



Written by [William S. Hahn](#) on February 21, 2023

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Return Government to Its Proper Role

According to Article II, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution, the president of the United States is to “give to Congress information of the state of the Union and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient.” The content of what has become known as the State of the Union address is a direct reflection of how the president interprets his job and how he goes about accomplishing it.



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The Founding Fathers viewed government with suspicion, and set limitations on it to protect the God-given rights of We the People. For them, government was a negative force that needed to be controlled.

The fourth paragraph of *The Federalist*, No. 51, contains a great deal of wisdom concerning the ever-expanding character of government and of human nature expected to keep government accountable. The paragraph in question, written by either James Madison or Alexander Hamilton, should be mandatory study for all citizens, especially for anyone seeking higher office.

It reads in part, “It may be a reflection on human nature, that such devices [separation of powers as part of checks and balances] should be necessary to control the abuses of government. But what is government itself but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary.”

Thus, government can be a blessing when it’s under control, limited by the Constitution and protecting our God-given rights as spelled out in the Declaration of Independence. But it can also become a curse if the constitutional limitations are thrown out, as human nature is inclined to rebel against limitations of authority.

The last sentence hits home: “A dependence on the people is no doubt the primary control on the government; but experience has taught mankind the necessity of auxiliary precautions.”

This critical “dependence on the people” is intended to force elected officials and civil servants to actually follow their oaths to uphold and defend the Constitution (in particular, obeying its limitations on government). This is effected by We the People holding these elected officials, civil servants, and, indeed, the whole of government accountable for their actions via the ballot box, as well as nullifying all usurpations of power and educating fellow Americans on the proper role of government and their civic responsibilities.

The State of the Union speech delivered by President Biden on February 7 was a manifestation of his philosophy that government is a positive force — one to be enlarged and made to do good for some people; to help provide for the benefit of a few; to hinder those who are successful; and, in the process,



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to gain further control over the choices, decisions, and lives of all Americans. His philosophy is in direct opposition to the Founders' astute understanding of the force of government.

An America in which the federal government obeyed the Constitution — adhering to its limitations and actively keeping powers in check — was the foundation upon which was built the most successful experiment of prosperity and freedom in human history. The inverse relationship between government and freedom is demonstrated in the fact that our federal government has become a force to smother freedom, rather than a limited force to protect God-given rights.

With the implementation of an international radical environmental agenda from the United Nations (Agenda 21 and 2030), American freedom stands to fail. Ignoring the government's violation of constitutional limitations could easily lead to a profound reorientation of our society into a New World Order.

To stop all of this, The John Birch Society was formed. It's not a new battle, but a continuous one that has its origins back to the rebellion in Heaven. The JBS works to confine the negative force of government, as intended by the Founding Fathers. We work to stop the progression of those leading the charge toward global government. We protect and restore lost liberties, and safeguard freedom, independence, and sovereignty.

We do this through an educational army that is locally organized to apply pressure where it is needed. You're invited to join us. Start at [JBS.org](#).



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