



America Is Falling Apart: Our National Priorities Are in Dire Need of Restructuring

You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows.—*Bob Dylan*

A water main [breaks every two minutes](#) somewhere in the U.S., resulting in contaminated drinking-water supplies and boil-water notices.

One out of three bridges in the U.S. needs repair, [endangering hundreds of millions](#) of commuters. More than [42,000 bridges across the country](#), carrying about 167 million vehicles each day, are in disrepair.



John Whitehead

It is estimated that [300 million people could face power outages](#) across the United States between 2024 and 2028, due in large part to widespread power grid failures.

No wonder [U.S. infrastructure received a C-](#) on the Infrastructure Report Card.

America is falling apart.

Collapsing bridges, buckling roads, overheated railways, deteriorating power lines, contaminated water lines, outdated public transportation, overtaxed power grids, aging ports and waterways, unsafe tunnels and highways, and spotty or insufficient telecommunications assets are all becoming frequent hallmarks of the American way of life.

If the nation is woefully unprepared to deal with climate disasters such as floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and droughts, despite the hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars that have been pledged to shore up the nation's infrastructure problems, it is because politicians across the political spectrum have failed us.

The [devastation wrought by Hurricane Helene](#) makes this failure by the government to put the needs of the American people first painfully evident. Entire towns are under water. Roadways have collapsed or are otherwise impassable. Potable water is scarce. More than 1.5 million households are still without power.

Clearly, our national priorities need to be re-examined.

While the politicians play partisan games with our tax dollars, the nation's critical infrastructure—both the *physical* foundations of the nation and the *figurative* foundations of our freedoms—continues to be neglected and deprioritized in favor of grandstanding, bloated military budgets on endless wars abroad, foreign aid to shore up the infrastructure and military defenses of international allies, and all manner of graft and pork-barrel spending.

When all is said and done, the bread-and-circus distractions and sleight-of-hand political theater being trotted out in order to keep Americans distracted, deluded, amused, and insulated from the government's steady encroachments on our freedoms adds nothing of real value to the lives of the



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average American.

It's time to fix what's broken in this country.

For starters, we need an overhaul of the nation's infrastructure.

According to *Time* magazine, "Throughout the country, millions of Americans don't have access to or can't afford broadband internet service. In excess of [2 million people live without running water or basic plumbing](#). For too long, the American public has had to carry on while these deficiencies have gone unattended. The political will has been weak or inattentive, the rewards too far removed from electoral advantage."

In other words, the politicians who dance to the tune of the oligarchic elite aren't motivated to do anything about our failing infrastructure because they get nothing out of it: no votes, no money, no power.

This isn't about whether the Republicans or Democrats have better policies.

Indeed, both parties' priorities are disconcertingly alike: both parties support endless war, engage in out-of-control spending, ignore the citizenry's basic rights, have no respect for the rule of law, are bought and paid for by Big Business, care most about their own power, and have a long record of expanding government and shrinking liberty.

This is about the plight of the American people who continue to be treated like a permanent underclass.

Anyone who believes that this presidential election will bring about any real change in how the American government does business is either incredibly naive, woefully out-of-touch, or oblivious to the fact that as an in-depth Princeton University study shows, [we now live in an oligarchy](#) that is "of the rich, by the rich and for the rich."

When a country spends close to [\\$10 billion](#) to select what is, for all intents and purposes, a glorified homecoming king or queen to occupy the White House, while [38 million of its people live in poverty](#), and [nearly 7 million Americans are out of work](#), and more than [600,000 Americans are homeless](#), that's a country whose priorities are out of step with the needs of its people.

Overhauling the nation's infrastructure will take a [significant amount of money](#), which won't happen as long as the U.S. government continues to fund the military-industry complex and its voracious appetite for endless wars.

James Madison was right: "No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare." As Madison explained, "Of all the enemies to public liberty war is, perhaps, the most to be dreaded because it comprises and develops the germ of every other. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debts and taxes... known instruments for bringing the many under the domination of the few."

We are seeing this play out before our eyes.

The government is destabilizing the economy, destroying the national infrastructure through neglect and a lack of resources, and turning taxpayer dollars into blood money with its endless wars, drone strikes and mounting death tolls.

This is exactly the scenario President Dwight D. Eisenhower [warned](#) would happen if we allowed the military-industrial complex to wage war, exhaust our resources and dictate our national priorities.

We failed to heed Eisenhower's warning.



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As I make clear in my book [Battlefield America: The War on the American People](#) and in its fictional counterpart [The Erik Blair Diaries](#), this is how tyranny rises and freedom falls.

If we are to have any hope of restoring both the *structural* and *freedom* foundations of this nation, we'll need to start by getting our priorities in order, and that means focusing on what really matters: shoring up our battered Bill of Rights and investing in the American homeland.

ABOUT JOHN & NISHA WHITEHEAD:

Constitutional attorney and author John W. Whitehead is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute. His latest books [The Erik Blair Diaries](#) and [Battlefield America: The War on the American People](#) are available at www.amazon.com. Whitehead can be contacted at johnw@rutherford.org. Nisha Whitehead is the Executive Director of The Rutherford Institute. Information about The Rutherford Institute is available at www.rutherford.org.



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