bushes an' blown out on the trail,  
Hunted like a crocodile, ravaged in the corn.  
"Come in," she said,  
"I'll give you shelter from the storm."

Suddenly I turned around and she was standin' there  
With silver bracelets on her wrists and flowers in her hair.  
She walked up to me so gracefully and took my crown of thorns.  
"Come in," she said,  
"I'll give you shelter from the storm."

Now there's a wall between us, somethin' there's been lost  
I took too much for granted, got my signals crossed.  
Just to think that it all began on a long-forgotten morn.  
"Come in," she said,  
"I'll give you shelter from the storm."

Well, the deputy walks on hard nails and the preacher rides a mount  
But nothing really matters much, its doom alone that counts  
And the one-eyed undertaker, he blows a futile horn.  
"Come in," she said,  
"I'll give you shelter from the storm."

I've heard newborn babies wailin' like a mournin' dove  
And old men with broken teeth stranded without love  
Do I understand your question, man, is it hopeless and forlorn?  
"Come in," she said,  
"I'll give you shelter from the storm."

In a little hilltop village, they gambled for my clothes  
I bargained for salvation an' they gave me a lethal dose.  
I offered up my innocence and got repaid with scorn.  
"Come in," she said,  
"I'll give you shelter form the storm."

Well, I'm livin' in a foreign country but I'm bound to cross the line  
Beauty walk a razor's edge, someday I'll make it mine.  
If I could only turn back the clock to when God and her were born.  
"Come in," she said,  
"I'll give you shelter from the storm."

## **Gimme Shelter**

By: The Rolling Stones, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

Ooh, a storm is threatening my very life today  
If I don't get some shelter, yeah, I'm gonna fade away.  
War, children, its just a shot away, it's just a shot away  
War, children, its just a shot away, it's just a shot away.

Ooh, see the fire is sweeping, our very streets today  
Burns like a red coal carpet, mad bull lost its way.  
War, children, it's just a shot away, it's just a shot away  
War, children, its just a shot away, it's just a shot away.

Rape, murder, it's just a shot away, it's just a shot away  
Rape, murder, it's just a shot away, it's just a shot away  
Rape, murder, it's just a shot away, it's just a shot away.

Mmmm, the flood is threatening, my very life today  
Gimme, gimme shelter or I'm gonna fade away.  
War, children, its just a shot away, it's just a shot away.  
It's just a shot away, a shot away, a shot away.

I said, love, sister, it's just a kiss away, it's just a kiss away  
It's just a kiss away, it's just a kiss away, kiss away, kiss away.

## MUSICAL NOTES

In the lineage that started with Dylan's lyrics from "A Hard Rain", which in turn prompted CCR's "Who'll Stop the Rain", this example of that generation's working artists' practice of call and response, continued when Dylan was moved by CCR's line "seeking shelter from the storm." He reacted to Fogerty's call, expanding and building an entire new song "Shelter", with enhanced metaphors and personal self-reflective insight. "Shelter" was one of the hits from the album **Blood on the Tracks**. During the making of this album Dylan was so frustrated with earlier recordings of the songs produced in New York that he re-grouped and returned home to Minnesota to re-record most of the songs, including "Shelter." With a new collection of Nashville session musicians, Dylan used a streamlined, almost country feel, and non-standard guitar tuning, creating exquisite open chord voicings. Filled with stark, yet dynamic instrumentals, the songs, infused with powerful, introspective lyrics, reflected a society of turmoil and evolution.

Likewise, with "Gimme Shelter", Mick Jagger, Brian Jones, and Keith Richards were equally inspired by the storm of political, social, and personal unrest, and reached in their own way to speak to these issues. Released in 1969 off the album **Let It Bleed**, which was a sarcastic response to the Beatles' **Let It Be** age of love treatise, The Stones saw a harsher, more conflicted world, increasingly filled with violence, in need of more practical shelter. From the onset, Brian Jones was a powerful artistic presence within

The Stones, bringing the traditions of Blues and R&B to their sound. Jones was the consummate Flower Child in the band, known to have roamed the grounds of the Monterey Pop Festival in a full-length fur coat, as the ‘ambassador’ for the Summer of Love. When Brian left The Stones in June of ‘69 and then died unexpectedly less than a month later, the group emotionally affected, sensed a loss and a time for change both collectively and socially. So moved by Jones’ passing, a few days after his death, in an outdoor concert at London’s Hyde Park, Mick read a poem from Shelley, and released a thousand butterflies. The lyrics of “Gimme Shelter” were unexpectedly prophetic. After the release of the **Let It Bleed** album in the fall of ‘69, The Stones played at the Altamont Music Festival in Northern California, in front of 300,000 fans. While playing their set, a young man at the base of the stage incited violence by wielding a gun and was subsequently killed by members of the Hell’s Angels, who were acting as security, tragically bringing to life the line sung by Merry Clayton in “Gimme Shelter”, ‘Oh, murder, it’s just a shot away.’ The album and the song evoke musical references to the airy, melodic-based, angst-laden, and emotionally-charged category of songs recorded by such R&B artists as The Four Tops, The Temptations, Marvin Gaye, and Ray Charles. And it seems no small coincidence that the foretelling lyric and musical statement is supercharged by the soulful wail of Ray Charles and Joe Cocker alumnus Merry Clayton.

## 5. THE WAR FOR WATER – DESALINIZATION FOR ALL

*“We never know the worth of water  
till the well is dry.”*

Thomas Fuller, 1732

*“Water flows uphill toward money.”*

Old Texas Saying

*“The cure for anything is salt water-  
sweat, tears, or the sea.”*

Isak Dinesen

After oil, the World’s single most-important, scarce, and volatile resource is water. Today, the lack of water, or “Clean Water”, is problematic. Tomorrow, it will be the next major battle ground. One billion people do not have safe water and 2.5 billion are without basic sanitation. Within 10 years, geologists predict that over one-half of the World’s population will suffer chronic water shortages, and in 20 years 2 out of 3 people will be without water.(1) Imagine how frustrated you would feel if you turned the shower on this morning and not a drop flowed, or if there was no water to flush your toilet.

Throughout the planet water has been, is, or will be, the underlying cause of many wars and military conflicts. Think about the struggle between Pakistan and India over the Kashmir Region, and ask yourself, why would two countries with enough geo-political issues already on their plates spend any time discussing, much less fighting over,

a poorly developed mountainous region like Kashmir? You guessed it. Water. Pakistan is an arid nation and 80% of its cropland must be irrigated. Its primary source of water is the Indus River, and whoever controls the headwaters of the Indus, which lies in Kashmir, controls Pakistan's crops and in turn its ability to feed its people.(2) So when India announces its intention to build a dam upstream on the Indus, Pakistan gets nervous.(3)

Also in Asia, Thailand is currently faced-off with China over a similar problem specific to the Mekong River. In the last couple of years China has constructed so many Dams to produce hydroelectric power to fuel its exploding economy, that they are strangling the Mekong to the devastation of the farmers and the fishermen who live downstream in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.(4) See, the farmers' crops are failing because the dams hold back 50% of the silt needed to fertilize the soil, and with no water in the riverbed, the fishermen, like the fish, are fighting extinction. So dramatic is the environmental impact of China's hyperactive economy, and the resulting increased consumption of water, that its wetlands have been reduced by 26% and over 2,000 lakes have dried up, all in the past couple of decades.(5)

In the geographically compact region of the Middle East the list of water scarce countries in 1955 was 3. By 2010, that list grows to 15. (6) Each of these countries will struggle to provide basic clean water to their people, adding tension to an already volatile region. In the West Bank the politics of Jews and Muslims are super-charged because that small strip of land is a major source of water for Israel.(7) As the 10<sup>th</sup> driest nation in the world, neighboring Jordan is desperate for water, and since their only access to this life-giving liquid is through Israel, it is understandable they would be uneasy about this

dependence.(8) The Nile River is shared by nine nations whose population will double in the next two decades, doubling the demand on the Nile's ability to provide water, yet the Nile's water volume remains the same as the day Moses was set adrift on her shoreline.(9)

In America, States like California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Florida are rapidly approaching water shortages; it is said Texas will be out of water by 2040. Florida is building a major desalination plant as the solution to its ever increasing population's demand for water, lest a crisis situation should occur; but with the current technology this is a very expensive and energy-hungry solution. Other States are considering radical solutions as well, including California, as they analyze the possibility of a water pipeline from Alaska through Canada, into the northern section of the state.

In the year 2000 consumption of water in the U.S. was 1,688 cubic meters (cm) per person per year, in India it was 377 cm, and it was 360cm in China.(10) With India's and China's explosive economic growth their per person use will soon double or triple, coming close to First World consumption levels, and surely then there will not be enough water to go around.

Compounding the problem, many countries, including many developing nations, are incapable of distributing usable water to its citizens. With expanding demand, the lack of water, the lack of distribution of water, and/or the lack of clean water, this reality collectively presents tremendous complications to the world's overall water problem. No clean water means a drought riddled region's last resort is to use contaminated water, which incubates and spreads the additional problems of waterborne disease, human infection, malnutrition, and health problems, and then there are also the repercussions

from farm land irrigated with dirty water (which in turn further contributes to starvation and hunger). So severe is this issue that a UN commission estimates that 4,000 children die each day as a result of disease caused by ingesting filthy water.(11) Think about that for a minute. Imagine if 4,000 children died daily in a war, how long would we allow it to continue? This problem is further exasperated when poor countries, financially unable to provide clean water to its citizens, attempt to privatize the Water Utility, where in some instances, under this type of privatization, the cost of water to the citizens becomes so great, it is not affordable by the very people it was designed to serve.

As an International Community we need to solve the world's need for water. This is true at all levels. In America there is a need for water in the large urban areas like LA and Las Vegas, as well as in the farmlands of the West and Mid-West, while in undeveloped nations the need is everywhere, from adequate and clean water in villages of the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, to water for industrialization and agriculture in the many fast growing Third World economies. While prosperous areas of the world will have the cash to help them cope with rising demand and dwindling water supplies, poor countries are at risk of suffering massive scarcity, and shortly this crisis in the Third World will rise to the level of people moving their homes, uprooting their families, all in the search of water. In effect we will have water refugees. It is estimated that China alone will have over 30 million of these water refugees, forced to move from the rural areas to the cities, which in turn creates domino like problems for the urban areas attempting to cope with swelling populations.(12)

Technology offers a couple potential solutions, but again it will take commitment. The first avenue to pursue is to improve desalinization techniques, both from a cost and

efficiency perspective. Desalination is a powerful technological solution that must be advanced in ways that make it affordable by the many communities and nations that are in need. Desalination solves the bifurcated problem of no clean water and no system to distribute clean water to those who need it. Progress on this front is emerging in Israel, where a private firm is building a desalination plant with new technology. To date the real problem with Desalination has been the high cost and the use of too much energy to run a plant, but this firm's new technology re-cycles the energy and lowers the cost, almost to the price levels municipalities' typically pay to provide water.(13) And if you were thinking this need for technology is not so serious an issue, consider this. General Electric just paid \$1.1 billion for Iconics, and Siemens \$1 billion for U.S. Filter Corp, both companies that design, build, and operate desalination plants.(14) Global water services is now annually a \$360 billion market. These boys see the future and they are staking their ground.

