



## The Last Nail by Ron Paul With Documented Hyperlinks

### The Last Nail

by [Congressman Ron Paul](#)

The last nail is being driven into the coffin of the American [Republic](#). Yet, Congress remains in total denial as our [liberties are rapidly fading before our eyes](#). The process is propelled by unwarranted fear and ignorance as to the [true meaning of liberty](#). It is driven by [economic myths](#), [fallacies](#) and [irrational good intentions](#). The [rule of law is constantly rejected](#) and [authoritarian answers are offered as panaceas](#) for all our problems. [Runaway welfarism](#) is used to [benefit the rich](#) at the [expense of the middle class](#). