



Written by [William S. Hahn](#) on March 5, 2024

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Following in the Footsteps of the Founding Fathers

In today's well-connected, social-media-driven society, we are constantly hearing about the latest government usurpation or the next thing that will doom society. We hear pundits' dire warnings that the United States will collapse within the next several months due to this thing or that thing, or that America will be destroyed in a nuclear war, or that we're only so many seconds before midnight on the doomsday clock.



Tomasz Zajda/Adobe Stock

In response to this much negative news, there are two possible outcomes: motivation or frustration. News not accompanied by solutions will lead to frustration and take people out of the fight, while solutions-based news will motivate citizens to take action.

What you consume affects your outlook. Recall the old computer programming concept of GIGO (garbage in, garbage out). What you put in, you get out. The more negative news you consume, the more frustrated you will become. Saturate your brain with solutions-based news and information, and you have less room for frustration.

The Founding Fathers motivated the citizenry by drawing attention to their shared grievances and then educating them on self-government and independence. Independence was to come at a price, but the future of many generations to follow depended upon people paying that price. The Founders' study of history helped them to strike the proper balance between government and liberty. Our role is no less important.

Readers of this magazine are treated to the truth about the problems we are facing today, as well as the appropriate solutions to those problems. The parent organization of *The New American*, The John Birch Society, follows the methods of the Founding Fathers to educate the citizenry.

Believe it or not, the act of educating is relatively easy. As the old saying goes, the best way to learn something is to teach it. Want to right the Republic? Teach others how to do it. Here's how you can start:

1. *Educate yourself*: Learn the basic principles the Founding Fathers used in establishing the United States, including the proper role of government, how to keep elected officials accountable, and the responsibilities of the citizenry. Videos are a great learning tool. Watch *Overview of America* (<https://jbs.org/video/featured/overview-of-america/>), the six-video set *The Constitution Is the Solution* (<https://jbs.org/constitution/video/>), and the seven-video set *The Bill of Rights* (<https://jbs.org/constitution/bill-of-rights/>). These videos will enable you to quickly acquire a working knowledge of American politics and government.

2. *Educate others*: Use your knowledge to reach out to others and help inform them. Use the



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aforementioned free video resources along with inexpensive literature to help others get up to speed. The *Back to Basics* and *Help Keep America What It Was Intended to Be* pamphlets are among the best and most popular: <https://shopjbs.org/jbs/popular/>.

3. *Take action*: Organize locally with others to strategically educate the electorate in your area. The Founding Fathers organized local Committees of Correspondence to effectively disseminate educational literature. The John Birch Society follows this pattern by organizing local grassroots chapters throughout all 50 states. If there isn't one in your community, we'll show you how to get one started.

The John Birch Society employs professional organizers who guide member chapters and specialize in training volunteer leaders in effective action strategies. Our nonpartisan approach allows us to scrutinize state and federal elected officials according to their adherence to the federal Constitution. Our Scorecards make it easy, and are free, too. You just provide the paper and printer. Download both state and federal scorecards here: <https://thefreedomindex.org/>.

Are we effective? We wouldn't be around after 65 years if we weren't. Join The John Birch Society today. Start at [JBS.org](https://jbs.org), and follow in the footsteps of the Founders!



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