



Liberty versus **Tyranny**:

An Ancient and Ongoing Struggle

between Good and Evil

By Michael Andregg, University of St. Thomas,
mmandregg@stthomas.edu

Thucydides of ancient Greece (404 BCE) recorded a long struggle between relatively democratic Athens and relatively tyrannical Sparta in what is generally called the “Peloponnesian War.”



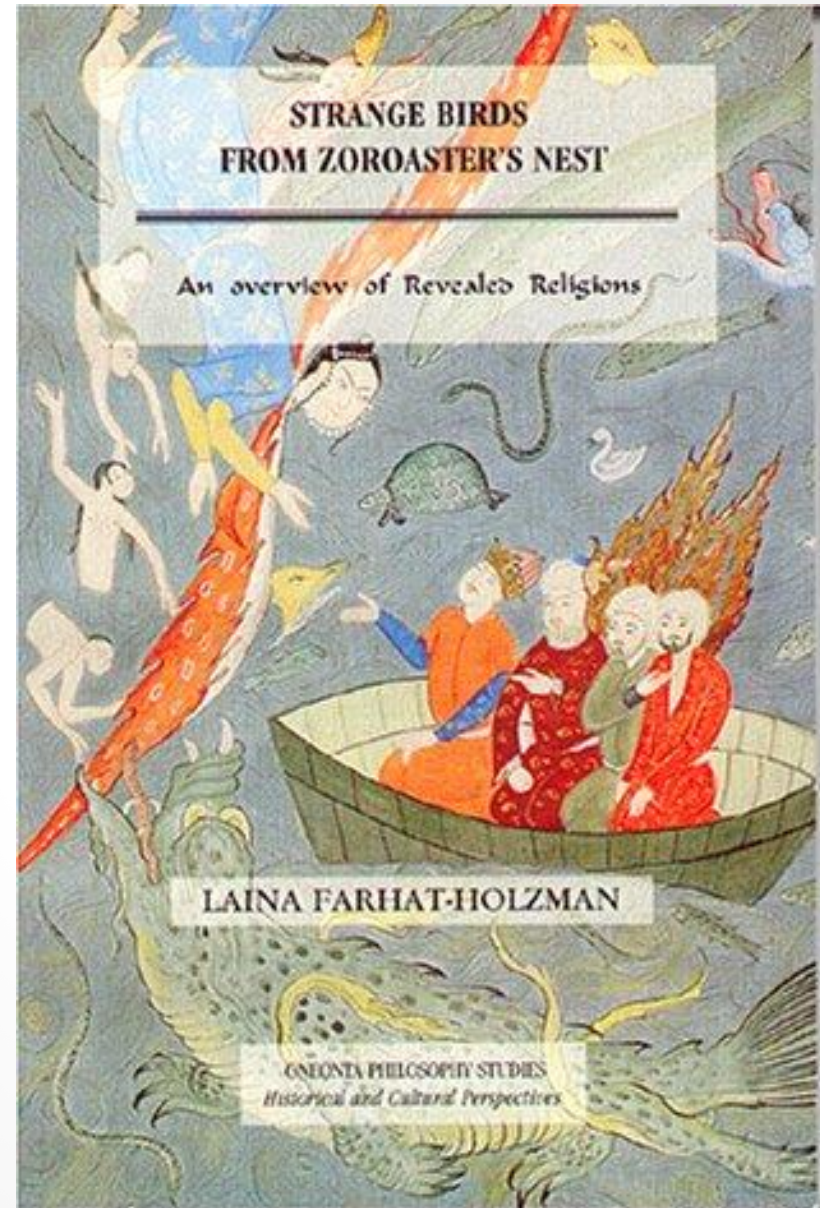
Eventually Sparta “won,” but 27 years of battles so weakened the two largest Greek city-states of their time, that they were overwhelmed in 331 BCE by the growing Macedonian empire.



An Iranian speaking philosopher/prophet named Zoroaster (or Zarathustra) who lived sometime between 1000 and 1500 BCE urged awareness of something divine, and claimed the world is caught up in a struggle between ultimate good and evil forces.



One of our long-time members and a presenter tomorrow, **Laina Farhat-Holzman**, wrote a book on how many elements of Zoroastrianism recur in the Hebrew Torah, Muslim Qur'an, and Christian New Testament, like that struggle between good and evil, the existence of angels and demons, and an afterlife with good and bad alternatives based on the conduct of one's life.





