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# WHY WE FIGHT

★★ PART I ★★


*By*

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The background of the image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in shades of blue and white. The text is overlaid on this background.

**HAS AMERICA  
EVER BEEN MORE  
DYSFUNCTIONAL  
THAN IT IS  
TODAY?**

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*Consider where we are at this moment in time:*

- ★ ***Inflation is at an all-time high, gutting the savings and futures of working Americans and their families;***
- ★ ***Hundreds of thousands of small businesses have been shuttered by government forced COVID lockdowns, destroying the economic fabric of our country;***
- ★ ***And command and control government COVID shutdowns and de-funding of police have resulted in closed schools, skyrocketing crime, and a growing sense of malaise and dysfunction throughout our land—so-called “diseases of despair” like alcoholism, drug overdose, and suicide, are off the charts.***

**T**o make matters even worse, our ruling class and political elites treat us like dirt!

They flout the very rules they impose on us, openly violating COVID protocols that we must obey, and enriching themselves through insider stock trades that would land you or me in jail!

Indeed, at the very moment when we have come to expect less and less of the system, taxes and government spending have never been higher!

How did we get here? How did America turn into such a dysfunctional mess? It's as though an invading army has occupied

our homeland and imposed a regime with the singular purpose of destroying America. No one voted for this.

How did we get here? How did the greatest nation on earth—indeed, the greatest nation in human history—end up on the fast-track to national decline?

That’s a question I’ve wrestled with a lot since I came to America from my home in England.

Great Britain too was once a global power. Yet today, it is a ghostly shell of its former self. Its empire is long gone, and today so are jobs, opportunities, and hope. A country that once bustled with industry is now overrun with socialism, urban blight, and despair.

To get a sense of what life is like over there, consider the long and sad decline of American cities like Detroit and Cleveland: that’s what life has become in virtually all of the British heartland.

For all its problems, America is light years better off than my birthplace, and I was proud to take the oath of citizenship and make America my homeland in 2021. As someone who came here legally from another country, it’s easy for me to see opportunities that native-born citizens take for granted. And I’m living proof that the “blessings of liberty” are still alive here in this country we love.

Yet I can’t help but see echoes of my native Great Britain here in the United States.

America and Britain of course share a long “special relationship.”

We share a common language and a common cultural heritage. And America’s legal and political systems trace their origins to British colonial days, despite obvious changes that took place during the Revolution.

So, it should come as no surprise that America would face many of the same pitfalls that have bedeviled Great Britain over the past few generations, including:

- ★ *A runaway welfare state and persistent cries for socialism*
- ★ *A corresponding decline in job creation and economic opportunity*
- ★ *Growing social unrest, supercharged by professional*

*grievance lobbies who exploit historical sins for profit and power, and a deepening sense that past glory can never be regained or surpassed.*

In Great Britain, trade unions were the principal cause of national decline. From mid-century through the 1970s, they brought Great Britain to its knees. The situation became so bad that the International Monetary Fund had to bail out the UK in 1976. You may remember that.

Imagine: a nation that had once been the most powerful on Earth, on which the sun literally never set, reached a point where it was dead broke and holding out the beggar bowl after a few decades of misguided big-government policymaking.

Fortunately for the UK, Margaret Thatcher came along just a few years later and stood up to the unions. For years thereafter, the UK saw an era of national rebirth.

Here in America, I see our country on a similar path that bedeviled Great Britain during the 1960s and 1970s.

This country is racing toward socialism and everything that it entails: autocratic government, fiscal and moral bankruptcy, and national decline.

And just as in the UK, the root cause once again is government unions.

Here in the US, government unions have systematically rigged the game in their favor, giving themselves lifetime employment at ruinously expensive cost, while delivering less and less every year to

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the citizens they supposedly serve. Today, the pigs have nearly eaten themselves to death: government unions have become so greedy and so unaccountable that the system itself is on the brink of collapse.

Today, America has surpassed \$30 trillion of debt, far outstripping our annual GDP—a proposition unimaginable only a few short years ago. The Federal Reserve has a nearly \$9 trillion balance sheet. Through fiscal, monetary, and tax policy, Washington, DC, policymakers and their Wall Street cronies are debasing the standing of the middleclass and leveraging our children’s future through their self-serving and manipulative tax-borrow-and-spend schemes.

And what, exactly, do we have to show for these trillions that we have spent?

It’s certainly not shining new cities out of the Jetsons, let alone smarter kids or safer streets.

Sadly, it’s almost the exact opposite of what we signed up for.

Consider a scene just blocks from the US Capitol building in Washington, DC.

Visitors arriving via the city’s principal train station are greeted first by a majestic view of the Capitol dome—and then, as they lower their line of sight closer to ground level, a rotting homeless encampment just steps away in the middle of a busy traffic circle.

