

A Beacon of Hope



On October 28, 1886 the dedication of the Statue of Liberty officially took place with President Grover Cleveland saying, “We will not forget that Liberty has here made her home; nor shall her chosen altar be neglected”.

This gift from France; designed by the sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi, and engineer Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, was a joint effort by the peoples of France and the United States as public funds were used to complete this magnificent project.

Liberty herself stands over 151 feet tall and including the base, over 305 feet. The weight of the copper sheathing and structural steel framework is 156 tons, or 312,000 pounds.

The 25 windows in the crown symbolize gemstones found on Earth and heavens rays shining over the world. The seven rays of the Statue’s crown represent the seven seas and continents of the world.

www.nps.gov/archive/stli/prod02.htm

Lady Liberty has meant many things to peoples all over the world for the last 125 years. The word “Liberty” also includes the concepts of Freedom and Democracy.

Democracy includes the concepts of “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness”.

And, Freedom should also include the concept of ‘Economic Freedom’.

While the following is a hard look at some cold factual numbers, it is not meant to be a 'Pity Party' or another deranged Internet rant. This is a hard, cold look at The Solution for not only America's economic problems, but also a Solution for the peoples of other countries around the world. Those people of foreign nations could also have lives of Economic Freedom, and correct me if I'm wrong, but they might be hoping that America could fix the broken rudder and get the ship steered in the right direction.

Let's show them how American's can pull together and fix our problems. Let's show them how to fix their own problems. Let's give them inspiration.

"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" isn't a gift that we should expect to find under the Christmas tree.

No, it is something that has to be fought for, sacrificed for; just like those brave men and women fought and sacrificed back in 1776.

As President Cleveland said, all those years ago, "We will not forget that Liberty has here made her home; nor shall her chosen altar be neglected".

'Economic Freedom' is a concept that, by all the rights of human dignity, should include not only the possibility but also the very real probability that human beings should have a chance of a good education; be secure in their homes and living standards; be fairly rewarded for their labors, and, after a lifetime of honest hard work, be secure in the Golden Age of their retirement.

America and the Statue of Liberty, the Beacon of Hope, has shined the possibility of that Light of Economic Freedom to millions of people over the last 232 years. These people include not only immigrants who desire to come to America, but the very people who were born here, American's – whose families have lived here for multiple generations. Those people and their own economic situations used to be the standard by which peoples of other countries measured their economic situations.

What has happened to that Economic Freedom that Lady Liberty represents? According to the 2006 Census, the population of America is over 299 million. What has happened to the lives of those American people?

Since the year 2000, 5 million Americans joined the ranks of the poor.

1 in 8 Americans live in poverty.

37 million Americans, or 12.6% are poor. (More than the population of California – 36.5 million.)

1 in 3 Americans are considered low income.

25% of Americans toil in full-time jobs that do not pay enough to keep a family of four above the poverty threshold.

8 million Americans live in neighborhoods where 40 percent of the population is classified as poor.

17.6% of children live in families that are considered poor.

90 millions Americans have an income below \$40,000 (the poverty threshold).

America ranks 24 out of 25 (next to the bottom), among developed nations when the measurement is what share of the population has income below 50% of the nation's median income.

Courtesy of: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/04/poverty_numbers.html

For six straight quarters a record percentage of homes went into foreclosure. There are over 1.1 million homes in foreclosure. That's just a number – put a face, faces, to all those homes – fathers, mothers and their children. That equals millions and millions of desperate people. This is happening in America! The American Dream has crashed and burned for those people

Those are some hard cold numbers, real hard and real cold if you happen to fall in one of those unfortunate categories.

So? What happened? How did this situation come to pass? Oh, we can blame the politicians; we can blame the bankers; we can blame the Wall Street brokerages and their ingenious Structured Investment Vehicles, but in reality there is only one person we can blame.

OURSELVES.

That's right, OURSELVES, because we have become so complacent that we allowed ourselves to become addicted to foreign oil.

Our addiction to foreign oil has strangled America's economy.

Consider this simple alternate scenario; travel back in time a little:

- Rudolph Diesel's engine had become the standard, instead of the internal combustion engine.
- In the 1920's the diesel engine had NOT been altered to HAVE to use No. 2 diesel, refined from petroleum.
- In 1937 the Federal government had NOT been influenced by BIG OIL and BIG BUSINESS to criminalize the cultivation of Industrial Hemp.
- America's farmers had NOT had this billion dollar crop (1937 dollars) taken from America's fields.
- American's HAD used the 1,000 gallon acre harvest from each acre of Industrial Hemp to power their diesel engine vehicles.
- America and American's HAD grown their own fuel and processed it locally, keeping their hard-earned dollars in their hometowns.
- The Federal government had NOT cancelled the National Aquatic Species Program in the 1970's and America had also used Commercial Algae to power their diesel engine vehicles.
- American's had NOT contributed HUNDREDS of BILLIONS of dollars to BIG OIL companies' profits over the last century.

- American's had NOT sent TRILLIONS of dollars overseas to foreign tyrants.

Unfortunately, that alternate history did not take place. So, today, what we have is the gyrations of the oil markets that have almost bankrupted us. We have the unprecedented number of American's living in poverty. We have an economy that is one false step away from a grinding recession, or even a major depression.

Had that alternate history taken place where do you think America would be financially? What would be the economic situation of the average American today?

Would America be a prosperous nation, full of prosperous citizens – an example to the whole world?

Wow, if we had a time-machine we could go back and fix all those mistakes, right? We don't have a time-machine.

What we do have is Today and Tomorrow.

We can't change the Past, but we can change Tomorrow.

Picture this; all across America the empty fields are sown with Industrial Hemp seeds. One-hundred and thirty days later we have our first harvest. 1,000 gallons of bio-diesel are produced per acre, totaling millions and millions of gallons of fuel. We realize two more harvests that year totaling more millions and millions of gallons of bio-diesel.

Also during that year, all across America photo-bioreactors are built where Commercial Algae is being cultivated and processed into bio-diesel fuel.

In the meantime, American's use the newly enacted Federal and State Tax Credit to trade in their internal combustion engine vehicle, for one with a diesel engine.

In just a few short years, less time than it took to send a man to the moon, America is ENERGY INDEPENDENT.

And, we've shown the rest of the world how they can also become energy independent.

**TODAY and
TOMORROW.
That's all we've got.
Let's make it count.**

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<http://www.USA-EnergyIndependence.org>