A second solution is a technology known as "Liquid Air." Basically this is a large plant or portable machine that sucks in air, processes it, and then produces water. The concept is elegant in its simplicity, and could solve issues of water scarcity as well as the enormous burden of distributing the water, if it could be refined.(15) But, right now, Liquid Air's problem is that the machinery consumes too much power, electrical or oil, to accomplish the task as a wide scale solution. What if we could improve this technology? Just imagine a Liquid Air machine in every village in Africa or Asia to water the crops and supply the people. It would be dynamic.

Now is the time to begin a second major mission, a mission to provide clean water to everyone, a mission to design and invest in a means of cheaply desalinating water and

efficiently converting air to water, expanding, improving, and making accessible these technologies on a broad scale. Say we make a \$10 billion commitment to advancing desalination and Liquid Air technology. Surely that would provide a solution for the masses, and the return on investment would be logarithmic, with the future savings of hundreds of billions of dollars in starvation and failing economies, not to mention caring for and improving lives. Why are we not making this investment? This is a painful question because today Government subsidies to water suppliers' amount to more than \$33 billion a year, just to keep the price of water low, so that the people will not become restless.(16) Why not spend one-third of your tax dollars to develop a real solution, rather than simply applying bandages?

The governments of the world need to form a scientific coalition, with large joint funding, to create a technological solution. Though it is always better to have less government, this is one of those rare instances, like a solution for oil, where government, especially a multilateral joint effort, is the institution uniquely suited to provide the answer. More specifically, an international water commission, in conjunction with a research science coalition should be formed. For without a unified international effort local governments will continue to look for parochial solutions that do not consider the broader scope of this issue. Today, there are 260 rivers that flow through two or more countries and in most cases no treaties exist among the nations to outline the sharing of the resource. Until a technical solution to produce sufficient water is developed, and an international agency to over see water rights is established, conflict will continue.(17)

At the end of the day water is a utility, a foundational block needed to build an economy, to build a family's hopes and dreams, and is one service governments need to

provide to the people of the world cheaply and efficiently. Technology is the answer. As a society we are far better served investing in a technical solution to remedy the overall water problem, than to invest in small patchwork remedies like deep water wells, human powered pumps, drip irrigation, and transportation pipes, on a community by community basis. Though these initiatives have merit, it is wiser to invest in a solution for everyone, even if it requires 5 years of work, than to invest in short term solutions available for only a few tomorrow. If we do not develop an inexpensive water production solution that can be implemented in all corners of the globe, the next great war will be over water.

## **Johnny's Garden**

By: Crosby, Stills and Nash, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

There's a place, I can get to  
Where I'm safe  
. . From the city blues  
And its green, and its quiet  
Only trouble was  
I had to buy it

And I'll do anything I got to do. .  
Cut my hair and shine my shoes. .  
And keep on singin' the blues. . .  
If I can stay here in Johnny's garden. . .

As the swift bird  
Flies over the grasses  
Dipping now and then  
To take his breakfast  
Thus I come and go  
And I travel  
But I can watch that bird  
And unravel

With his love  
And his carin'  
He puts his life  
Into beauty sharin'  
And his children  
Are his flowers  
There to give us peace  
In the quiet hours

## MUSICAL NOTES

In many ways Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young (CSN&Y) sat at the crossroads of Rock, especially West Coast Rock, with artists often co-writing and playing on each others' material in a unique form of community. The very formation of CSN&Y epitomized such collaboration. Crosby was originally a member of the Byrds with Roger McQuinn and Chris Hillman, but left because of his need to be more politically and socially proactive. This was exemplified when Crosby wrote and recorded the song "Triad", a progressive social commentary based on Robert A. Heinlein's book **Stranger in a Strange Land**, but the band would not let him release the song (later Crosby released this song on the CSN&Y album **4 Way Street**). At that time David had met Jackson Browne and then Cass Elliot, of The Mamas & The Papas, who introduced him to Graham Nash from the Hollies. Jamming together on occasion, Crosby met Joni Mitchell, an influential singer/songwriter who also wrote many political songs including "The Circle Game." She introduced him to Stills who was in Buffalo Springfield with Neil Young. This dynamic collaboration resulted in the Byrds touring with Buffalo Springfield in 1967. Out of these friendships, together CSN&Y ultimately released many politically-focused songs, including "Long Time Gone", "Wooden Ships", and "Ohio." Continually inspired by this movement, Stills wrote and first released "Johnny's Garden" on an album called **Manassas**, where it was one of several metaphorical songs considering the state of things. Though a solo album, Stills had help from many of his friends on **Manassas**, including contributions by Chris Hillman on bass guitar and vocals.

6. CITIZEN CHANGE: TIME TO MODIFY THE STATES' LAWS  
SPECIFIC TO THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE AND GIVE A NEW POLITICAL  
PARTY A FAIR CHANCE

*"There are many men of principle in both parties  
in America, but there is no party of principle."*

Alexis de Tocqueville, 1848  
Democracy in America

*"We hang the petty thieves and appoint the  
great ones to public office."*

Aesop

*"The death of democracy is not likely to be an  
assassination from ambush. It will be a slow  
extinction from apathy, indifference, and  
undernourishment."*

Robert M. Hutchins, 1954

All this talk about getting out the vote, Vote or Die, and Rock the Vote is well-intentioned and will produce some advances, but in the end these efforts will not lead to the more dynamic political evolution desired, or needed, until a small piece of each of the 50 States' Statutes is changed. The way the laws read today the cards are stacked in favor of those groups already in political power, you guessed it, the Republicans and Democrats, and it's a dirty little secret. Effectively hidden from media attention, without revising a tiny provision in each State's Election Laws, our collective frustration will continue. Seen from another angle, are you not dissatisfied by the current two party system in the U.S.? Don't you feel at times that you really don't fit snugly into either party? Maybe you believe in many of the Democratic positions, but you also find

yourself holding some of the Republican views, or maybe you carry predominantly a Republican perspective, but also believe in a few of the Democratic points. You just don't fit into either the Blue square or the Red square. OK, now wonder out loud for a minute, why have all the 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties failed over the past 20 years? Why did Nader, Anderson, and Perot, each of whom developed some momentum, at times approaching 20% of the vote - fail? The real answer will both surprise and piss you off. But wait a moment and we'll get to that.

Because of our current political party system we have descended as a people into a polarizing and divisive culture, which is not good. Logic tells us we are a more diverse group than just 2 political parties. It is time we created a new party that is wise and tempered, a party that sees clearly, that is not bound by the entrenched dogmas of the existing paradigm, and can provide wisdom and vision for the future. Three hundred and seventy five years before the birth of Christ, Plato prophesized that mankind will never see an end of trouble until lovers of wisdom come to hold political power, or the holders of power become lovers of wisdom; and so it is that for the most part, we still wait to attain this realization. Such a new political party just might reach for this goal, and to do so it must look to govern from the common ground, based upon the tenant that government works best closest to the people, in that the politician who meets their constituents on the street is far more accountable, than the politician whose closest brush with the people they serve is a TV camera, a focus group, or an opinion poll.

This new party needs to be progressive, and perhaps even called the Progressive Party. It needs to be the first Political Party to effectively cross national borders, it needs to be a Party with candidates that run for and are elected into legislative seats in

America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. This new party would be a unifying force, bringing together the world with a common vision for the most critical of issues - grassroots democracy, a true free market, sustainable development, equitable taxation, pluralist civil society, supporting a New UN, enforcing the Rule of Law/Constitutional Human Rights, protecting exploitation of labor, and educational solutions. Progressives have always been on the right side of history. It was the progressives who first said slavery should be abolished, when only a few would listen, it was progressives who said women should vote, when the major parties looked to suppress their voices, and it was the progressives who said desegregate schools and grant civil rights to all, when the established political machines worked to continue to disenfranchise. It has always been the progressives who stand lookout in the peoples' watchtower.

So if the progressives are this wise group, then why are they not in power? Again we ask, why is there no 3<sup>rd</sup> party, or 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> party, for that matter? Now the answer. The reason is both procedural and perception, and as indicated, is a result insured by a rigged game. On the procedural front the current 2 parties of power, the Republicans and Democrats, like being in power, and are willing to structure the system to promote and maintain their dominance, and though the Republicans and Democrats will battle each other on the campaign trail, they are quick to work together to exclude any 3<sup>rd</sup> party. We have seen this time and again, as they, with cold calculation, effectively and efficiently eliminate any Perot or Nader who comes along. The Blues and Reds like the duopoly of U.S. politics, they want to keep the corporate donor pie cut up into only 2 pieces, and they will continue to conspire to stop anyone else from pulling up a chair to the table.

The Republicans and Democrats are keenly aware that no 3<sup>rd</sup> party will ever take hold and gain prominence unless that party can advance a national Presidential candidate, because in the U.S., on the perception front, all politics flows down from the White House or the attempt to inhabit it. And so the Republicans and Democrats have manipulated the system to make it next to impossible for a 3<sup>rd</sup> party candidate to gain momentum. How? Through their control of the States' implementation of the Electoral College (EC) provisions. See the EC is this strange political child born in the remote passages of our Constitution.(1) The Founding Fathers were looking for a way to elect the President that met all the concerns of the day, specifically retaining more rights with the States than granting to the Feds, attempting to steer clear of party politics, and working to overcome a poor communications systems that was not capable of quickly informing voters in distant states about a candidate from the other end of the country. So the Framers created a group of Electors to select a President through an indirect election. Included, as part of this bundle of issues, was the Framers' desire to balance the naturally greater influence of the numerical power of the voting block in the more populated states, against the weaker rural, less populated states, which the EC accomplishes quite effectively (note this is why slaves were 3/5 a person in the Constitution, to increase the population numbers of the Southern States thereby increasing those States' influence in the EC, without actually giving each slave status as a citizen). The remnants of rural favoritism can still be seen today where 1 Electoral College vote in Wyoming represents 165,000 people, while 1 EC vote in Texas equals 652,000.(2) But aside from all these difficult and complex issues, there is a simple and insidious by-product of the EC's implementation by the several States which happens on the first Tuesday in November.

Embedded in the subterranean provisions of these States' Laws is the true agenda of the boys in power, and the continued presence of these statutes artificially cements the dominance of the 2 parties, to the detriment of any 3<sup>rd</sup> party.

Ask yourself, did Bill Clinton get elected as President with a majority of the vote? No. Did George W. Bush get elected to his first term with a majority of the vote? No. How is it possible that the most powerful democratic nation in the world can elect its leader with less than a majority of the people choosing the winner? Do we not require every public office in this land to be elected by a majority vote? The answer lies in the unusual provisions of the States' choices when implementing its procedure for determining the EC delegates committed to a candidate for the Office of the President. Believe it or not, the Constitution outlines that each State has the absolute right and responsibility to determine, with complete discretion, in any manner they decide, how the selection of its delegates to the Electoral College is made.(3) And though you may think all the States would hold general elections, the truth is that for many years many States did not hold direct elections for the EC delegates. Many times the State Legislatures would vote for the delegates of the EC, and the people would have no direct voice in the election of the President; South Carolina did it this way until 1860. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century though, all States had passed laws for a direct popular vote for a Presidential Candidate's EC delegates. But the real catch is how and why the States instituted these laws which stipulate that in a Presidential election, the highest vote getter, the one with a simple plurality, gets to take all that State's EC delegates. This 'Winner-Takes-All' plurality policy is what allows a President to be elected with less than a

majority, and is the mechanism that limits any 3<sup>rd</sup> party from ever gaining momentum with the people.

