



# COMMON SENSE

*for a*

*Modern Age*

*How Your Informed Vote Can Save America*

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*Dennis Amorosano*

**Also by Dennis Amorosano**

**“The Top 10 Things My Dog Taught Me About Business and Life”**

**“The Top 10 Things My Dog Taught Me About Being a Leader”**

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## **Dedication**

**This book is dedicated to my father. A United States Navy Veteran and Gunner on the Destroyer U.S.S. J.C. Owens, my father served his nation with distinction during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He taught me the value of American citizenship, what it means to be an informed voter and most importantly, love of country.**

**Thanks Dad!**



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**Manufactured in the United States of America**

**Library of Congress Control Number: 2026910639**

**ISBN: 978-1-7334919-4-5 Paperback**

**ISBN: 978-1-7334919-5-2 eBook**

## **Introduction**

**America is the greatest country to ever exist in the history of mankind. For many, this statement is a given and one that need not be said. And while many of us were taught of America's greatness during our formative years in school, the sad reality is that many younger generations were not. Some view America's continual involvement in foreign wars and subversive actions against other nations (our allies included) as evidence that America has lost her way and may not be the shining example of liberty as was originally intended.**

**As the pages that follow and the evidence presented will attest, regardless of where you stand it is important to separate America the country and the ideals upon which it was founded from the elected officials and government bureaucrats who often engage in activities quite removed from the values and beliefs that guided our Founding Fathers.**

**America is unique when compared to all other countries on earth. This uniqueness goes well beyond its people, its economy or the position it holds as today's most dominant global power. As compared to all other nations, America is unique at its very core; its very soul.**

**America's Founders were the most learned men of their age; with most being highly educated by being either self-taught or having been tutored by the prominent scholars of their day. The Founding Fathers obtained a classic education in religion, philosophy, the arts, government and the emerging field of science. They were students of history and in particular had studied the great civilizations of the past including the Babylonians, Egyptians, Greeks and Romans. In their own times they were familiar with the European Aristocracies and in particular Monarchical governments where the power of a King was absolute and human rights were dictated by those in power.**

**As a Colony of Great Britain many of the Founders had a very different view of governance as compared to those living in the motherland. By their nature, they and their fellow colonists were pioneers and risk takers, carving out civilization from sheer wilderness. This pioneering spirit framed their world view and was ultimately a deciding factor in their decision to break free from English rule following years of grievous actions by the King and no representation in English Parliament.**

**As Jefferson would say in response to continued actions from Parliament “Scarcely have our minds been able to emerge from the astonishment into which one stroke of parliamentary thunder had involved us, before another more heavy, and more alarming, is fallen on us. Single acts of tyranny may be ascribed to the accidental opinion of a day; but a series of oppressions, begun at a distinguished period, and pursued, unalterably through every change of ministers, too plainly prove a deliberate and systematical plan of reducing us to slavery.”<sup>1</sup>**

**While the colonists could have attempted to break free from England and maintained a similar style of governance, they recognized through their education that there was something larger at stake than just separating from England. They recognized that in doing so they could create a new nation where individual freedom, liberty and self-governance could be established. A nation where the rights of man were not dictated by a King; where a man’s station in life would not be dictated by his birth but by his merit and where the power of the government would be specifically defined by the people it governed.**

**What makes America unique as compared to every other nation on earth are these ideas and principles. Ideas and principles that are the cornerstone of Judeo-Christianity. In the eyes of the Founders, if God made man in his own image than surely, he intended man to be free and that all men are equal in the eyes of God. These tenets and the laws of Moses as primarily professed in the Book of Deuteronomy provide both the moral and philosophical foundation as espoused by Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence:**

**“WE hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness – That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most like to effect their Safety and Happiness.”**

**One of the most beautiful aspects of America’s moral foundation is that even those who don’t profess any linkage to organized religion or those who**

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<sup>1</sup> *Jefferson the Virginian*, Dumas Malone, Chapter “The Growth of a Political Mind”

**don't believe in God at all are still the beneficiaries of the inalienable rights as professed in the Declaration and the protections codified in America's Constitution.**

**Alexander Hamilton spoke about the rights of man in this manner in his pamphlet *The Farmer Refuted*, "The sacred rights of mankind are not to be rummaged for among old parchments...They are written, as with a sunbeam, in the whole volume of human nature by the hand of Divinity itself."**

