



Written by [Steve Bonta](#) on March 5, 2024

Published in the March 25, 2024 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 40, No. 06

Defending Liberty Regardless of the Cost

“If liberty means anything at all,” British author George Orwell once observed, “it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.” In broader terms, not only saying but also doing things and supporting causes that, owing to general depravity, have become unpopular is the very essence of freedom. Liberty has never spread by spontaneous combustion; instead, it owes its popularity today to the fearless efforts of those down through the ages who have been willing to stoke the flames of freedom regardless of personal cost. Such disruptive souls have always incurred the wrath of whatever establishment seeks to defend the status quo, and have often paid dearly for their intransigence.

This issue of *The New American* features two such individuals, separated by a wide gulf of space and time, yet whose tireless and obstreperous support of liberty have earned them the enmity of the powers that be.

The first of these is Algernon Sidney, an Englishman of the 17th century whose lot it was to behold England’s fitful efforts to throw off the yoke of monarchy during that turbulent period. Sidney not only witnessed the overthrow and execution of Charles I and the short-lived, chaotic republic that followed, but also saw the restoration of the monarchy and subsequent efforts to reconstitute the old absolutism once upheld by Tudors and Plantagenets. Incapable of suppressing his passion for individual liberty, Sidney challenged court apologists such as Sir Robert Filmer, who defended the monarchy as a divinely sanctioned institution, and attacked aristocrats eager to restore the old power structures. For his contumacy, Sidney paid the ultimate price, having first to flee his country and then, upon his return, to suffer the ignominy of arrest, imprisonment, a show trial, and finally, death by decapitation as an enemy of the regime. Marginalized and ultimately destroyed by the powers of his day, Sidney’s posthumous triumph was evident not only in the overthrow of the last absolutist British monarch in the Glorious Revolution five years after his death, but also in the creation of the United States of America less than a century later. All of the American Founders revered Sidney and his *Discourses Concerning Government*, and regarded him as perhaps history’s foremost martyr for liberty, an exemplar of the degree of courage and civic virtue necessary for the cause of freedom to win out.

While our era may not yet have produced a Sidney, we are fortunate to have a scattering of public figures just as fearless in the cause of liberty — and just as adept at drawing the wrath and persecution of the establishment. One such is Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.), who during her first two terms in Congress has already rocketed to the top of the Washington establishment’s enemy list. Utterly unafraid to offend the scheming Deep Staters on Capitol Hill and in the establishment media, Greene has shaken Washington to the core by successfully pushing for the first-ever impeachment of a sitting Cabinet official; indeed, our interview was granted immediately before the congresswoman went to vote for the second time to impeach DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, a vote that succeeded despite the united opposition of Democrats and the vacillation of a few of her Republican colleagues. Greene was also among the very first to call for the impeachment of President Joe Biden, and has been unswayed by false media narratives on Covid, the 2020 election, and January 6. She has been one of Donald Trump’s staunchest defenders, and has not shied away from exposing the venality and corruption of the D.C. establishment with a frankness that enrages radical-left Democrats and makes some of her wishy-washy GOP colleagues queasy. For her perceived intransigence, she was even voted out of the Freedom Caucus, where, as it turns out, etiquette still trumps principle.



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Both Sidney and Greene are reminders that partisans of liberty must have the courage of their convictions. We hope our readers will heed their words — and follow their example.



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