The Republican and Democratic Parties control the legislatures in each of the 50 States, and today 48 States have the plurality ‘Winner-Takes-All’ Statue, and the one law these legislatures will not pass is a new act to change from a Plurality Winner to a Majority Winner, which would require a Run-Off in the Presidential Election if no candidate receives 50.1% of the vote. Though this sounds un-American, it is true. So simple, yet so unjust. But, how can this be, do we not require a Run-Off in all our other elections? Of course we do. Have you ever heard of a Mayor who was elected with 42% of the vote? No, but that is exactly what Bill Clinton was elected with in 1992. That’s right, 42% of the people said they wanted Clinton, and 58%, yes 58%, said they wanted someone else, yet Clinton became President. And it was a similar case with George W. Bush, in 2000 he had 47% of the vote, and was elected with less than a majority. Why don’t we have a Run-Off for the highest office in the land? We don’t, because if we had a Run-Off, then the 2 Party dominance would begin to slip and a 3<sup>rd</sup> party might rise to power.

Ask yourself a deeper question, why would a politician not want a Run-Off? What is the motive not to have a Run-Off? Maybe the better question is who benefits from having victory go to the highest vote getter and not having a Run-Off? The guy with the biggest political machine, that’s who. In a crowded field of 4 or 5 candidates the vote will inevitably be split, so the guy with the most efficient machinery to mobilize voters, i.e. unions, churches, etc., will be the highest vote getter in the Plurality Wins system. And the finer point is that the highest vote getter in the first round of an election,

often has a very slim chance to win a 2 person Run-Off, especially if a dark horse candidate is gaining momentum. Is it not curious that the 2 major Political Parties have Run-Offs in their primaries, so a majority is required to become the Democratic candidate or the Republican one, but they won't call for a Run-Off in the General Election; what does that say? See the 2 big parties have been entrenched in government since the 1890's and they will not let go of their power quietly.

So today, under this Plurality Winner system, the Republicans and Democrats can honestly tell you, don't vote for Ralph Nader, or don't vote for any 3<sup>rd</sup> party candidate, you will be wasting your vote, and the truth is they're right, because there is no Run-Off. Aware of this, when you go to vote today you survey the landscape and see that this is true, and upon this realization you don't even begin to seriously consider a 3<sup>rd</sup> party candidate, exactly the outcome the Reds and Blues wanted. You don't want to waste your vote, and who can blame you, but the sinister truth is that this inequitable system has just directed you in a way that further perpetuates the power of the Democrats and Republicans, even if that was not your intention. But, if there were a Run-Off, then everything changes, because then you would never waste your vote. You could seriously consider and maybe even vote for a 3<sup>rd</sup> party candidate. With a Run-Off if your 3<sup>rd</sup> party candidate was not one of the top 2 finishers in the General Election, then in the Run-Off Election you could vote again, and so everyone's voice would be heard. What is so hard about having a General Election on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of November, and a Run-Off of the top two vote getters on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in November?

If we had a Run-Off for President, 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Candidates would have the opportunity to garner support on a level playing field, they would have equal ground to

secure voter traction, and if people moved toward them unhindered by the fear of wasting a vote, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Candidate makes it as one of the top 2 finishers into the Run-Off, who knows one just might win. And a two-week Run-Off is better than the Instant Run-Off sometimes promoted as a solution, because it gives the voters time to seriously evaluate whoever might emerge as the top two finishers. Another solution, to allow for the proportional representations of the popular vote in the EC, is sometimes suggested, and is the case with 2 states, but this presents political heartaches because proportional allocation of delegates weakens the influence a State has in a Presidential Election. In the end, a Run-Off is most equitable, for then, as a system, when there are just 2 people in the final election, someone will emerge with at least 50.1% of the vote, and the true will of the people will have spoken.

In the revealing light of this political dog fight, it is amazing to think that our Founding Fathers actually aspired to a Federal government that was beyond Political Party Politics or “Factions” as they called them in those days, they wanted the dirty work of politics to stay at the State level. The Founding Fathers were so fearful of an out of control Federal system that in the original Articles of Confederation (4) they did not even establish a President, paranoid that such an executive might declare himself King, and then they would be right back to where they were before the Revolutionary War. So hopeful were the Framers’ that the Federal system could be a non-partisan benevolent group of statesmen, that when they created the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives, the individual third in line for the Presidency, they stipulated that the Speaker, though elected by the House, could be any individual of any party affiliation and did **Not** have to be an elected member of the House, with the aspiration it could be any

respected non-partisan individual capable of leading with common sense from the common ground; maybe even someone like you. This remains true till this day.

Ultimately, in the harsh light of accurate perception, energizing intent and mobilizing votes, though noble in their efforts, will not change or advance our government. First we must change the system, so that the people's voice can honestly be heard. And if no change occurs 3<sup>rd</sup> parties will be relegated to making feeble attempts to clear the tall political hurdle of 'Plurality Wins', like Nader's recent 'Vote Pair' (5) campaign where people in swing states attempted to swap votes with individuals in uncontested states with the ultimate hope of providing a higher overall percentage voting for Nader (if a political party obtains 5% of the vote, then that party receives Federal Tax Dollars, just like the Republicans and Democrats). Until we change the laws in each State as to the manner in which that State selects its EC delegates, all 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties, all other movements or causes, will be shackled by the systematic inherent favoritism for the 2 parties in power.

So, listen to your buddy Cryan, now is the time to shift the paradigm. Believe in the urgency. For in our post modern place in history, an alternative global society is emerging. A true global class is forming, a group which will look beyond imperial sovereignty, embodying a collective consciousness which realizes that no nation/state, even the most powerful like the U.S. or China, can "go it alone". A new collective mind set is upwelling, rooted in sustainable economic growth, sustainable development, access to opportunity and quality of life for all. This new global class could be coalesced, creating a workable international framework, supporting a New UN, stabilized by a new trans-national political party. Imagine if the Progressive Party, better still, let us call it

the International Progressive Party (IPP), held seats in the U.S. Congress, the British Parliament, the Russian Duma, the French National Assembly, the Peruvian Congress, the Japanese Diet, and the Indian Parliament, how efficient, on the cross border issues, such a trans-national party would be for the people of the world. How powerful a tool for fragile democracies such a coalition would represent. The fact is trans-national parties are beginning to develop in Europe, and will ultimately expand internationally.

However, acknowledging that in some regions democracy is a naive dream, we must still hold this dream, knowing that there is an innate desire for democracy in the human DNA, and embrace the premise that democracy is the best solution to the complex problems society faces. However awkward and inept it might be, it is society's undeniable foundation.

And though every political party's fullest vision is to grow to become the majority within a democracy, the first step is for each individual to vote, and then look to assemble a group of voters that comprise the swing block. In the environment of today's polarized two party system, if a new party with 10% of the voting public were established it would constitute the swing block required to pass any legislation, a 10% party would control the day. This can be achieved.

Keep in mind, this isolation of potential 3<sup>rd</sup> Party candidates and the reluctance of the younger generation to vote, rest assured, pleases the current political establishment. Know that the current 2 Parties are more interested in issues of the demographic blocks that do vote, and they would prefer not to have to address your concerns, too. If, however, a new party with 10 % of the voting public were established and could proffer a viable 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Presidential candidate (and 3<sup>rd</sup> Party candidates would become viable

when no vote was wasted due to a Run-Off), and if this political viability trickled down to the state and local elections, then such a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party could gain the momentum needed to establish itself, and could contribute the swing block required to pass any legislation. A 10% party would direct society's course. Our shared reality is that as a Body Politic we are more pluralistic than just 2 Parties, so no matter how big the Blue or Red tent might profess to be, we all really can't fit in, and it is only natural we should become a society of 3 or 4 parties.

Remember, worldwide, the population between the ages of 18 to 29 makes up 45% of the people.(6) If only 20% of you gather together politically, you become the 10% swing group, you will run America, or Britain, or India. Heed Plato's warning, those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber. Hear the distant call, the hour is getting late. Now is the time for you to take your place and stand guard, all along the watchtower.

## All Along The Watchtower

By: Jimi Hendrix (written by Bob Dylan), cover by \_\_\_\_\_

“There must be some way out of here,”  
Said the Joker to the Thief  
“There’s too much confusion,  
I can’t get no relief.

Businessmen, they drink my wine,  
Plowmen dig my earth,  
None of them along the line,  
Know what any  
Of it is worth.” Yeah

“No reason to get excited,”  
The Thief, he kindly spoke  
“There are many here among us,  
Who feel that life is but a joke.  
But you and I,  
We’ve been through that  
And this is not our fate,

So let us not talk falsely now,  
Because the hour is getting late.”

All along the watchtower,  
The Princes kept the view  
While all the women came and went  
Barefoot servants, too

All I got is a red guitar  
Three chords and the truth  
All I got is a red guitar  
The rest is up to you

Outside in the distance  
A wildcat did growl,  
Two Riders were approaching,  
And the wind began to howl.

So let us not talk falsely now  
Because the hour is getting late, yeah

All along the watchtower  
All along the watchtower  
All along the watchtower

## Wooden Ships

By: Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

If you smile at me, I will understand  
Cause that is something everybody everywhere does  
In the same language.

I can see by your coat, my friend,  
You're from the other side,  
There's just one thing I got to know,  
Can you tell me please, who won?

Say, can I have some of your purple berries?

Yes, I've been eating them for six or seven weeks now,  
Haven't got sick once.

Probably keep us both alive.

Wooden Ships on the water, very free and easy,  
Easy, you know the way it's suppose to be,  
Silver people on the shoreline, let us be,  
Talkin' 'bout very free and easy. . .  
Horror grips us as we watch you die,  
A Stare as all human feelings die,  
We are leaving – you don't need us.

Go, take your sister then, by the hand,  
Lead her away from this foreign land,  
Far away, where we might laugh again,  
We are leaving – you don't need us.

And it's a fair wind, blowin' warm,  
Out of the south over my shoulder,  
Guess I'll set a course and go.

## MUSICAL NOTES

In the folklore of Rock it is believed that Hendrix was listening to the radio one winter day in early 1968 and heard Dylan's just-released "All Along the Watchtower." So moved by the magic and ominous familiarity of the words, Jimi immediately went down to his Electric Ladyland Studio in NYC and played his version from ear. Spring-boarding from the line "And the wind began to howl" he leaped into a 4-part, improvised guitar solo that transformed the song into a whirlwind on the 1<sup>st</sup> take. In homage to this dynamic evolution of the song, Dylan adopted it whenever he played it live (later Bono of U2 added the lines "All I got is this red guitar, 3 chords, and the truth, all I got is this red guitar, and the rest is up to you"). While Dylan's version, originally released on the stark and lyrically focused album **John Wesley Harding** (named for the infamous Texas Outlaw [note that when Vice President Cheney shot his friend Harry Whittington, it happened on the Tobin Armstrong Ranch in Texas, which was purchased in 1882 by Tobin's grandfather after he won a \$4,000 bounty for capturing John Wesley]), it was an underground success. When Jimi released his version as a single in September of 68 it was a real hit, spending 9 weeks on the charts. The words have an eerie familiar texture because the song is based upon a prophetic verse in the Old Testament; Isaiah 21:5-12:

Prepare the table, watch in the watchtower, eat, drink  
Arise, ye princes and anoint the shield.  
For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth.  
And he saw a chariot with a couple of horsemen, a chariot of asses, and a chariot of camels; he harkened diligently with much heed.  
And he cried, as a lion My Lord, I stand continually upon the watchtower in the daytime, and I am set in my ward whole nights.  
And behold, here cometh a chariot of men, with a couple of horsemen. And he answered and said, Babylon is fallen, is fallen; and all the graven images of her gods he hath broken unto the ground.

