

## Enemies of the Constitution

Enemies of the Constitution  
Richard L. Petersen, PhD

Many people are concerned because the US Government has strayed far from the initial intent of its founders, who worked hard to craft a Constitution that would restrain potential tyrants and others who might wish to obtain excessive power over the people in order to serve their own ends.

Thus, it is useful for those who wish to conserve the wisdom of our founding fathers to consider how our Constitutional protections have been eroded over the years and motivations and means used by those who have eroded those protections.

Enemies of the Constitution can be roughly divided into several categories. Most obviously are would-be tyrants, since the constitution was originally crafted to prevent the growth of tyranny- -which is why it calls for the separation of powers, limits the powers of the federal government and retains all other powers for the states and the people. However, there are others who also wish to expand the federal government's centralized power in order to achieve their own ends. Such ends might include opportunities for personal enrichment. However, they also may include various ideological objectives. Some such objectives may be religious in nature (for example, the potential adoption of Sharia law, creation of a theocracy, or other religious objectives that are inconsistent with the U.S. Constitution,). Other ideological objectives include a desire to advance particular political ideologies (such as Communism, Marxism, or Socialism). Advocates of such political objectives often comfort themselves by rationalizing that their ideology will improve the world--even though the aforementioned ideologies, in practice, have created much extreme misery--except for their "leaders" who often profit while their people suffer (think of Cuba, Venezuela, and North Korea as contemporary examples and Eastern European Communist countries in the past). However, the list of those who seek to exercise excessive Federal power in order to "improve the world" is not limited to political ideologies, per se. The list of would be world improvers includes all sorts of "central planners," as described by Hayak and embodied in Keynesian economics, as well as numerous groups of "globalists" and "environmentalists" who believe that their ends justify any means needed to accomplish them. None of the above groups respect individual rights and individual freedoms if they potentially prevent them from achieving their "world improvement" goals. Finally, various "elitists" believe their presumed "elite" status gives them the right to dictate to others how they should live their individual lives.

Elitists include all those who think their status, education, literacy, or "altruistic" endeavors gives them the right to tell others what to do and how to behave. Politicians, academics, and journalists are prominent among the so-called "elite." However, members of various philanthropic, public interest, and various lobbying groups also consider themselves to be elite, who therefore have the right to dictate to the lesser educated or, presumably less

## Enemies of the Constitution

informed, people what is good for them, or for the world, or for society in general. Frequently, elitists are those who have attended expensive colleges or have excelled academically at institutions that continuously tell them that they are among the elite of society- -regardless of their actual competence in areas where they claim to be elite. As an example of where self-proclaimed elitists wish to dictate the adoption of drastic policies by their peers and the rest of the world, consider the global warming controversies. In those controversies it is clear that most global warming and climate change alarmists are politicians, or their sycophants who are seeking to obtain more power or public funding. In addition, climate change advocates include various other self-deluded "do-gooders" who feel their status, wealth, or education makes them elite. However, it is clear that most global warming and climate change alarmists have very limited scientific and meteorological training- -if so, they wouldn't claim that science issues are settled by votes and they would be cognizant of the fact that Earth has had much higher levels of carbon dioxide in the past and survived (while plants thrived).

In short, enemies of the Constitution include all those who believe that their personal assertion of "collective" needs allows them to assert that their "ends" justify any means, including the right to deprive individuals of their individual rights--including the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness declared in the U.S. Declaration of Independence.