“Good” and “Evil” are problematic concepts, because we all think we are “good” while others may well be “evil.”

In fact, this dichotomy and the ease by which human tribes define others as “evil” is a tap root of genocide, war and many other big problems.



Let us make that simpler

Pure anarchy is about as awful as pure tyranny, except in rare, small, and usually temporary circumstances.

As nations evolved, they needed **SOME** degree of order. But many politicians (like psychopaths) crave power. And some have appetites that cannot be fulfilled (since everyone cannot become dictator of the universe).

So there must be some optimum BALANCE between pure, individual liberty and raw, authoritarian power.

Finding and sustaining that balance is a quintessential task of practical politicians with functional hearts.

Regardless of one's theology, philosophy, or politics, however, there is no doubt that tyranny and liberty are fighting to this day.

In fact, we are building up to a new crescendo. One aspect is suppression of free press to control the thoughts of citizens, so I want to mention how many journalists are being killed or exiled by tyrants these days because they stand up for freedom.

A Saudi **Some Russians** **Iranians and Maltese**
(journalists murdered to suppress freedom – a handful among hundreds)



Jamal Khashoggi,



Anna Politkovskaya, et al,

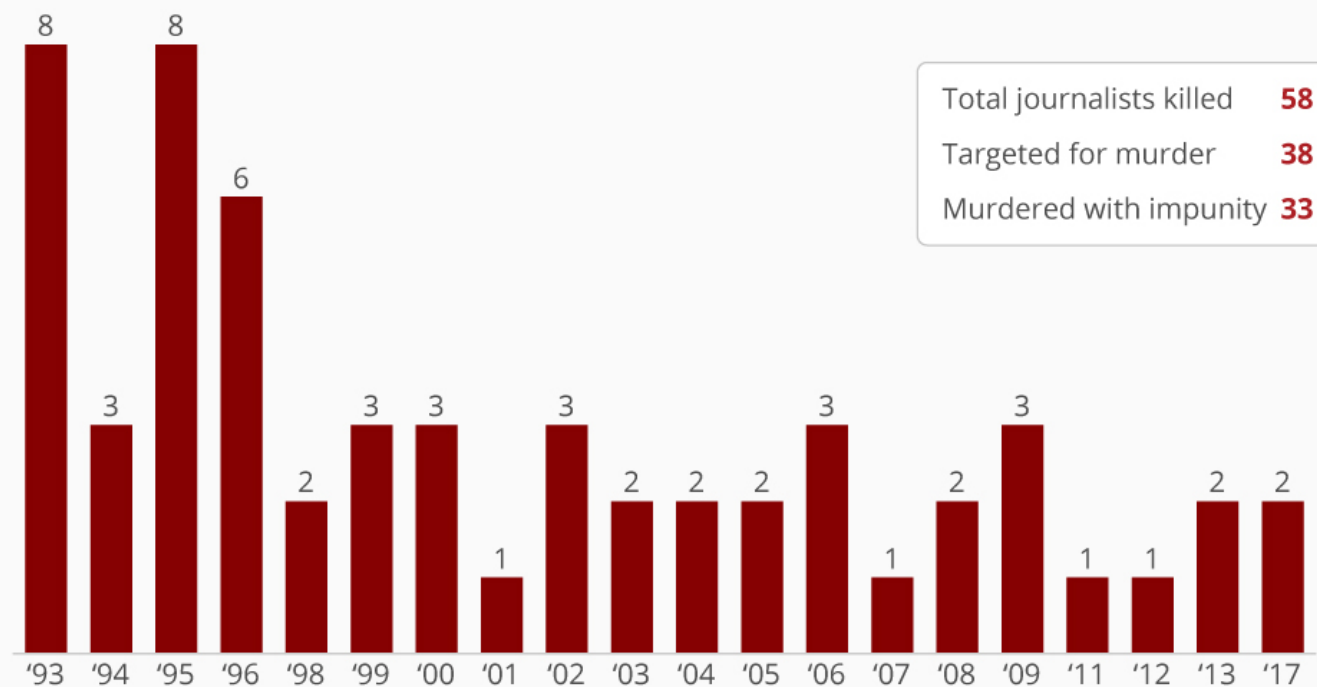


**Narges Mohammadi
and Daphne Caruana Galizia**

58 Journalists killed in Russia since 1993

Journalists killed in Russia

Number of journalists killed in Russia since 1993



Missing years indicate no reported killings

@StatistaCharts Source: CPJ

statista

Suppression of real journalism is a grave world-wide problem with many, often ugly dimensions.