O my threshing, and the corn on my floor: that which I have heard of the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, have I declared unto you.  
The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night?  
Watchman, what of the night?  
The Watchman said, the morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come.

Isaiah predicted the fall of Babylon 100 years before it came to pass, and likewise Dylan offers a suggestion of cultural demise and forewarning with his “All Along the Watchtower.” CSN&Y sensed Dylan’s concerns and expanded them with their song “Wooden Ships”, a dark and pessimistic picture written by Crosby, Stills, and their friend Paul Kantner of Jefferson Airplane (Kantner could not be officially credited as a writer because he was being sued by his managers at the time). Envisioning the possibility of a world fallen into post-nuclear chaos, an unofficial first verse gives some added insight:

Black sails knifing through the pitchblende night  
Away from the radioactive landmass madness  
From the silver-suited people searching out  
Uncontaminated food and shelter on the shores  
No glowing metal on our ship of wood only  
Free happy crazy people naked in the universe  
We speak earth talk  
Go ride the music

If you smile at me . . .

The released first verse picks up after the fallout outlined in the unreleased verse, with a classic call and response dialogue between two hostile soldiers that become friends to survive in the aftermath of war, where the two roles are voiced by Stills and Crosby. Written in the main cabin of Crosby’s boat the “Mayan”, he said, “We imagined ourselves as the few survivors, escaping on a boat to create a new civilization.”

7. THREE STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT:  
A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON PRISONS

*“Let the punishment fit the crime.”*

Ancient Proverb

*“If he has a conscience he will suffer for his mistake,  
that will be his punishment – as well as the prison . . .  
. . . we must suffer, and suffer together . . .we must pray . . .let us go to prison.”*

Fyodor Dostoevsky, 1866  
Crime and Punishment

Today the world-wide prison population is over 9 million people.(1) In the U.S. about 1 in every 143 people are in some form of custody, that's more than 6 million men, women, and children currently confined to either prison, jail, parole, probation or juvenile hall.(2) More disturbing is the level of the hardcore prison population in the US, which now stands at over 2 million.(3) The cost of caring, feeding, and housing these hardened convicts is enormous. Currently each inmate in the Federal and State Prisons in the US costs the American Taxpayers on average over \$20,000 per year, this computes to \$40 Billion spent annually.(4) This is an extraordinary waste of your money, with little to no return on the taxpayer dollars invested. Imagine if every year the U.S. offered 2 million college students a \$20,000 scholarship to attend the university of their choice. What would the return on investment be for the American taxpayer in this program?

Without question the prison situation in the U.S. and the World is a difficult issue. The U.S. has 686 prisoners per 100,000 population, Russia has 638, England 139, Egypt 121, Canada 102, Mexico 156, Argentina 107, South Africa 404, Saudi Arabia 110, and Japan 48; and as these facts highlight, there is a large and perplexing disparity from nation to nation.(5) But the number of prisoners in each country cannot be looked at in isolation. To obtain a complete picture of a country's per capita prison ratios, one must take into account the existence of a nation's court system, the proficiency of the police force, presence of a robust prosecution, the availability of educational opportunity, welfare, poverty, and whether there are strong cultural stigmas which frown upon crime. .

Regardless of the size of current prison populations, the more frightening issue is the fact that the inmate totals are rising. Since 1995 the number of men in US prisons has grown about 30% and the number of women has increase a staggering 50%.(6) When do these numbers stop climbing? And the most frightening issue is that the cost per inmate is increasing. Coupled with the number of inmates increasing, the burden on the tax payer is overwhelming and disproportionately inequitable to the service provided for the money spent; i.e. the cost to remove an individual from society. There has got to be a better way.

It is time to brightly divide the penal system into two parts, adults with less than 3 Felony convictions (i.e. serious criminal offenses) and adults with 3 or more Felony convictions, with the understanding that a conviction means full and complete due process has been provided. So we are talking post arrest, indictment, plea bargain, and/or Trial by Jury-with a guilty verdict. Once an adult commits, and is convicted of 3 separate and distinct felony crimes, from 3 separate instances in time, then that individual

no longer deserves the right to participate in society. Once this occurs, now it is society's obligation to remove this individual from the borders of our shared social order in the most inexpensive fashion possible.

Though this is a harsh and radical position, it is a must. It is time to write off the current prison population after 3 Felonies, as your father used to say, "three strikes and you're out." Some States have implemented strict penalties for repeat offenders and provide stout sentencing for 3<sup>rd</sup> time convicts, and the results are positive.(7) This formula needs to be expanded, so that after 3 Felonies all sentencing should be a minimum of 20 years or until the prisoner reaches the age of 55, whichever comes last. More importantly, all recurring or habitual prisoners need to be housed in the most cost effective environment possible, and not offered training, nor rehabilitation, nor benefits-only work or group housing. To provide an inexpensive and effective solution to removing prisoners from society we need a new perspective, a new vision, one borrowed from an old idea, but made possible today through recent technological advances. The cheapest and most effective way to remove convicts from society is to place prisoners in an isolated natural state, on an island, or housing them in a large fenced in area, a large farm if you will; providing government with the most cost effective means of keeping them removed from the social circle.

History and literature are filled with examples of where governments instituted Penal Colonies. In the early 1700's Britain had too many prisoners and the cost of housing the criminals in England became so burdensome that they looked for an alternative. At the same time the Colony of South Carolina was concerned with the advancing Spaniards in Florida and asked Parliament for help. In 1721, as a solution to

these obstacles, the decision was made to create a Penal Colony south of the Savannah River (interestingly they chose a place as far from London as was practically possible) and the new Colony, named in honor of the King George II, called Georgia, was established. After losing the Revolutionary War, England again looked for a new place to institute its Penal Colony, and propelled by the success of the first distant Penal Colony, looked for a spot that was even a greatest distance from London. This time, in 1788, Australia was chosen. Created to be as far from civilization as possible, Penal Colonies are very effect vehicles to house prisoners. The French had “Devils Island” in the Caribbean until 1946, the Russians’ had the Kartorga and the Gulag. As far as our literature goes, there is “The Penal Colony” by Kafka, and modern writings such as Star Trek, with the Rura Penthe, and Dune with the Salusa Secundus.

A land mass truly isolated from society, where it takes days to travel to and the possibility of escaping and returning to society is remote, offers Society the most efficient means to accomplish this objective. Today with the advanced technology of Global Positioning Satellites (GPS), tracking bracelets and implants, and high resolution digital cameras providing pinpoint satellite imagery, we could inexpensively use an isolated land mass, either an island in the ocean, or by constructing a land island in the wilderness, to provide just such a solution.(8) With tracking implants and bracelets and GPS technology, an island or isolated land prison would house our inmates very cost effectively. And surely we could avoid the abuses of places like the Gulag and implement a Penal Colony system that is cost effective, meets Constitutional requirements, and is humane.

Equally important, a powerful by-product of an isolated prison will be a reduction in over-all crime levels. See, today's prisons are the home of many crime gangs like the NF, or Nuestra Familia, who through the facility of constant communications made available by proximity to local prisons, empower the gang leaders in the prisons to direct gang members out on the streets to commit crimes. By cutting off this communication through prison isolation, coordinated criminal activity will stop, reducing police costs. Moreover, instituting an island prison would cost only \$1 or \$2 thousand per year per inmate, much cheaper than the \$20,000 we are currently spending, and the savings could be invested more wisely.

For example, society could increase its investment in, and expand its efforts into, working with first time offenders, and provide significant resources for the re-habilitation and education of these individuals. We would attempt to work with the individual who was trying to be a productive citizen by giving them 2 chances. But after 2 swings, Society should outline with clarity that a 3<sup>rd</sup> Felony conviction is a bright line, and when crossed, the individual will be permanently removed from the social order. Additionally, as government trains and educates these early convicts, there is a better chance they will not become habitual criminals, and thereby save taxpayer money in the years ahead. So by providing assistance and transition into the social fabric for early offenders, government provides a proper yield, an equitable return, on the taxpayers' dollars. And when it comes to second time convicts, again we offer some training and some guidance, but this time we demonstrate that the precipice they are approaching is very dangerous, and the price to be paid for the crossing, will be very high.

The magnitude of this issue can be seen in California, where the State has opened 21 prisons since 1984, and only 1 university. California now spends over \$4 billion annually on 150,000 inmates, yet it does not spend \$4 billion annually on the almost 700,000 students in all its universities.(9) It makes no sense. Step back. See clearly. Spending \$40 billion on hard core criminals just to remove them from society (we are talking spending \$40 billion on men and women who have truly lost the right to be in society), is a very poor investment of our limited tax dollars. It is so unfair it makes you want to scream. If we take just \$10 billion, 25% of 1 year's prison budget, you can solve the water problem for one billion people globally. Or take \$120 billion, 3 years' budget, and you will find a permanent solution to the replacement of oil, to the benefit of every living soul on the planet. We need to make these choices.

In the folklore of Alabama, the men on Death Row would pray for an 'Angel From Montgomery', a pardon from the Governor, to commute their sentence. What we need is to demonstrate that habitual crime is wrong, that the consequences are severe, and to invest heavily only in first time offenders. It is time we all undertake a new sense of responsibility for our social fabric and the fiscal responsibility of our money. Today's 'Angel From Montgomery' needs to be a safety net of education for early offenders and an inexpensive isolation from society for third time offenders, so the people's money can be deployed in a wiser fashion, with a more proper return on our investment.

## Angel From Montgomery

By: John Prine, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

I am an old woman named after my mother  
My old man is another child that's grown old  
If dreams were lightning thunder was desire  
This old house would have burnt down a long time ago

Make me an angel that flies from Montgomery  
Make me a poster of an old rodeo  
Just give me one thing that I can hold on to  
To believe in this living is just a hard way to go

The search light in the big yard turns 'round with the gun  
And spotlights the snowflakes like the dust in the sun  
It's Christmas in prison there'll be music tonight  
I'll probably get homesick, I love you, good night

Make me an angel that flies from Montgomery  
Make me a poster of an old rodeo  
Just give me one thing that I can hold on to  
To believe in this living is just a hard way to go

When I was a young girl well, I had me a cowboy  
He weren't much to look at, just a free rambling man  
But that was a long time and no matter how I try  
The years just flow by like a broken down dam

Make me an angel that flies from Montgomery  
Make me a poster of an old rodeo  
Just give me one thing that I can hold on to  
To believe in this living is a hard way to go

There's flies in the kitchen I can hear 'em there buzzing  
And I ain't done nothing since I woke up today.  
How the hell can a person go to work in the morning  
And come home in the evening and have nothing to say

Make me an angel that flies from Montgomery  
Make me a poster of an old rodeo  
Just give me one thing that I can hold on to  
To believe in this living is a hard way to go

## Hey Joe

By: Jimi Hendrix, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

Hey Joe

Where you goin with that gun in your hand?