**Both the moral and philosophical framework as outlined in the Declaration of Independence and ultimately codified into law by the U.S. Constitution are unique in world history; and unique to America only. No other nation either before or after America's founding can lay claim to this position. And it is this foundation that our Founding Fathers then used to build the greatest nation in human history and to which anyone desiring freedom is instinctively attracted.**

**To begin the building process our Founders required a compact – a Constitution. Unlike virtually all other such documents the U.S. Constitution is unique in its wording. While most Constitutions dictate the rights their citizens possess, the United States Constitution takes an alternate approach specifically dictating the rights and enumerated powers to be given government by the people. A representative example of such framing is the Constitution's First Amendment which reads:**

**"Congress shall make no Law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."**

**George Washington who presided over the 1787 Constitutional Convention spoke of the ratified Constitution in these terms, "a new phenomenon in the political and moral world, and an astonishing victory gained by enlightened reason over brute force."**

**Washington would add, "Hence I have been induced to conclude that this government must be less obnoxious to well-founded objections than most which have existed in the world. And in that opinion, I am confirmed on three accounts: first, because every government ought to be possessed of power adequate to the purposes for which it was instituted; secondly, because no other or greater powers appear to me to be delegated to this government than are essential to accomplish the objects for which it was**

**instituted, to wit, the safety and happiness of the governed; and thirdly, because it is clear to my conception that no government before introduced among mankind ever contained so many checks and such efficacious restraints to prevent it from degenerating into any species of oppression.”<sup>2</sup>**

**Our Founders, Washington included, firmly believed in a power greater than themselves. While this is the case, so many of the most notable Founders including Washington, Jefferson and Madison to name a few, were not necessarily practitioners of any particular faith. Indeed, it was Jefferson and later Madison who led the charge in Virginia to eliminate taxes levied on citizens to fund the Anglican Church. These efforts would ultimately become enshrined in our First Amendment. Despite this, the Founders believed that human virtue and morality came from God and that organized religion played an important role in the establishment and maintenance of the civil society.**

**Washington in particular often referred to ‘Divine Providence’ throughout the Revolutionary War to help explain so many of the colonists’ victories and even more so when evaluating the Continental Army’s retreats when it appeared the British could have easily crushed the revolution and ended the war.**

**Writing to the Marquis de Lafayette following the ratification of the Constitution Washington exclaimed, “Indeed, I do not believe that Providence has done so much for nothing. It has always been my creed that we should not be left as an awful monument to prove that mankind, under the most favorable circumstances for civil liberty and happiness, are unequal to the task of governing themselves and therefore made for a master.”<sup>3</sup>**

**With the Constitution firmly established as the primary building block for the nation it was now up to the Founders, and Washington in particular, to govern.**

**Although it may seem odd to some, even the initial governance of the nation was fraught with disagreement. At the center point of this controversy stood what would ultimately become the major political parties we know today. And as with today, these factions were generally in disagreement over the scope and the power of the central (federal) government with one**

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<sup>2</sup> *George Washington And The New Nation*, James Thomas Flexner, Chapter 12 “The New Constellation of This Hemisphere”

<sup>3</sup> *George Washington And The New Nation*, Thomas James Flexner, Chapter “The New Constellation of This Hemisphere”

**side having a strict interpretation of the Constitution and enumerated powers and the other viewing the central government's role as much more extensive.**

**Regardless of your individual position on this question, it would be hard to think that even those Founders who were the most ardent supporters of a powerful central government would not be surprised at the sheer size and scale of today's federal leviathan.**

**Even by the most lenient standard, today's federal government has reached proportions that our founding generation would not have accepted.**

**Although our Founders recognized a need for centralized authority, it was their belief that this authority would be confined to areas not capable of being managed by States directly or easily managed by collaborating States, particularly when those same States had competing interests.**

**As such, the Constitution was designed in part to ensure that things such as foreign policy, international trade, treaty making, interstate commerce, the power to declare and engage in war and tariffs amongst other powers could ultimately be managed by the central government to the benefit of the nation.**

**Many lawsuits and Supreme Court decisions later, we now find ourselves in a situation where the federal government is literally involved in almost every aspect of life. And with this centralization of power, we have ultimately seen the federal government gradually usurp the power that the Founders rightfully believed belonged to the States and more importantly to the people.**

**As a result of a continual move towards centralized government and power, the United States has ultimately moved closer to an Aristocracy so feared by our founding generation.**

