

## The Civil Citizen

They decided we would try.

They started it as Henry Ford must have started that new engine on his first motorized vehicle ... and it's still running today.

Unlike Europe with its feudal lords and vassals, we would live free from the oppression of despotic government. We were given no certainty outside our own grit and determination to stay the course and yield to no invention, but we decided we would try.

We would guide our ship of state according to common-sense maxims about which no reasonable person could disagree:

- To every citizen due process under law, the right to be heard, to call witnesses, to make a public record in the court files.
- Justice to every man and woman, without regard to social station, wealth, race, gender, or place of origin.
- Each and every one of us to be treated equally with each and every other one of us ... in our courts, in public places, and in our homes.

Our new government would be constrained to treat us equally, without regard to the privilege or disadvantage of our birth or genetic composition.

Ours would be a new land, a land of peace, a land of prosperity, a land where each of us could live in peace and find happiness in our own way.

Each of us would walk as every other in our courts, and none would have favor over others ... none.

The Rule of Law would rule.

Fair exchange of arguments would be duly administered by our judges for the benefit of each of us according to law and not the popular whim or political expedience.

A nation ruled by laws, not men.

A nation free from hegemony and nepotism.

A nation where every man could buy and sell, to worship as he may, to own property on which to build and grow without constraints imposed by European monarchs.

A nation where each would live in harmony with every other.

A new land. A new world.

A new way for rulers to rule ... *under* the people!

At its heart, however, is a secret no generation can long ignore.

Law is sacred.

The Rule of Law alone paves the way to peace.

War and every strife spring from not knowing or ignoring law.

War begins in the struggles of those who attempt to live outside the law, the hypocrisy of those who presume to know what the law should be in

every last detail, and those who take unfair advantage of the millions who haven't the slightest notion how it's all supposed to fit together.

War is not so much the result of not being able to stop war as it is the result of not knowing how to avoid it in the first place.

Rudolph von Jhering, a 19<sup>th</sup> Century jurist, wrote wisely, "The end of the law is peace. The means to that end is war."

Let our wars be with pens.

Let our battles be with words.

Let us choose leaders who believe in us and want what's best for our children and for generations yet to come.

Let us give our people legal knowledge so they can speak to power with effectiveness and guide their government aright, according to their will.

Let us give them liberty to share ideas, to decide for themselves if they wish to suffer despotism or celebrate liberty under law.

Let us show them the horrors of the threatened rule of globalism, and the unendurable nightmare that is anarchy.

Let us encourage them to exert the small effort required to be true civil citizens in this hour while there's yet time for us to hold the line.

Never has the world more needed a nation of civility and wisdom to look to as military technology advances in the hands of oligarchs determined to be law unto themselves.

How dare we praise our export of democracy, when our people know little or nothing about the system of laws that make democracy possible?

How long will we deny them the knowledge of how judicial power is used to manipulate morality?

What can we do today to give them a clearer vision of the fundamental truths that could be binding our fractured society together as a cohesive body sharing a common view of who we are and what we stand for together?

People have a right to know, understand, and use the principles and practice of due process so they can secure for themselves and their loved ones the social benefits that can only come from the fair administration of justice in our courts.

Now is the hour for Public Legal Education, friends.

There has never been a time like this, now that technology at last offers all of us instant, unfettered access to legal knowledge once denied to the public.

Today is the day to rediscover the old ideas that promise all we desire, truths of justice that never change, truths too long hidden from us by our lack of access to the dusty records now revealed by technology's boon.

Now is the time to broadcast to the world those enduring principles that built our nation in the first place, principles that bring peace.

It is time to be bold, to be wise, and to use our pens to be heard!

#