Hey Joe

I said where you goin with the gun in your hand?

I'm going down to shoot my old lady

You know I caught her messin round with another man.

Yeah

I'm going down to shoot my old lady

You know I caught her messin around with another man.

Huh. And that ain't too cool.

Uh Hey Joe

I heard you shot your woman down, shot her down now.

Hey Joe

I heard you shot your old lady down, shot her down in the ground

Yeah.

Yes I did, I shot her

You know I caught her messin round, messin round town.

Yes I did, I shot her.

You know I caught my old lady messin round town.

And I gave her the gun

I shot her.

Alright. Shoot here on more time for me

Yeah! Aww, Mmm.

Alright

Hey Joe I said uh,

Where you gonna run to now? Where you gonna run to?

Hey Joe I said,

Where you gonna run to now?

Where ya, Where you gonna go?

Well Dig! I'm goin way down South

Way down Mexico way.

Alright

I'm goin way down South.

Way down where I could be free.

Ain't no one gonna find me  
Ain't no hangman gonna,  
He ain't gonna put a rope around me  
You better believe it right now  
I gotta go now

Hey, Hey, Joe  
You better run on down.  
Good bye everybody.  
Hey, Hey, Joe.

## Nebraska

By: Bruce Springsteen, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

I saw her standin' on her front lawn twirlin' her baton  
Me and her went for a ride sir and ten innocent people died

From the town of Lincoln Nebraska with a sawed off .410 on my lap  
Through to the badlands of Wyoming I killed everything in my path

I can't say that I'm sorry for the things that we done  
At least for a little while sir me and her we had us some fun

The jury brought in a guilty verdict and the judge he sentenced me to death  
Midnight in a prison storeroom with leather straps across my chest

Sheriff when the man pulls that switch sir and snaps my poor head back  
You make sure my pretty baby is sittin' right there on my lap

They declared me unfit to live said into that great void my soul'd be hurled  
They wanted to know why I did what I did  
Well sir I guess there's just a meanness in this world

## MUSICAL NOTES

John Prine is a writer, musician, and storyteller in the tradition of Dylan and Guthrie, singing in a style that is straight-forward, open, and sincere. Prine wrote “Angel” in 1971, saying that a woman caught in a destructive relationship and living in her own self-made prison from which she can not escape, needs a pardon. “Angel” was first released on his self-titled first album **John Prine**. Then later he teamed up with Bonnie Raitt, a blues/rock musician who first appeared the year Joplin died, and together, making a new recording, they transported the listener with their rendition of “Angel.”

Hendrix’s first Single was “Hey Joe” in 1967, from his first album, **Are You Experienced**. It was a traditional blues piece that emerged after WW II, a time when the name “Joe” represented everyman. Molded by the true blues/folk process where a song can belong to everyone and no one, as it travels from artist to artist, “Hey Joe” is a crime ballad that has been recorded by over 1,000 musicians. Hendrix’s version is said to have been written by San Francisco songwriter Billy Roberts, who was drawing from many sources including the story of the traditional folk tune “Little Sadie.” Ironically, as a favor to Dino Valenti of Quicksilver Messenger Service, who had unexpectedly found himself in jail, Roberts signed over the rights to his version of “Hey Joe” to give Dino collateral to get out of prison.

“Nebraska” is the title track to Springsteen’s acoustic 1982 album. It is written about the notorious mid-west serial killer Charles Starkweather, who murdered 11 people in the end of 1957 and the beginning of 1958. It is believed Bruce’s original title for the song was “Starkweather”. As an album **Nebraska** was produced in a sparse, bleak, almost haunting style, representing disillusioned hopes and dreams, both personal and societal. Springsteen approached the concept of this work by recording the songs in an austere home based 4-track setting, ultimately releasing the songs in this unpolished form.

## 8. BRIDGING THE INFORMATIONAL DIVIDE: A WIRELESS WORLD- INTERNET ACCESS FOR EVERYONE

*“Communication, when it succeeds, is one of man’s  
greatest assets, and when it fails is his worst enemy.”*

John C. Lilly

*“The first step in a revolution is to seize the radio.”*

Vladimir Lenin, 1917

*“Information is the currency of democracy.”*

Thomas Jefferson

There is an old joke in the Broadcasting Industry that goes like this. . .three network anchors walk into a bar . . . it is a stylish and hip place, maybe 5757 in Manhattan . . . and they say to the bartender, bring us a bottle of Jack, we’re going to do some serious drinking . . . and so the bartender pulls out a bottle of Old No. 7 whiskey and three glasses, and pours the first round . . . well the three anchors toast themselves and start doing shots. . . after a couple of drinks, the first anchor sets down his glass and says to the other two, “You know boys . . . I’m the greatest anchor in the world” . . . and just as he says that, the second anchor finishes off a shot and sets his glass down on the table with some authority and barks out, “Funny you should say that, because last night I had a dream, I was doing my show, and then all of a sudden we had breaking news, and it was frenetic, we went wall-to-wall for 8 hours, and it was intense and powerful,

tremendous television, and at the end of the evening as we were wrapping up, God descended down into the studio and came up to me and said, ‘That was incredible coverage, you did a dynamic job getting the information out to the people, you . . . are the greatest anchor who has ever lived’” . . . and just as the second anchor finished with his story, the third anchor polished off a shot and placed his glass on the table with a thud, looked the second anchor straight in the eye and whispered, “That’s not true, I never said that . . .”

Though the egos of network anchors may not be god-like, the information that they pass along each day is, and not everyone has equal access. Today, for example, only 1.5% of rural India has access to a telephone, much less the internet.(1) Even the cities in India are still at only 25% penetration, and equally isolated, regions of Africa and South America are similarly disconnected. In countries like Nigeria and Peru less than 5% have phones, less than 4% have computers, and less than 1% have internet access.(2) Imagine if only 5% of your friends had cell phones or net access (much less 1%) and you were not able to instantly reach them. If you could only speak with them by taking the time to pay them a visit or by handwriting a letter, you would go crazy. Yet this is exactly the way 4 billion people live today. This digital divide, by definition, limits the free flow of information, and information is the currency of an enlightened civilization. As this divide distances the 1<sup>st</sup> world from the 3<sup>rd</sup> world in an ever widening chasm, we must build a bridge or we will suffer the consequences of an uninformed, uneducated, under-performing, unfulfilled, and unhappy majority population. We must connect the world, specifically the poor and undeveloped nations, and give them access to the information and the knowledge we all take for granted on a daily basis. We must provide

the access that allows them to compete on a level free market playing field, the access that provides the underprivileged, too, with the opportunity offered by being plugged in and booted-up.

In that strange twist of seemingly counter-intuitive logic outlined by Adam Smith, each individual, while intending to promote only their own gain, is led by an “invisible hand” to promote society’s end, which was in no part their original intention. Smith pinpoints the sublime truth of the free market, when individuals are able to pursue their own interests, the by-product is the effective promotion of society’s interest, notwithstanding the fact that this desire had not originally entered that individual’s mind. And this in-direct advancement of the public interest is in fact more effective than when government works to specifically promote the public good.(3) Though such a utilitarian outcome is realized through the free exchange of goods and services, the critical foundational predicate to this dynamic, the equal access to information, represents the missing piece. Today this lack of equal informational access contributes to an ineffective marketplace, a lack of education, a perpetuation of poverty, and dissatisfied individuals. It must be corrected.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century B.C. the ruler of Egypt, Ptolemy I, founded the Great Library of Alexandria. Inspired by his predecessor Alexander The Great’s vision for a city at the crossroads of three continents that would be the cradle of civilization with a new world view, Ptolemy built a center for commerce, culture, education, and information. As a component of this goal, the King established the Great Library to possess the entire world’s then known literature, and made it available to all. Ptolemy and his successors were insatiable, they wrote letters to every international sovereign asking them to borrow

their books, and when the books were provided, Ptolemy would take them, make copies, and then return the copies, keeping the originals. Legend has it Ptolemy was so driven to build the collection of this library, that he locked 70 Jewish scholars into cells on the Island of Pharos until they produced the Septuagint, which was the first Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament. Today's great library is the internet. We are all aware of its power and potential, and for the undeveloped world to not have access is to leave a generation behind. We cannot allow the rarefied air of information to remain only the domain of the wealthy.

In order to insure that full and complete information about our world and the events which shape our lives is provided, ubiquitous internet access is required. Just as the National Mall in Washington was built to be, or as Tiananmen Square in Beijing evolved to be, the space for shared public discourse in the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries, the 21<sup>st</sup> Century public space is the broadcasting of radio and television programs, or more precisely, the webcasting of news, information, and ideas, and the blogging of these concepts in community discourse, all on the internet.

So how do we distribute the internet, its programming and information, to all the people, most importantly to those in the remote rural areas and to the poor? With today's technology the most efficient means to provide such access, to offer the internet efficiently and cost effectively, is via Satellite delivery. Specifically, the rural and 3rd world countries who possess a less wired infrastructure need to be provided wireless broadband internet access via Satellite delivery, in an up/down configuration. Incredible as it sounds, hooking your computer, or a community's computer, directly to a Satellite through a wireless transceiver is easy and cheap. This unwired solution is the elegant

answer for the 3<sup>rd</sup> world, it solves the issue of attempting to build expensive wire based infrastructure, and should be a high priority for all governments.

As we speak this Satellite technology is available in Europe, is just going on line in North America, and moreover, is now available in Africa, Asia, South America, and the Middle East.(4) Once again technology is the best solution to one of the most demanding issues facing our society, and as a people we must invest in a remedy from the long view. We need to commit dollars, invest dollars, our tax dollars, in this ultimate information solution, for it will yield the highest return, the return of an informed citizenry that will, in the final analysis, cost the government less, burden the government less, than an uninformed citizenry.

Providing this type of access will produce incalculable results, from giving rural fishermen instant price quotes which allows them to yield the highest profit for that day's catch, to giving farmers up to the minute weather information so they can better prepare their crops, to providing the vehicle for e-governance and e-education.(5) Establishment of this access ultimately allows the government to lower taxes, for when a much higher percentage of the people are informed and educated and contributing to the economy, a higher percentage of people are adding to the taxes collected, lessening the burden on each of the existing tax-payers.

As we examine the highest and best use for our resources as a society, we need to underwrite the 3<sup>rd</sup> world's access to computers and the wireless internet. A powerful example is the way the U.S. underwrites computers and internet access with its Federal E-Rate Program. This little known Federal initiative imposes a small transaction tax (the smart tax, right?) on everyone's phone bill (take a look at one of those buried line item

taxes), then pools these funds, and in turn allows schools and hospitals to receive these monies as grants to pay telecom companies the higher prices needed to cover the additional costs of providing internet access in rural and poor markets.(6) The end result of this program is internet access in a place where it had not been available. This is a beautiful use of tax dollars, truly a program to be modeled internationally. Consider the power of this program. Think about it, why is the U.S. leading the way in investing in rural internet access? Somewhere someone is smart enough to know information is a foundational requirement for a dynamic economy. Remember, the U.S. was bright enough to build the world's largest economy, and this is a wise step toward staying on top, one many nations should follow.