You might dwell on these numbers from just one country. Then, there's Turkey, China, Cuba, North Korea and ... Oi Vey!

Freedom of speech and religion matters!

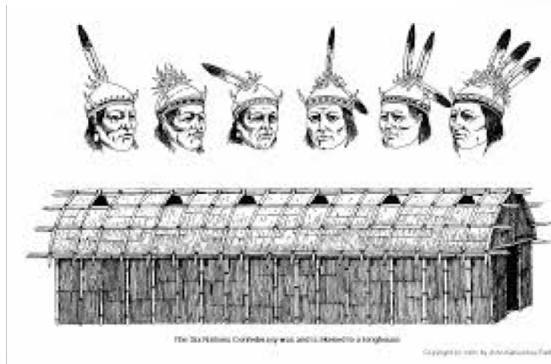
Some other historic milestones on this sad journey include:

- **The Reformation** (in 16th Century Europe) when Protestants rose up against Catholic dogmas and hypocrisy, to create some dogmas and hypocrites of their own. It was still progress, but reformation of organized religion is a never-ending task.
- **The Iroquois Confederacy** (from ~ 1600 CE to the present day) is known for a functional democracy among five and later six Native American tribes, cited by founding fathers of the USA.
- **World War II** (Who can forget that episode of freedom versus tyranny in not just Europe and the USA, but most of Asia?)

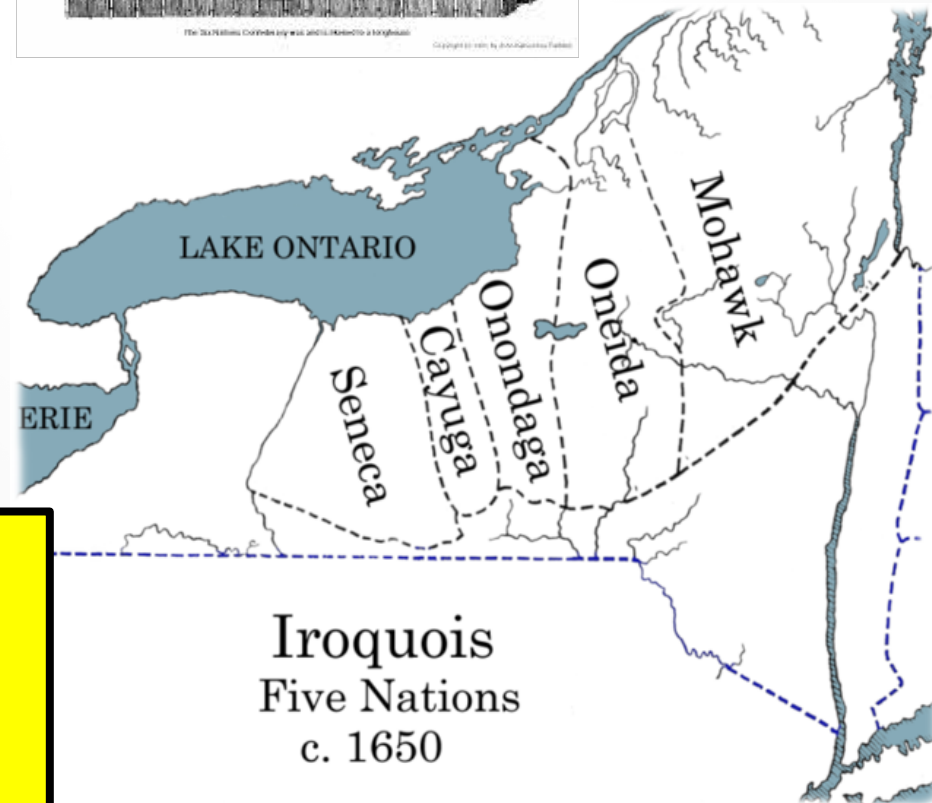
Reformation



It seems that this problem has been with us for a very long time. Why does it persist, and why are the wise so often ignored?