Congressional staffers arriving by the city’s Metro system pass this degrading sight throughout the day, yet do nothing. President Joe Biden famously took the train to this station each day from his home in Delaware while serving in the Senate, and this eyesore—along with

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regular harassment from those who have set up camp there—would be a daily part of his life if he were still there.

This is a scene that repeats itself from sea to not-so-shining sea.

Across the country, tent cities line the I-5 freeway, the main arterial through downtown Seattle. Elsewhere in the Emerald City (a nickname for Seattle all too reminiscent of “The Wizard of Oz” and its hollow shell of leadership) the city has issued orders to not tow the countless broken-down and decaying RVs that shelter a growing vagrant population.

Down the West Coast in San Francisco, discarded needles and human excrement fill the streets, and shoplifters ransack stores in broad daylight while police look the other way, powerless to do anything under the city’s soft-on-crime lawmaking.

In each of these cities, some of the country’s most expensive homes stand within mere steps of this filth.

Their well-heeled owners pay large sums in taxes. As a population, the wealthy residents of these homes are more likely to engage in civic life than the rest of the population. They’re also more likely to hold degrees from fancy colleges. So, presumably they should be smart enough and wealthy enough to keep their streets clean and provide basic shelter for their cities’ neediest residents.

So why does a problem like this persist?

It would be easy to blame the misguided ideas of big-government liberals who run most of our major cities. It’s been said that if liberals had half a brain, they wouldn’t be liberals—but let’s be generous for a moment and give them their due: people smart enough to win elected office in a major city aren’t totally stupid, even if they tend to act that way.

So, why do they consistently enact policies that offend common sense, let alone the well-being of the voters who put them in office?

For the answer to that question, we have to dig deeper. And that’s where government unions enter the picture.

Government unions are THE biggest campaign funders of the radical left—by far. In our major cities and our so-called “blue” states, government unions are political kingmakers.

For starters, unions wield the biggest checkbook on the political left.

They can, and do, shower millions of dollars on the candidates who best serve their agenda, depending on the race. In areas dominated by the left, candidates jockey to win union support—which in turn helps them win primary races and become party favorites, effectively putting them in elected office in areas without a competitive second party.

In many races, winning the support of union bosses is more important than winning the support of voters themselves!

And therein lies the problem: government unions have captured the system in defiance of basic of our nation's democratic principles.

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TO RESTORE THE BASIC FUNCTIONING  
OF GOVERNMENT IN OUR COUNTRY.**

Just look at how government unions treat a problem like homeless encampments: they act like it's not their problem. What's more, they milk the problem to their advantage.



In Oakland, CA, SEIU 1021—the local chapter of the Service Employees International Union, one of the most hardened government unions working against the interests of the American people—was tasked by city government with removing homeless encampments throughout the city.

Rather than perform that basic task for which taxpayers pay them above-market wages, the union instead made a lengthy list of demands as preconditions of taking on this work, including increased funding for various branches of city government, passage of a certain ballot initiative, and so on.

These demands were ostensibly aimed at addressing the “structural causes” of homelessness: but in fact, every single one of them would equate to more spending by local government, more staffers on the payroll, and ultimately more members and more dues for the unions themselves.

In short: filthy homeless encampments are good for business at SEIU.

They offer a pretext for raising taxes, expanding the size of government, and growing their own base of power...all while our country’s most degrading problems never get solved.

Politicians are powerless to push back, and often don’t want to. After all, the union bosses are their best donors. Meanwhile, collective bargaining agreements serve as a muzzle on politicians who would ever dare to support voters rather than their union patrons, giving the union bosses veto power on the delivery of essential services.

The capture of government by unions has been decades in the making—but since COVID entered our national lexicon in 2020, it has kicked into overdrive.

Nowhere has this been more evident than our schools.

For nearly two years, teachers’ unions have been THE lobby for school closures, toxic ideologies in our schools, and much worse.

Not only are teachers unions depriving our kids of something as fundamental as their education, they have sought time and again to destroy our country and the readiness of our workforce by pumping culturally divisive teachings into our classrooms.

Recently, for example, they have mounted a nationwide effort to gut advanced math and science classes for high achieving kids and

teenagers. This was the focus of a major revolt by parents in Loudon County, VA, (a bedroom community on the outskirts of the Washington, DC suburbs), while Oregon Governor Kate Brown recently signed a bill at the behest of unions that gutted reading, writing, and math requirements to supposedly help “students of color.”

Meanwhile, the National Educational Association passed a resolution at its 2021 national convention opposing “attempts to ban critical race theory and/or The 1619 Project,” and seeking to pump our kids full of the same degraded ideas about race and identity that compelled the Hutus to slaughter untold numbers of Tutsis during the Rwandan genocide.

Government unions are depriving us of basic services that we deserve today and robbing our children of the future they deserve tomorrow.

In normal times, we could look at the unions and their corrupt political dealings and call them a permanent lobby for bigger government. And indeed, they are.

