



# MONETARY & ECONOMIC REVIEW

Volume XXV, No. 2

Fall 2010

## Federal Government at War With Its Own Constitution

By John Russell

*John Russell is the senior national correspondent for IRN/USA News. He has been involved in broadcasting for over twenty years, both as a news presenter and writer. John appears regularly on the news and commentary radio program, "News and Views."*

There is one indisputable fact that needs to be repeated until it is understood and absorbed by every freedom-loving American. The United States was not attacked on September 11, 2001, because we lacked the "safeguards" that misguided individuals believe comes with having a police state. No, we were attacked because officials in the federal government, who were responsible for protecting the American people, did not do their jobs.

The basic outline for the Twin Towers attack was in the hands of the FBI in 1995. It was given to them by the Philippine National Police after its discovery in the apartment of Islamic terror mastermind, Ramzi Yousef. It included the plan to use airliners as missiles, and it named at least some of the targets that were hit by the Moslem terrorists.

Senior federal officials ignored warnings by FBI field agents and employees of flight schools that Arabs were taking lessons on how to steer airliners but not on how to put them in the air or land them.

We were told that the confusion regarding these warnings arose from an opinion in a memo written by Ms. Jamie Gorelick, a Justice Department hack serving under Janet Reno during the Clinton administration. This same person, whose actions, in effect, prevented a timely response that could have stopped the 9/11 attacks, was then allowed to sit on the commission investigating the worst act of terrorism in the nation's history!

In the days following 9/11, President Bush said there would be no recriminations for those who had failed in their duty. In fact some of those whose lack of action and judgment made us vulnerable were promoted. In short, it was immediately apparent that no one in the federal government would be held responsible for what can only be called deadly incompetence.

### **The Rush to Expand Government Power**

As frightening as these facts are, they pale in comparison with the rush by the federal government to seize extra-constitutional power following the destruction of the Twin Towers by radical Islamists.

First, we were told that instead of changing the policy that allegedly prevented the FBI and the CIA from sharing intelligence—which would have required a one-page memo—we would have to create a monstrous new cabinet department with a host of new and often secret powers. The overarching security apparatus that is The Department of Homeland Security was as foreign to the American people in its concept as in its name, which recalled the police states of recent European history.

We were informed that because the 9/11 plotters had acquired phony identity documents, the American people for the first in our history would be forced to carry an internal passport, albeit masquerading as an enhanced driver's license. Let's be clear on this point. The idea that numbering Americans like cattle will stop state-supported terrorists from acquiring documentation needed for their evil ends reveals a naïveté unworthy of a thinking adult.

Then there is the so-called Patriot Act. There is no doubt that some believe this legislation was formulated by wise men rushing to address shortcomings of the law in order to protect the American people against further terrorist atrocities. But the Patriot Act is, in fact, a shopping list of extra-constitutional police powers that the federal establishment had been wanting for decades. The enabling legislation was presented to Congress fifteen minutes before the vote for its passage. Further, the actual language of the act was presented as amendments to the existing federal code—the size of which is roughly equal to 8-10 sets of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Those who voted for the Patriot Act had no idea whatsoever of its contents; yet in order to do "something," they signed their name to one of the gravest insults to liberty since the Alien and Sedition Acts.

Now I need to make it clear that when this handbook for tyrants first reared its ugly head, I railed with all the force I could muster against its passage, Republican sympathies notwithstanding. I do not trust any human institution with this kind of power. However, in fairness to those who first let loose this beast, they at least included a sunset provision, should the law prove dangerous to freedom. However, it took a Democratic Congress and a Democratic president to make it permanent, without any means for its abolition.

Since then, the newly established security establishment has piled on in its attacks on American freedoms, grabbing any power that suits its fancy. There are the secret warrants—not signed by any judge—that permit federal agencies free rein to search what they please, without restraint. In pre-revolutionary America these would have been called Writs of Assistance; they were one of the acts of tyranny that led to the end of British rule in America. Further, anyone who revealed that such a warrant had been served was subject to prosecution.

There is also the presumption on the part of many in the federal government that U.S. citizens have no right to privacy in their electronic communications. Now there is a ruling by the Ninth Circuit court of Appeals which says that the government can come onto your property and attach tracking devices to your automobile, with no warrant needed. There is an exception if your home is surrounded by a fence with a gate; then, and only then, does the Fourth Amendment apply.

These are but a few of the tentacles of a police state regime that are hateful to the basic concepts of liberty. Still, there are those who argue that we must sacrifice freedom for security. This is perhaps the most frightening aspect of this naked power grab. The supposition that government can protect you from the dangers posed by madmen is as pernicious as it is false. No free American should put his trust in this dangerous illusion of safety. The only thing I want the federal government to protect is my freedom. I will depend on Almighty God to protect my life.

Now—one big question: If these assaults on liberty are not meant to protect the populace, then whom are they meant to protect? It is becoming more and more obvious that both the speed and the thoroughness of these social controls can have only one purpose: complete control of the populace.

### **Consequences**

It is my opinion that the political establishment realizes the American people no longer believe their claims of acting “for the national good.” American citizens are realizing it is they who will pay the price for the excesses of irresponsible government, and they are outraged at the degree to which the power elites are destroying their freedoms and liberties.

This awakening on the part of the American people has instilled among ruling elites a dread of political retribution that would mean an end to their unearned power and privilege. Could it be that those who have laid waste to this great nation see a potential for a middle class revolt? Tea Parties, conservative rallies, and polling indicate that those who actually produce wealth and stability for the nation are rising up to declare, “We will tolerate no more!”

I believe the elite ruling class misperceives America as no longer having a majority of educated, informed citizens with religious beliefs that engender self discipline and restraint. But a populace that no longer believes in absolutes and does not expect to face judgment at life’s end can be a dangerous de-stabilizer. Perhaps, too late, the power elites understand they may have created an amoral, unreasoning monster that will not be mollified when promised benefits fail to materialize. No amount of force can control an unreasoning, angry mob mentality, loosed among a populace that lacks self discipline and restraint.

Either way, ruling elites believe they must adopt radical measures to control the populace.

### **Last Chance?**

I believe there is only one hope for maintaining freedom and a social order capable of restoring the greatness of this once blessed country. We must first repent before the divine author of our blessings and resolve to live as a people who truly believe that without the help of Almighty God, we are lost. Secondly we must no longer tolerate the insane prescriptions of those whose political and social theories have never worked, no matter where they have been tried.

It may be that the coming elections will be our last chance to begin the arduous task of restoring the country we love without experiencing the horrors that tend to accompany profound social dislocation. I can say without any reservation that those who fail to become politically involved and vote for candidates that are committed to the re-establishment of our Republic and its Constitution are unworthy of the title American. They are to my mind the most wretched of traitors.