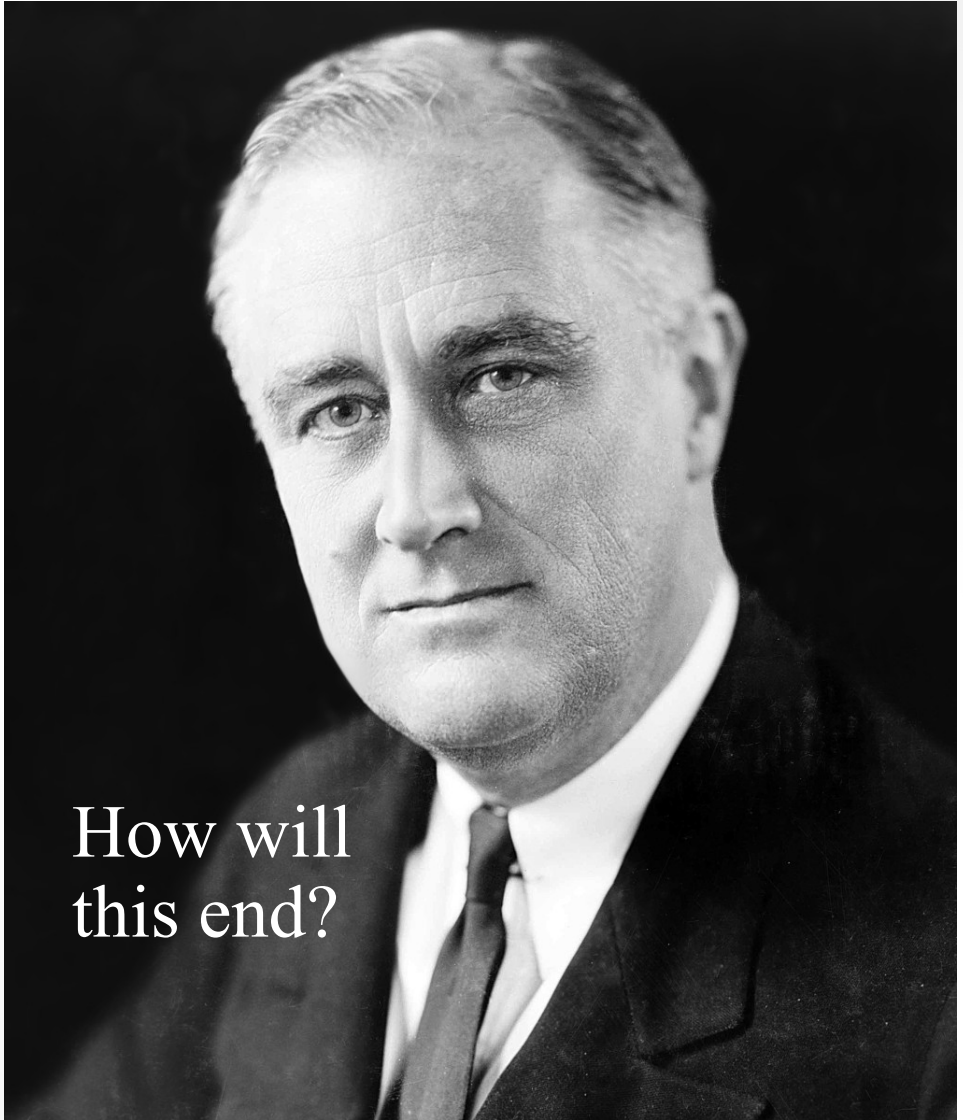


Iroquois Confederacy





**Good guys,
Bad guys,
and WMD's.
(Weapons
of Mass
Destruction)**