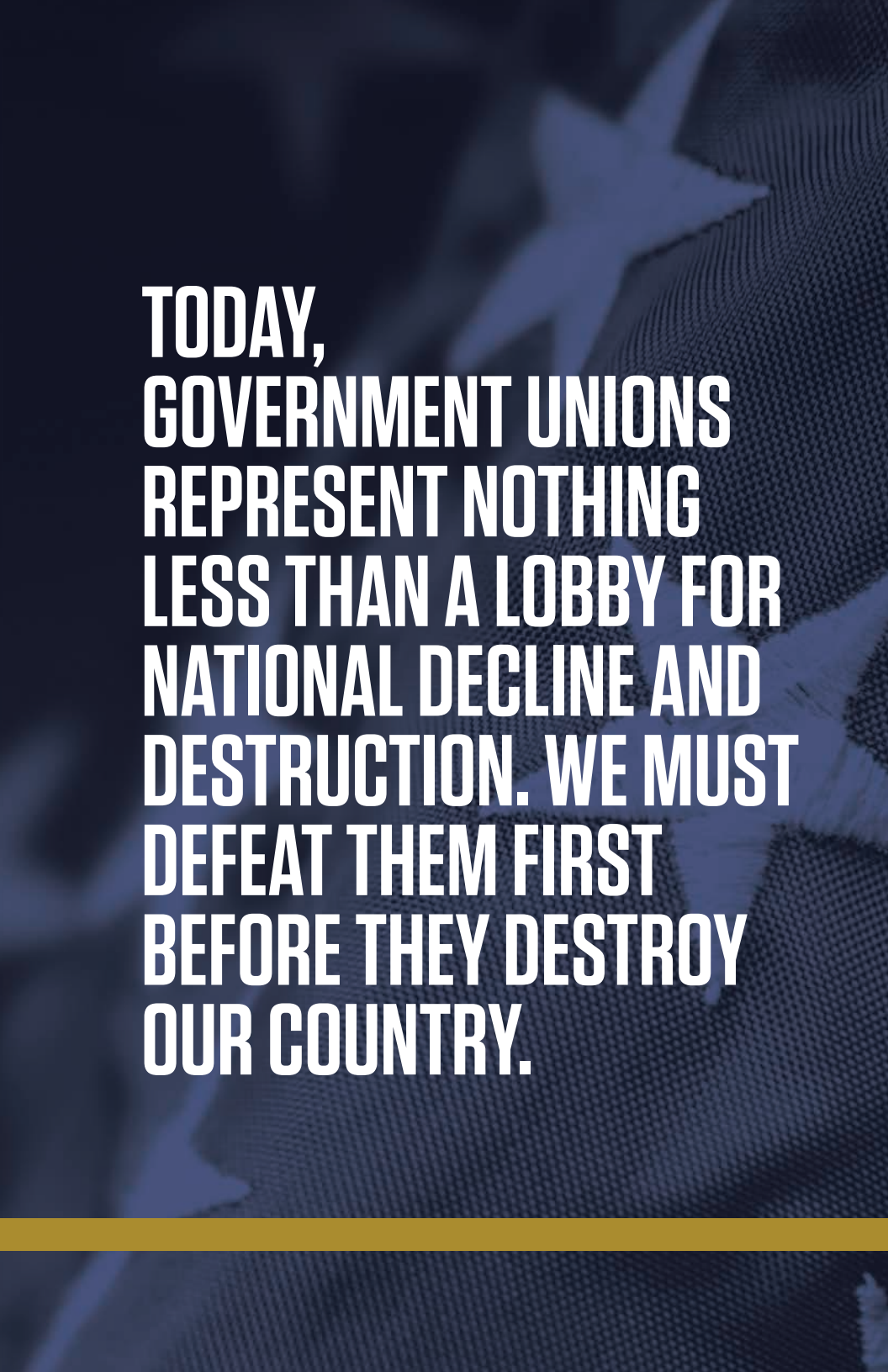
But these are no longer normal times.

With society catastrophically close to a breaking point in its public finances, with our streets becoming increasingly lawless, our ruling class mired in scandal and disgrace, and our people increasingly at strife over the historical sins of generations long gone, government unions have sided AGAINST the American people and AGAINST their children at every single turn.

**Today, government unions represent nothing less than a lobby for national decline and destruction. We must defeat them first before they destroy our country.**

***TO BE CONTINUED....***

***look for installment TWO in your mailbox next month.***



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*There is no path to a freer America until we end the undue influence of government unions. Government unions are a powerful blockade against individual liberty, free enterprise, and limited, accountable government. The Freedom Foundation is taking on government union bosses and defunding their radical unconstitutional agenda.*

“Why We Fight” is a three-part essay reflecting on exactly that: *WHY WE FIGHT!*

The first part explores how government unions are a root cause of every growing national dysfunction in America. The second installment reflects on how government unions became such a pervasive influence on American life. The third and final piece discusses how the Freedom Foundation’s national expansion is countering this destructive force and helping to bring about a new era of American prosperity.



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