Other initiatives to expand access include programs like the “Geek Corps”, a group of volunteers, underwritten by several large IT companies, in which technically savvy workers are sent into poor and rural areas to provide computers, internet connection, and network expertise, so that these isolated groups can get their systems up and running; contagious action by dedicated young people actively working to ensure the democratization of information.

Equitable access to the Net provides access to information, and information is the avenue to knowledge, and knowledge is the basis of education, so when this happens, now we are beginning to offer real solutions. Providing education for everyone is a fundamental tenet to creating a great society, and when we truly provide an opportunity for education, why then my friend, we are no longer just playing word games.

## Word Game

By: Crosby, Stills and Nash, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

Would you knock a man down if you don't like the cut of his clothes  
Could you put a man away if you don't want to hear what he knows  
Well it's happening right here people dying of fear by the droves  
And I know most of you  
Either don't believe it's true  
Or else you don't know what to do  
Or maybe I'm singing about you,  
Who knows.

It's incredibly sick, you can feel it, as across the land it flows  
Prejudice is slick when it's a word game, if festers and grows,  
Move along quick, it furthers one to have somewhere to go  
You can feel it as it's rumblin'  
Let emotions keep a tumblin'  
Then as cities start to crumblin'  
Mostly empty bellies grumblin'  
Here we go

People see somebody different fear is the first reaction show  
Then they think they've got him licked the barbaric hunt begins and they move in slow  
A human spirit is devoured the remains left to carrion crow  
I was told that life is change  
And yet history remains,  
Does it always stay the same  
Do we shrug it off and say  
Only God knows

By and by, somebody usually goes down to the ghetto  
Try and help but they don't know why folks treat them cold  
And the rich keep getting richer and rest of us just keep getting old.  
You see one must have a mission  
In order to be a good Christian  
If you don't you will be missing  
High Mass or the evening show

And the well fed masters reap the harvests of the polluted seeds they've sown,  
Smug and self-righteous they bitch about the people they owe,  
And you can't prove them wrong, they're so God damn sure they know  
I have seen these things with my very own eyes and defended my battered soul,  
It must be too tough to die,  
American propaganda, South African lies  
Will not force me to take up arms, that's my enemies' pride,  
And I won't fight by his rules that's foolishness besides,  
His ignorance is gonna do him in and nobody's gonna cry,  
Because his children they are growing up  
With bigots and their silver cups  
They're fed up, they might throw up  
On you

## MUSICAL NOTES

CSN&Y, and Stills as one of the driving forces, participated in many political songs, with a great many artists, beyond their own releases, including Buffalo Springfield's "For What Its Worth" and "Woodstock" with Joni Mitchell. Joni wrote "Woodstock" right after she met up with CS&N upon their return from the Woodstock Festival, which she was not able to make due to the crowds, traffic, and appearance commitments. As an outgrowth of this community and its concerns and awareness, Stills in 1971 released a solo album entitled **Stephen Stills 2**, with "Word Game" as one of its politically-charged tracks. Played in the same tuning as "4 & 20" and "Suite: Judy Blue Eyes" (named as an ode to the folk singer Judy Collins), "Word Game" is written in a Dylanesque style, where Stills lets loose with a fiery polemic focusing on the outrage of apartheid. Stills has said of "Word Game", "When I was living in England in the early Seventies I saw a documentary about South Africa made by underground Black Filmmakers. They shot it with hidden cameras stuffed in a sack or under a hat. It showed what it's really, really like to live under apartheid. It made me so mad that I wrote this song in about fifteen minutes."

## 9. EDUCATION IS THE ANSWER

*“Only the educated are free.”*

Plato

*“If you are thinking a year ahead, sow a seed.  
If you are thinking ten years ahead, plant a tree.  
If you are thinking one hundred years ahead, educate the people.”*

Chinese Poet, 500 BC

We need to vest the youth of our world with the insatiable desire to know and understand, to be curious about every aspect of our wonderful shared existence. We need to teach them how to think, how to learn. We need to provide a quality education. Education not only increases the value of the individual to the capitalistic marketplace, but it also transfers something intangible, ephemeral, and illuminating to the individual, which enriches their lives in ways only imagined by the magic and wonder of the Godhead, whatever you envision it to be.

The more one examines the problems of society, both globally and locally, it becomes undeniable that the solution to each area of difficulty is education. Education is our best investment. It must be paramount, as the best hope to eliminate poverty, reduce crime, and improve the quality of life. The evidence for this is everywhere. Look at the inner city where, incredible as it sounds, 99% of urban children that receive Head Start Instruction prior to first grade do not end up in the Criminal Justice System. Yet, when an urban child does not receive Head Start Instruction then 50% of these children do end up in the Criminal Justice System.(1) Similarly, when children have a successful first

grade experience, they exhibit greater high school performance and have higher graduation rates than those with an unsuccessful first grade experience. Clearly Primary and Secondary Education is potentially the best investment of Tax Dollars offered to our citizens.

Correspondingly, the greatest obstacle to a successful society, to a successful democracy, is the failure of an education system. A quality education offers society many attributes, including the safeguards which Thomas Jefferson outlined, specifically, that a well-educated citizenry is ultimately the best defense against an over-reaching government.(2) Simplistically, the more we invest in the individual, the more society will have returned for the dollars invested. The more education placed into the poor, the more valuable the poor will be to the marketplace, the more the poor will raise their own standard of living and carry with their rising tide the children, parents, uncles, and cousins of their families.

Plot the historical trajectory of an educational system elevating up a group of poor and oppressed and note that none is more impressive than the meteoric rise which occurred in Venice in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. Commenced during the Renaissance, the by-products continue on until today. Picture this situation. Western Civilization in the late 1400's was in turmoil, the Muslim Empire of the Moors had conquered much of the world with its borders stretching from the Near East to Europe, including a western frontier that pushed King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella out of the center of Spain, north up into the Pyrenees, placing the Moors at the threshold of Northern Europe, at-the-ready, threatening France and England. So strong was the grip of the Moors on Spain that they built what has been called the most beautiful place in the world, the Alhambra, in the

southern Spanish city of Granada. This magnificent palace, which still stands intact, was their regional seat of government and the home of the Caliph. Devastated by the Muslim rule, from their remote mountainous camp, Ferdinand and Isabella made a Faustian pact with England and France, and assembled a coalition army to over-throw the Moors.

When the Caliph realized that an army of 10,000 was approaching the Alhambra, and his Army of 1,000 had no chance (with such a vast empire the Moors had earlier sent most of their troops back to its Capital of Damascus, to be deployed in other battles), the Prince, who loved his palace so much he could not bear to see it destroyed in battle, decided to escape and return to Syria. Upon evacuating to the hillside overlooking the Alhambra, the Caliph paused his retreat to watch the coalition troops enter into his beloved place, and he began to cry. Where the story is told that the Caliph's Mother walked up behind him and whispered in his ear, "Why do you cry like a woman over that which you would not fight for like a man."

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella were returned to the Spanish Throne, and shortly after this victory, in the paranoia that permeated the aftermath of the Muslim conquest, the King, in 1492, issued a decree expelling all non-Catholics from Spain. (3) Though intended for Muslims, the by-product of this edict was to push 200,000 Jews out of Spain, with few choices as to where to go. Jews had been experiencing slavery and oppression since the Fall of Rome and the rise of Christianity, but the societal unease that produced this harsh proclamation precipitated even more segregation, with the mid 1500s Papal Bull by Pope Paul IV mandating that all Jews be housed in segregated city quarters. Collectively, these events culminated in the most unexpected gathering in Venice during the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. With the developing establishment of Venice as the cultural and trade

hub of the Western World, the Doge was in need of labor and merchant skills to provide the power to drive this growing economic engine. So, when some Jewish leaders petitioned the Doge for residency in Venice, he wisely agreed and housed them in an under used, sectioned off, part of the City called the “Geto”, the Venetian-Italian name for Metal Foundry. The Iron/Copper Foundry of Venice was in need of workers to fuel the City’s expanding appetite for shipping, industry, merchant affairs, and commerce, and the Jews needed a segregated home. Speaking in their guttural European and Middle Eastern accents the Jews pronounced “Geto” as “Ghetto”, and the term for a poor neighborhood was born. But here is what’s so remarkable. In this small 2 and ½ block quarter Jews were brought together from all corners of the known world. Jews came from Spain, they came from the Levant (i.e. the Middle East), Germany, Italy, and France, and lived together in cramped conditions.

As these diverse Jewish groups began to construct the institutions of their society in the Venetian Ghetto, they built their entire culture around 5 Schools, or Scholas (Jews at times would interchange “Shul”, Yiddish for School, with Synagogue, to emphasize the synagogue’s role as a place of study). The oldest was the Schola Grande Tedesca (German School), followed by the Schola Canton (French & Swiss School), then the Schola Levantina( Middle East School), the Schola Spagnola (Spanish School), and the Schola Italiana (Italian School). What the Jews did was commit themselves to educating their youth in math, science, art, commerce, and religion. Within the gates of the Ghetto there were not only places of worship and study, but also a theatre, an academy of music, and literary classes. The Venetian authorities allowed these different Jewish groups to organize their communities as universities, in fact, in order to insure that their youth

received a quality education, the Jews made these schools free, the only free schools in Venice.

By focusing on education, this oppressed people made itself valuable to the marketplace, becoming integral to the operation of commerce and finance. And in a simple twist of fate, the Venetian Jews, armed with a dynamic education, found themselves in the right place at the right time, they found themselves at the crossroads where opportunity meets preparedness. Since the time of Christ, there were Biblical injunctions against the practice of Christians lending money to Christians, and Jews lending money to Jews, but the Pope had blessed the practice of Jews lending money to Christians. Now, as you can sense, Venice was filled with many Christians, but there were not that many Jews, and more importantly lots of ships, trade, and commerce needed financing. In time, so dominant had the practice of Jewish financing become that it even made its way into the literature of the day as one of Shakespeare's subplots, remember the "Merchant of Venice". In fact the Venetian Jews unique form of financing has become so interwoven into the fabric of our world today, that it is even responsible for the origin of the word "bank". See the Jews could only leave the Ghetto from Sunrise to Sunset, and could not own property outside the Ghetto, so to meet with the businessmen of Venice to negotiate financing contracts, the Jews would walk from the Ghetto into the center of Venice, where they would gather with the business men in the parks, sitting on the public benches to conduct their affairs. Well "bench" in Italian is "banca", and with those strong accents, one pronounced the conducting of these financial affairs as a meeting at the "bank".

Ultimately, the intense focus on the education of the younger Jewish generations resulted in the dramatic lifting of their ethnic group out of the confinements of the ghetto, rising to become captains of industry, and so powerful has been the Jewish tradition of a strong education, that the Jews of today are blessed with the rewards of this cultural mind-set from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Inspired by this proof that investing in education today will yield societal rewards in future generations, how can we provide better educational opportunities to all, including the poor and culturally disadvantaged?

School Vouchers. There is no better solution.