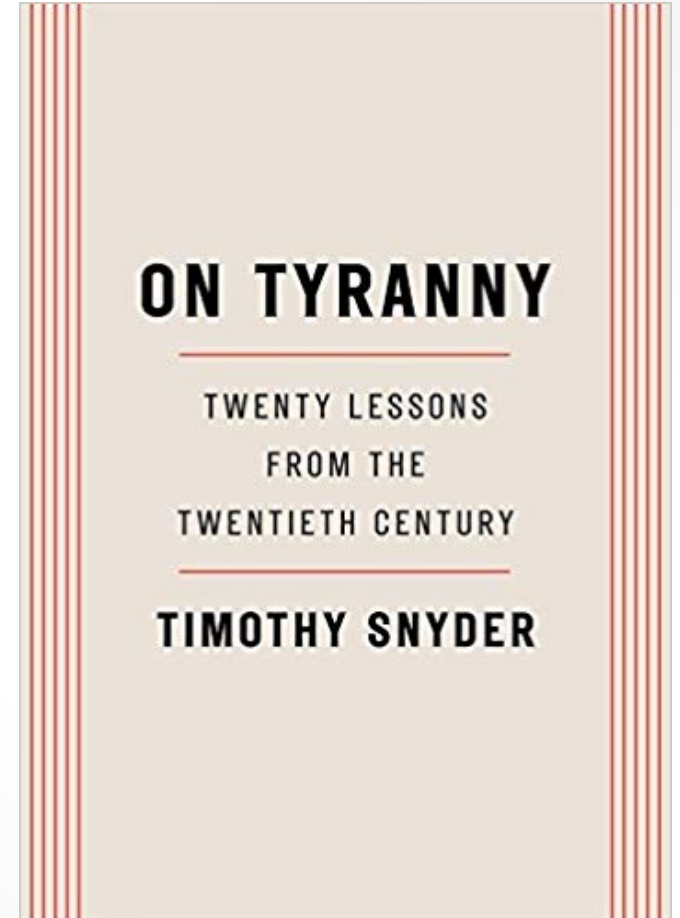
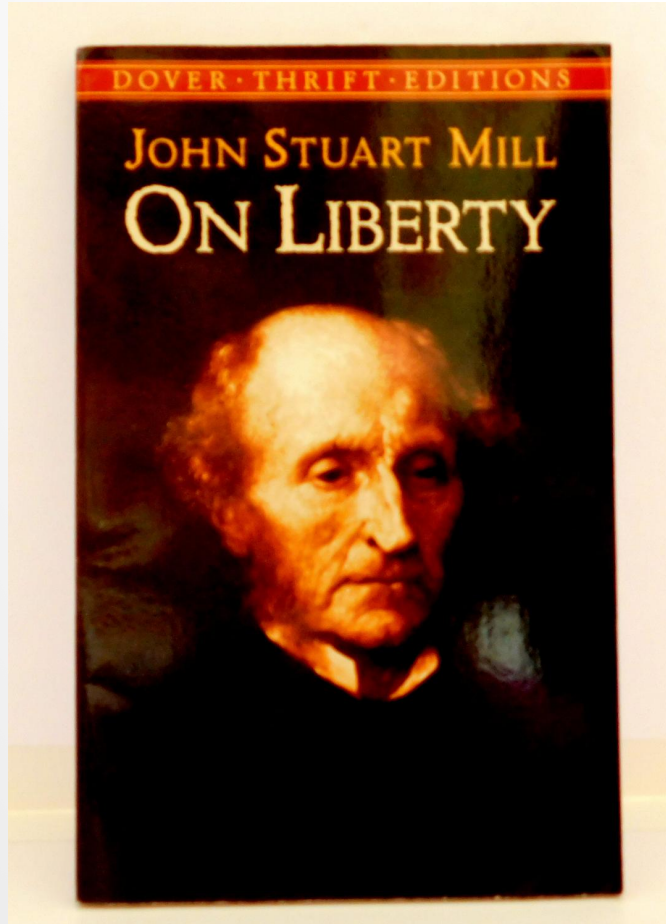
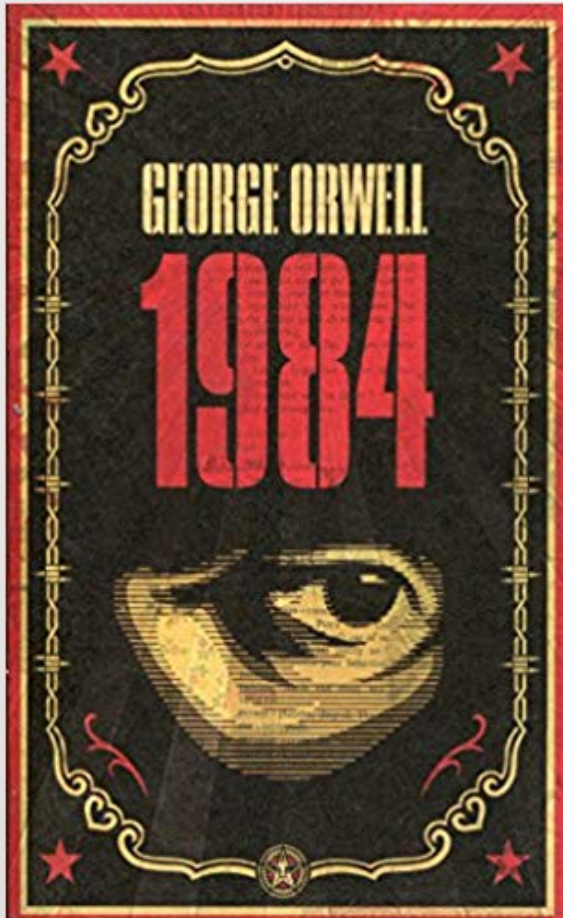
How will
this end?