**Looking at where things stand today, can we really say that we have a government of, for and by the people? Or is it more accurate to say we have an Aristocratic class made up of elected politicians, global business leaders, lawyers, judges, academics and members of the mainstream media who have actively abandoned America's founding principles and in doing so, have enriched themselves at the expense of the American citizen?**

**Do these individuals share the values of our founding generation? Do their actions provide an indication that they believe in individual liberty and the rule of law? Are they prioritizing the well-being of American citizens and**

**the nation? Like our Founders, do they believe in a higher power and a more noble purpose than wealth and power?**

**Throughout this book we are going to explore these and many other questions in the context of major issues affecting our society.**

**The revolutionary generation risked everything; literally everything, for individual freedom and liberty. And, they risked this not just for themselves, but for future generations and all of humanity. Reading the history of our nation and in particular the writings of our Founding Fathers provide an immediate understanding that these men were thinking big. They recognized that a victory over the world's most dominant empire would send shockwaves which would change the course of history and human freedom.**

**They did this without knowing if what was then described as the 'American Experiment' would be successful.**

**However, as we celebrate our 250<sup>th</sup> year as a nation, we can now say that man's ability to self-govern is possible and that men living in a free society and provided with the blessings of liberty can ultimately produce what has become the greatest nation on earth.**

**Despite this success, there are forces both external, and of a more diabolical nature internal, who do not share the Founders vision; desire to obscure their greatness; who do not appreciate their sacrifice. These forces would like to see America fail as they scoff at Judeo-Christian tradition and seek to undermine the very foundation upon which freedom and liberty can thrive.**

**There is only one group capable of stopping these forces. That group is We the People!**

**As you read this book and become familiarized with the major issues impacting our nation today consider how your vote and choosing the right candidate(s) may not only impact your life, but the nation as a whole. Ask yourself whether your position is aligned with that of our Founding Fathers; whether it is grounded in common sense. The need to become an informed voter is never more critical. As Thomas Jefferson said, "I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a**

**wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them but to inform their discretion.”<sup>4</sup>**

**And remember, your vote (your Franchise) has been defended by American patriots for over 250 years. It should be cherished. As an American citizen you are like no other. You have an opportunity to shape the direction of your nation and freedom and liberty itself. Don’t waste it.**

**And finally, as Ben Franklin, upon leaving the Constitutional Convention so famously said when asked about the government that had been created, “a Republic if you can keep it”.**

**May God bless you and the United States of America.**

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<sup>4</sup> Azquotes.com

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## About the Author



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**Dennis Amorosano is an author and is the President and Founder of Dendog Strategy Insights LLC, a management consulting firm focused on strategic planning, new business development and go to market execution. Providing services in the areas of strategic business planning/execution, marketing automation and technology sourcing support, Mr. Amorosano brings 30 years of technology marketing, sales, product planning, software engineering, and professional service implementation experience to deliver the best business outcomes.**

**Mr. Amorosano’s latest book, “*Common Sense for a Modern Age*” delves into where today’s political parties stand with respect to America’s most pressing issues and the positions our Founding Fathers would have espoused. “*The Top 10 Things My Dog Taught Me About Leadership*” was Mr. Amorosano’s second collaboration with his dog ‘Kiwi’ and follows the initial success of their first book, “*The Top 10 Things My Dog Taught Me About Business and Life*”.**

**Prior to founding Dendog Strategy Insights, Mr. Amorosano was a key leader at Canon for much of his professional career. Mr. Amorosano successfully drove the startup and expansion of key Canon businesses ultimately holding the position of senior vice president and general manager of Canon Information & Imaging Solutions (CIIS) where he was a board member of the company and directly responsible for CIIS’ Solutions Business Center. In this capacity, Mr. Amorosano held senior leadership responsibility helping to link CIIS’ innovative technology, engineering and professional services to Canon’s core office technology to solve the most challenging customer workflow issues.**

**Working with emerging technologies including artificial intelligence, machine learning, computer vision as well as big data analytics and IoT, Mr. Amorosano played a key role in helping to establish and execute strategic business plans and the tactical actions which paved the way for CIIS and Canon to enter new market domains while successfully growing revenue and profit on an annual basis.**

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**Mr. Amorosano graduated from Siena College with a degree in Finance and was selected to participate in Canon's inaugural executive training programs including the Canon Leadership Institute delivered by Korn Ferry and Canon's Corporate Executive Development Program sponsored by IMD University in Lausanne, Switzerland.**

**More details concerning Mr. Amorosano's services can be found via the Dendog Strategy Insights website at <https://www.dendogstrategy.com>**