Government by its nature is ineffective, which is clearly demonstrated by the manner in which government runs primary and secondary schools. Governments' ability to run schools and educate the people is suspect. Remember, governments will always perform tasks ineffectively, and when services like education are provided to the general public, it is the middle and lower classes that are hurt because they receive an inferior product. This failure is compounded in that when these poor quality public services are provided to the working class, this indirectly benefits the wealthy and advantaged, in that they can pay privately for superior services. The mathematics of this equation results, ironically, in expanding the distance between the classes, in that the outcome is 180 degrees out of phase with the original intention of free public education; i.e. to diminish the gap between the classes. Think of it this way. If you are rich, do you send your children to public schools? No. Why? Because you know they can be mediocre and that an education is too important to risk a poor one on your child, so you send them to private schools. How many rich people do you know send their kids to public school?

But if this is true, and private schools are so good, then why don't more people send their kids to private schools? The explanation is another twist of fate, only this one comprises a reversal of fortune. See, the typical working family pays property taxes every year on its home (that house the government helped them buy with tax incentives so there is a tax base to support local government), and inside their local property tax bill is a line item tax for schools, so in effect the working class is paying for the schools in its neighborhood each year.

Now there are lots of problems with paying for schools with local property tax dollars. For example, when you link schools to property taxes, the neighborhoods with expensive homes send a greater number of dollars to the school district than the neighborhoods with inexpensive homes, and with more money these expensive neighborhoods offer better education to their children. This reality in turn promotes parents to buy homes in these neighborhoods, to make sure their kids go to the better public schools, and sometimes parents end up buying homes too expensive for their household budgets, which causes other problems. Alternatively, low property value neighborhoods have less money to send to their school district, and so low income neighborhoods offer a lesser quality education, perpetuating the generational cycle of the poor, to the unconstitutional discrimination of the middle class and poor.

Funding public schools with local property taxes has an additional handcuffing restriction, it does not give the taxpayer any choice in directing which school gets their money, meaning there is no competition, and if there is no competition, doesn't this mean public schools are a monopoly? We'll get to that in a minute. First, here is the real catch. Because of the use of local property tax dollars to fund schools, a working class Joe, in

order to send his kid to a private school, has to pay the private school tuition on top of paying his property taxes for the local public schools, even when his kid does not attend the public school. This combination means a middle class wage earner has to pay twice for the same meal, they simply can not afford to do it; only the rich can.

If this is true, then why do we choose to pay for public schools with property taxes? Why not pay for public schools with Transactional Taxes, which we know are fair and equitable. The answers to these questions are complicated further by the notion just mentioned, that public schools act like monopolies. Let's take a look. Say you live in a neighborhood; in that neighborhood you have only one choice as to where you can send your child to public school. The tax dollars you pay can not be sent to schools other than the public school in your district. This is a monopoly. To have such a taxing and administrative structure is like having a law which says that all the hamburger joints in your neighborhood have to be McDonalds - no Burger Kings, no Wendy's. That just not right. What is the old saying, if something looks like a duck and walks like a duck, it must be a duck. Well, in the U.S. there is a law against monopolies, because they are abusive, inefficient, and predatory (sounds like public schools). It is called the Sherman Anti-Trust Act and it stops monopolies from operating in the business marketplace.(4) So why do we allow them in education, which by the way is the second largest industry in the U.S., after medicine.(5) An open and competitive market in education, for everyone, is the answer.

All the complexities of these issues can be resolved, there is an easy solution. Give every child a School Certificate, a voucher to spend the public tax money collected, at any school of their choice, a private school or a public school, then everyone, including

middle class and lower class parents (not just the upper class), gets to pick the best school for their kid. You can bet real dollars that if competition, through a voucher system, is injected into the education marketplace, this will raise the level of performance of all schools, even the public ones. In the District of Colombia today, the government collects local property taxes and spends \$21,000 per year per student.(6) If you had a Certificate for \$21,000 to spend at the school of your choosing, man would you get a great education for your kid. And why shouldn't you have this choice? Right now you just gave \$21,000 per year per child to the DC school district, and how good of an education did you get for your money?

In Chicago they did a study to find out why the private Catholic schools in the area performed so well on national tests. And you know what they found out? In the Catholic schools there was 1 teacher for every 14 students. In the public schools there was 1 teacher for every 29 students. In the Catholic schools there was 1 administrator for every 1000 students. In the public schools there was 1 administrator for every 100 students.(7) Clearly the Catholic school was spending its resources in the classroom educating the students, not splurging on administrative bureaucracy. Don't you prefer the way the private schools invest their dollars?

History shows us that Educational Certificates, or Vouchers, work. Look at the G.I Bill from World War II and the Korean War. Vouchers provided a college education to the greatest generation. When thousands of these individuals returned home from military service, they were each given education certificates as part of their earned pay, to be used at any public or private university in the land, and with these certificates many of these veterans were the first in their families to ever earn a college degree. Look at the result,

America experienced the most dynamic economic growth in its history from 1950 to 1970, with the fastest growing middle class and fastest shrinking poverty population during any 20 year period of civilization. If the bright light of vouchers worked for the four years of college, it can surely work for the twelve years of primary and secondary education. So go, teach the children well, and their father's hell, will slowly go by.

## **Teach Your Children**

By: Crosby, Stills, Nash, & Young, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

You, who are on the road  
Must have a code that you can live by.  
And so become yourself  
Because the past is just a good bye.

Teach your children well,  
Their father's hell did slowly go by,  
And feed them on your dreams  
The one they picked  
The one you'll know by.

Don't you ever ask them why,  
If they told you, you would cry  
So just look at them and sigh,  
And know they love you.

And you, of tender years  
Can't know the fears  
That your elders grew by  
And so please help them with your youth  
They seek the truth before they can die

Don't you ever ask them why,  
If they told you, you would cry  
So just look at them and sigh,  
And know they love you.

Teach your parents well,  
Their children's hell  
Will slowly go by.  
And feed them on your dreams  
The one they picked  
The only you'll know by

Don't you ever ask them why,  
If they told you, you would cry  
So just look at them and sigh,  
And know they love you.

## **Bright Side Of The Road**

By: Van Morrison, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

From the dark end of the street  
To the bright side of the road  
We'll be lovers once again  
On the bright side of the road.

Little darlin' come with me  
Won't you help me share my load  
From the dark end of the street  
To the bright side of the road.

Into this life we're born  
Baby sometime we don't know why  
And time seems to go by so fast  
In the twinkling of an eye.

Let's enjoy it while we can  
Won't you help me sing my song  
From the dark end of the street  
To the bright side of the road.

From the dark end of the street  
To the bright side of the road  
We'll be lovers once again  
On the bright side of the road  
We'll be lovers once again  
On the bright side of the road.

## MUSICAL NOTES

Nash, as the third voice in the powerful harmony of CSN, was so moved by the difficult emotions surrounding his Father's arrest and conviction for stealing, and then going to prison, that he was inspired to write "Teach the Children." Originally Nash was a member of the Hollies, but inevitably crossed paths with Crosby and Stills. Folklore has it that at a party in 1968, either at Joni Mitchell's house, or Lovin' Spoonful's John Sebastian's place (depending on whose memory you trust) Nash first joined Stills and Crosby to add additional harmony to their tune "You Don't Have to Cry". Shortly thereafter Nash left the Hollies and teamed up with Crosby and Stills. "Teach" was a Single off of the CSN&Y album **Déjà Vu** in 1970, and included never officially-released background lyrics in the second verse which read:

Can you hear and do you care  
And can't you see we must be free  
To teach your children what you believe in  
Make a world that we can live in

It is interesting to note that Jerry Garcia played Pedal Steel Guitar on this track in exchange for CSN giving harmony lessons to the Grateful Dead, who at the time were recording their acoustic albums **Workingman's Dead** and **American Beauty**. As testament to the power of CSN&Y at that time, **Déjà Vu** had advance orders for 2 million copies of the album. "Teach Your Children" climbed as high as number 6 on the charts, but its life was prematurely ended by the rapid release of the single "Ohio", a song written as a tribute and commentary on the killings at Kent State University in 1970. The story is told that Crosby handed Young a copy of Time Magazine, with the cover story of

the events. Young went silent for a long time, then picked up his guitar and twenty minutes later had a song. CSN&Y went immediately in the studio that night, cut the song live, finished the track, Ahmet Ertegun flew the master to New York, pressed it to vinyl, and within a week it was on the airwaves and released. “Teach the Children” was heading straight for Number One”, Crosby said, and continued, “And we knocked it right off the charts with our own song, and Nash never said a word about it, to his credit. He knew how important it was that this song be out there. For me “Ohio” was a high point of the band, a major point of validity. There we were, reacting to reality, dealing with it on the highest level we could - relevant, immediate. It named names and pointed the finger. It said, ‘Nixon.’ I was so moved by it that I completely lost it at the end of the song, in the recording studio, screaming . . . Four . . . Why . . . How many more . . .” Which can be heard as Crosby is crying through the background vocals on the fade.

Van Morrison has been deeply influenced by the sounds of John Lee Hooker, Ray Charles, Leadbelly, and Guthrie, as well as the words of Blake, Yates, Wordsworth, Kerouac, Ginsberg, and Watts. “Bright Side” was released off of Van’s 1979 album **Into the Music**, and he has played with many artists including Dylan, Charles, Hooker, The Band, Mark Knopfler of Dire Straits, and Elvis Costello. A legendary Irish performer with a fiercely loyal following, it is said Morrison never plays a song the same way twice, and he is known to exit a concert chanting ‘. . .soul . . soul . . . soul.’ Van, in 2004, allowed “Bright Side of the Road” to be the theme song for the UN’s World Press Freedom Day.

10. CONTEMPLATION/SILENT PRAYER, MEDITATION,  
AND BEING IN NATURE

*“We are not human beings having a spiritual experience,  
we are spiritual beings having a human experience.”*

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

*“Be still and know God”*

Psalms 46

*“All of man’s problems stem from his inability  
to sit in a room and be quiet.”*

Pascal, 1670

*“Man is asleep, must he die before he wakes?”*

Saying of Prophet Mohammed, 630

*“What else is nature, but God.”*

Seneca, 65

*“What is at work during inner silence  
is another faculty that man has,  
the faculty that makes him a magical being . . . .”*

Carlos Castaneda

This book is filled with bold, big concepts, ideas that are difficult for us to act upon individually, difficult for us to contribute to, because we are not in political control. However, beyond the power of attaching yourself to these ideas and demanding our leaders to stand up, listen, and implement these programs, beyond the strength of

exercising your right to vote, there is something that you can do to advance these causes, a step that each of us can take. It is the conscious act of making the time to be silent, to sit in contemplation, to sit in silent prayer, to sit in meditation. Such a daily act will advance in subtle and sentient ways these institutional steps within our society. As Socrates said, if a man would move the world, he must first move himself.

We live in a culture of constant stimulus. We are bombarded by impute from newspapers, magazines, phone calls, work, family, children, spouses, friends, radio stations, TV channels, and the web. We have become so accustomed to the inundation, that when it is absent, we feel strangely uncomfortable, uneasy, as if something is out of sync. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our ever present connection to the world has in fact removed us from our natural state of being. We have been taken away from the physical and meta-physical energy present when in the woods and forests, oceans and seas, and this disconnect has lessened the quality of our lives, disrupted the rhythms of our thoughts, and impeded our manifestation of a more perfect world.

Though at some level we may recognize this subtle unity of matter, energy and thought, this is a notion that is met with suspicion, for the evidence in our everyday lives is limited at best. And so to suggest that one needs to take time each day to sit in silent prayer, to meditate and to be in nature, is to propose a radical idea, yet it is this ancient and revered practice that simply needs to be re-membered, to be again attached to the fabric of our individual beings and our collective society. The emerging generation is just the group to re-establish this practice.