Today, this eternal contest is theoretically represented by Donald Trump of the USA and Xi Jinping of China, in BLUE and RED respectively (propagandists and politicians are always into color codes).

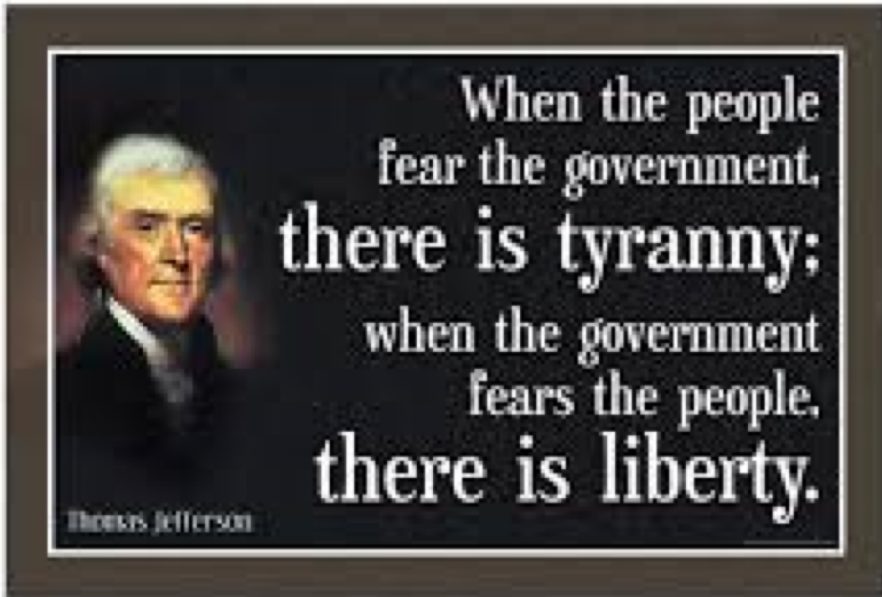


Three Good Books you might Consider

PS: Police-state technologies present huge new problems



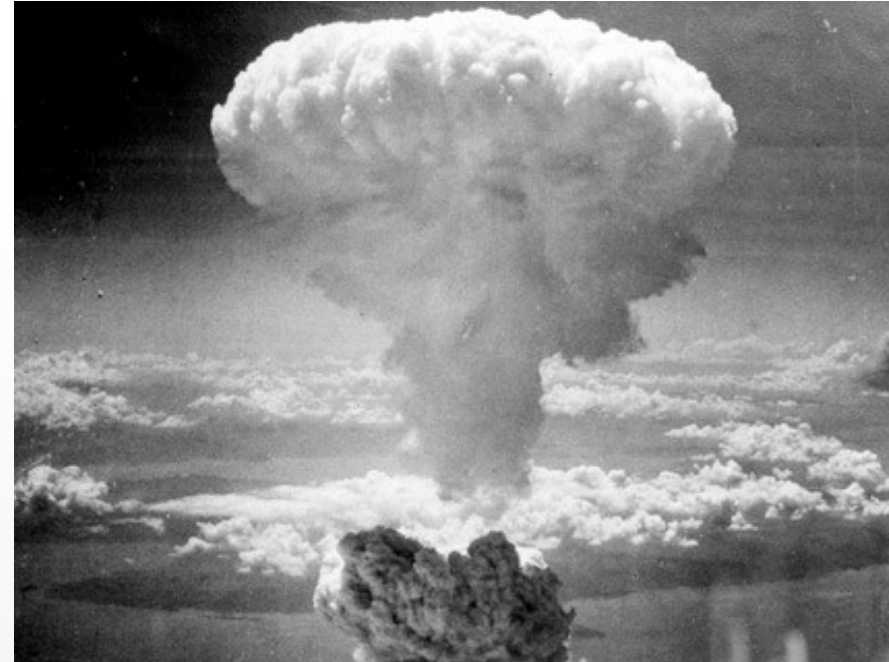
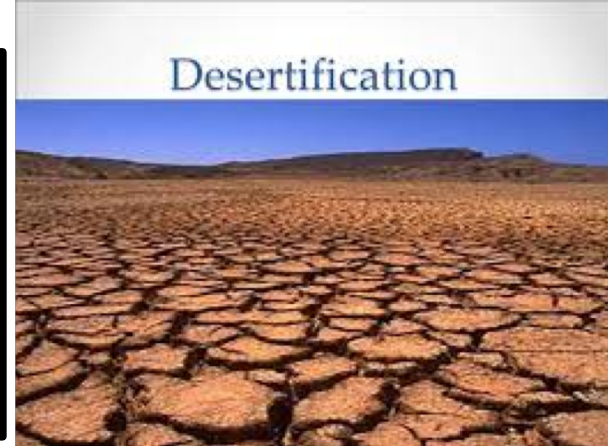
One extra-sharp problem today is that modern technology heavily favors police-states at this time. Your phone is their friend.

