

such a way that they will direct their energy to the right strategic points, and steer the total process of development in the desired direction.

Popper continues:

It seems to escape the well-meaning Utopianist that his program implies an admission of failure, even before he launches. For it substitutes for his demand that we build a new society, fit for men and women to live in, the demand that we 'mould' these men and women to fit into the new society.

Marx criticized education as promoting the status quo. Similarly, Dewey advocated reconstructing our educational system in order to incorporate progressive ideology into the public school system — an agenda now visibly accomplished.

Levin writes that "The American founding was... an effort to ensure that the individual can prosper in a just and stable environment.... It is one thing for the individual to be all he can be, but it is quite another thing for the government to be all it can be."

Mark Levin is an astute and insightful analyst and author. In his book, *Liberty and Tyranny*, he presents a manifesto of policies and actions that could contribute to improving our society.

In *The Liberty Amendments*, Levin argues for using Article V of the Constitution to bring together a convention of the states, thus bypassing the federal Leviathan altogether in order to enable the states to consider constitutional avenues for restoring republican government.

In *Plunder and Deceit*, he highlighted the extent to which the federal government is pushing the nation toward the abyss of unfettered spending and borrowing.

All of the actions recommended in his books would require both an informed public and the political will to engage on these actions. At this point, the certainty of either is questionable.

While the book *Rediscovering Americanism: And the Tyranny of Progressivism* covers a lot of ground, it is well organized and well written. Levin presents a substantive historical perspective, and his penetrating analysis is especially relevant in light of today's political environment. Highly recommended reading. ■

Rediscovering Americanism

Excerpts from Epilogue of Rediscovering Americanism by Mark R. Levin

Suffice it to say that America's founding principles are eternal principles. They are principles that instruct humanity today and tomorrow, as they did yesterday. These principles are born of intuition, faith, experience, and right reason. They are the foundation on which the civil society is built and the individual is cherished; they are the basis of freedom, moral order, happiness, and prosperity.

Yet these principles are apparently so grievous and abhorrent that they are mostly ignored or even ridiculed today by academia, the media, and politicians — that is, the ruling elite and its surrogates. They reject history's lessons and instead are absorbed with their own conceit and aggrandizement in the relentless pursuit of a diabolical project, the final outcome of which is an oppression of mind and soul. Indeed our ears are pierced with the shrill and constant chorus of promises and shibboleths about utopian statism, which, of course, serve the purposes of a sterile, scientific project and its centralized administrative-state masterminds. The equality they envision, but dare not honestly proclaim, is life on the hamster wheel, where one individual is indistinguishable from the next.

In many respects, the progressive has succeeded in his primary objective: the deconstruction of the American republic for concentrated, centralized power — the exact opposite of the Founders' intentions. During the last century or so, America began the transformation into a kind of pseudo-constitutional or post-constitutional republic, in which the natural law truths of the Declaration of Independence and the justice and security of the Constitution are typically and repeatedly abused to, paradoxically, enshrine in law and justify as legitimate the progressive's autocratic and egalitarian agenda.

[L]est we forget: It is one thing for the individual to be all he can be, but it is quite another thing for the government to be all it can be. The former was born to be free; the latter was established with limits. ■