At another level, the daily practice of contemplation and silent prayer, leading to meditation, is not so far removed from some of our current activities as one

might first imagine. Many of us are physically active, either competing in one sport or another, attending workout classes, taking a walk, or going to the gym, and this stout physical activity is the first and the most important step in quieting the mind, in helping one be still, the foundational framework of meditation. The wise man says that the more you think, the more you must not-think. 'Not-thinking' is meditation, it is the space between thoughts, it is the stopping of the insatiable internal monologue we all recite; and physical exhaustion stops this monologue and begins the process of meditation, the tangible connection to your God.

Reflect for a moment while you are working out, when you are reaching a stage of physical exhaustion from robust activity (which will in fact change you bio-chemically) and you will begin to sense the place of meditation. Maybe you are hitting in the batting cage, maybe you are feeling a second wind during that 3 mile morning run, maybe you are pressing the edge of exhaustion in an aerobics class. In all these instances you are on autopilot, you are not thinking. You are in 'The Zone', as they say, and when you are in the Zone, optimal human performance occurs. Consider this, when you hit a 90 mph fastball (if you can hit a 90 mph fastball), it is pure reaction, trained instinct, a quiet mind. In rowing it is the same as you reach a rhythm with each stroke, or during a round of golf with the rhythm of each swing, in all these instances you are following your breath, stilling the mind. Realize that a slowed and monitored breath is pure nature. Animals, like elephants, with the slowest respiration rate, have the longest lifespans for a reason. In all instances this focused breath, repeated mantra, stilled internal monologue, places you in the moment, and when you are there, you are in the infinite. It is a 'Zone of Not-Thinking', and this is meditation, and the more time you spend there, the more you

will manifest a world that is in sync with the universe, benefiting everyman. As the poet T. S. Elliot said, the endless cycle of idea and action brings knowledge of motion, but not of stillness, knowledge of speech, but not of silence, knowledge of words, but ignorance of the Word.

In some ways this proposition may be a sea change from your previous perception, but it has roots which are deep and ancient, practiced by the Hindus and Chinese for 5,000 years, sanctioned and interpreted as prayer by the esoteric Christians, Muslims, and Jews. Its value is undeniable. All that is asked is for you to give 20 minutes each day, 20 minutes in silent prayer or meditation, and you can change the world. Moreover, as you spend time in meditation, in silent prayer, the magical transformation of moving every action you take throughout the day, every word you speak, every gesture you make, into a form of active prayer begins. Put your whole heart, mental intelligence, and soul into even the smallest acts, a kind word, a smile, holding a door, and life will begin to reveal its most prized secrets. Ultimately meditation will develop your intuition, and intuition is soul guidance, appearing naturally in one during those instances when the mind is calm; for it is the calm mind where, without distraction, one may hear the infallible counsel of the inner voice.

## **Rivers of Babylon**

By: Linda Ronstadt (written by B. Dowe & T. McNaughton)

covered by \_\_\_\_\_

By the rivers of Babylon  
Where we sat down  
And there we wept  
We remembered Zion

For the wicked, carry us away  
Captivity require from us a song  
Now how shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land

So let the words of our mouth  
And the meditations of our hearts  
Be acceptable in thy sight  
Here tonight

By the rivers of Babylon (dark tears of Babylon)  
There we sat down (you hear the people cry)  
And we wept (sing a song of love)  
When we remember Zion (yeah yeah yeah yeah)

## **Redemption Song**

By: Bob Marley, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

Old pirates yes they rob I  
Sold I to the merchant ships  
Minutes after they took I from the  
Bottom less pit  
But my hand was made strong  
By the hand of the almighty  
We forward in this generation triumphantly  
All I ever had is songs of freedom  
Won't you help to sing these songs of freedom  
Cause all I ever had redemption songs, redemption songs

Emancipate yourselves from mental slavery  
None but ourselves can free our minds  
Have no fear for atomic energy  
Cause none of them can stop the time  
How long shall they kill our prophets  
While we stand aside and look  
Some say it's just a part of it  
We've got to fulfill the book

Won't you help to sing, these songs of freedom  
Cause all I ever had, redemption songs, redemption songs, redemption songs  
All I ever had, redemption songs  
These songs of freedom, songs of freedom

## MUSICAL NOTES

By the early 70's Ronstadt was actively involved with many of the participants in the West Coast progressive Rock/Folk scene. In earlier albums Linda recorded songs by Jackson Browne and Neil Young, with musicians Don Henley and Glen Frey of the Eagles, and with the release of the 1976 album, **Hasten Down The Wind**, she had contributions by Warren Zevon and Karla Bonoff. Her soaring rendition in the Single from **Hasten**, "Rivers of Babylon" is known for its unexpected *a capella* segment.

Written by Brent Dowe and Trevor McNaughton of the Jamaican group The Melodians, 'Rivers of Babylon' charted highest with Boney M's version spending 5 weeks at No. 1 in 1978. The song is based upon the story of the exile of the Jews following the Babylonian conquest, as expressed in Psalm 137, which reads:

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.  
We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.  
For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song;  
and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.  
How shall we sign the Lord's song in a strange land?  
If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.  
If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth;  
if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.  
Remember, O Lord, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem;  
Who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof.  
O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed;  
Happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us.  
Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones."

“Redemption Song” was the last Single off of Bob Marley’s last Album, which was titled **Uprising**. It was the last song, playing it from a stool, which Bob performed live in concert, before he died. Bob was a man profoundly moved by the political inequities and the lack of spiritual guidance. Marley is buried in a crypt at Nine Miles, Jamaica, near his birthplace, with his Gibson guitar, a bud of marijuana, and a Bible. The Biblical influence in “Redemption Song” can be seen in several passages, including:

Genesis 37: 23

And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; and they took him, and cast him into a pit . . . come let us sell him to the Ishmeelites . . . then there passed by merchantmen, and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver

Genesis 49:24

. . . and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hand of the mighty God of Jacob .  
.

Romans 11:3

Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars, and I am left alone . .

Luke 24:44

These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses and in the profits and in the psalms . .

*“I am captivated more by dreams of the future than history of the past.”*

Benjamin Franklin

*“Never believe that a few caring people can’t change the world, for, indeed, that’s all who ever have.”*

Margaret Mead

#### POSTSCRIPT: An Allegory For The Future

Prior to the fall of the Roman Empire, when Generals were victorious on the battlefield Caesar would have them return to Rome and he would give them a large parade, where the Generals would ride along the Via Sacra in an expanded chariot, waving to the adoring crowd which lined the streets (much the way our politicians ride in the backs of convertibles in the parades of today). To each General’s chariot Caesar would assign a slave to ride with the honored warrior, and while the General rode through the city to the applause and roar of the crowd, it was the slave’s job to whisper in the General’s ear that “All glory is fleeting”.

If we do not work proactively to change the system, the glory of our civilization will vanish, just like the Roman Empire. Brothers, Sisters, Friends, Colleagues, go, take a moment and sit together, and ask yourself what type of world do you want to live in during the prime of your lives. Then go to your leaders, today’s Presidents, Prime Ministers, Legislators, Mayors, and Business Executives, and tell them to listen, and if they listen closely, they will hear the ghosts of those Roman slaves whispering in their ears.

History tells us that with every great age society's achievement is more a product of choice than chance. Achievement is always less serendipity and more a direct result of conscious decisions, decisions made by those filled with prophetic dreams who imagine the future and then make it happen. Now is the time to act anew.

As we look out over the event horizon, the next generation will be an age filled with individuals who possess the latent ability, despite the power of gravity, to perform the agile leap of the enlightened soul, shifting to the next paradigm, and in so doing, rise above the weight of the world, demonstrating that the secret of lightness, the secret of illumination, is at hand. The world's old ideas, dogmas, and misconceptions belong to the realm of death, the future is being born, today's leaders must be the mid-wife and the millennial generation is the child to guide the world. Let us pray it is not a complicated birth.

## **For Everyman**

By: Jackson Browne, covered by \_\_\_\_\_

Everybody I talk to is ready to leave  
With the light of the morning  
They've seen the end coming down long enough to believe  
That they've heard their last warning  
Standing alone  
Each has his own ticket in his hand  
And as the evening descends  
I sit thinking 'bout Everyman

Seems like I've always been looking for some other place  
To get it together  
Where with a few of my friends I could give up the race  
And maybe find something better  
But all my fine dreams  
Well thought out schemes to gain the motherland  
Have all eventually come down to waiting for Everyman

Waiting here for Everyman—  
Make it on your own if you think you can  
If you see somewhere to go I understand  
Waiting here for Everyman—  
Don't ask me if he'll show—baby I don't know

Make it on your own if you think you can  
Somewhere later on you'll have to take a stand  
Then you're going to need a hand

Everyone's just waiting hear from the one  
Who can give them the answers  
And lead them back to that place in the warmth of the sun  
Where sweet childhood still dances  
Who'll come along  
And hold out that strong and gentle father's hand  
Long ago I heard someone say something 'bout Everyman

Waiting here for everyman—  
Make it on your own if you think you can  
If you see somewhere to go I understand

I'm not trying to tell you that I've seen the plan  
Turn and walk away if you think I am—  
But don't think too badly of one who's left holding sand  
He's just another dreamer, dreaming 'bout Everyman

## MUSICAL NOTES

In some ways Jackson Browne is the quintessential voice of the California Singer/Songwriter. He collaborated and shared songs with many artists, setting the template for much of the music produced in the 70's. A friend and musical associate of David Crosby, Browne was concerned that Crosby's & Stills' "Wooden Ships" was too negative. In response, Jackson offered a more hopeful dream by releasing "For Everyman", the title track to the 1973 album. Folklore has it that Browne actually wrote some of the verses to "For Everyman" on Crosby's boat, just as "Wooden Ships" was written on Crosby's boat, and questioning Crosby about the story in "Wooden Ships", Browne asked, "What about all the people who get left behind?" Receiving no answer, Jackson wrote "For Everyman" as a response. And in homage to Jackson's effort, David sings harmony on the song. Taking its title from the medieval drama, Browne, like the play, suggests that together a rising action is possible. Bringing the song "For Everyman" full circle is Greg Ladanyi, the Executive Producer for the music of this Book/CD, including the new version of "For Everyman", who as a young engineer, mastered Browne's "For Everyman" in 1973.

## INTRODUCTION TO COMPANION CD

*“We learned more from a three-minute record than we ever learned in school”*

Bruce Springsteen

*“Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul . . . when modes of music change the fundamental laws of the State always change with them.”*

Plato

*“Nada Brahma” (Sound is God)*

Ancient Sanskrit Phrase

Music possesses an elusive capacity to bring about change in the world, to foster freshness, imagination, and creativity, to build a bridge to the human heart. Sometimes perceived as promoting an insolent path for society, music more often speaks positively to the mind and soul of an individual and the collective quixotic aspirations of society, in ways unavailable to the written or spoken word. It is this elusive attribute we hope to harness with this companion CD, offering new interpretations of songs from a revolutionary and poetic period, in the belief that this music will inspire and elevate the bold notions within, for boldness has a magic to it. And so we leave you to listen, linger, and meditate therein.