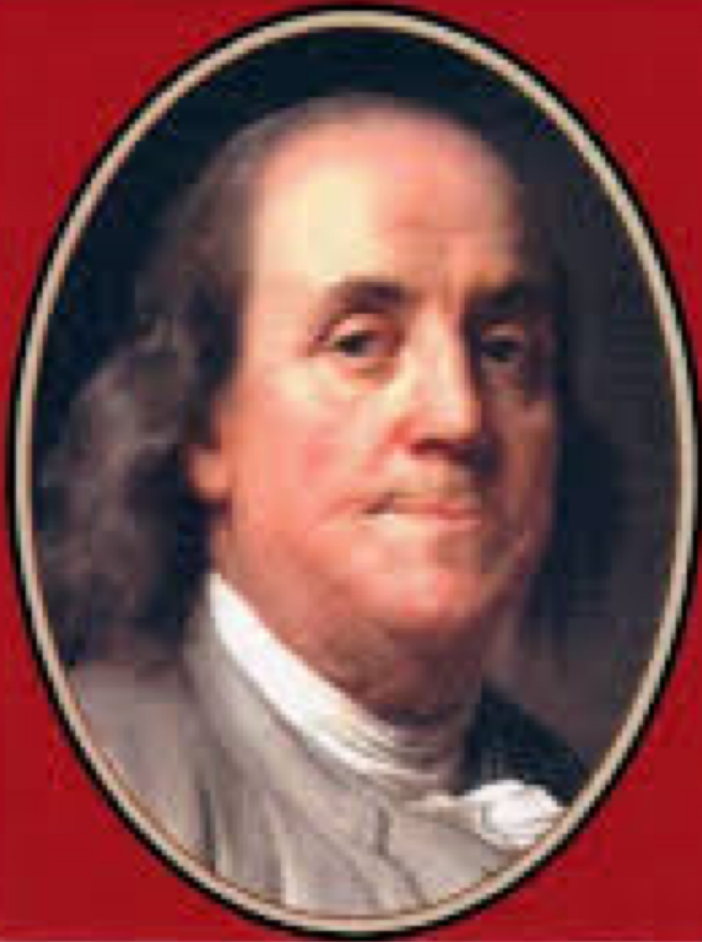


What China is doing today with facial recognition, social credit scores & surveillance through cell phones & apps scares the ---- out of even CEO's of the telecom giants.



We must avoid both the quick death of nuclear wars, and the slow death of ecological catastrophe. The Tyrants promise safety.





**“Any society
that would
give up a little
liberty to gain
a little security
will deserve
neither and
lose both.”**

-Benjamin Franklin

**Another of our
‘founding fathers’
had a few choice
words to share
about that
dilemma.**

**They are often
misquoted, but
are wise by any
measure. Attend!**

WE PRAY THIS STIMULATES EXCELLENT QUESTIONS!



Who would
you rather
work with?

Thanks very much for your time and attention!
Michael Andregg from St. Paul, Minnesota, USA

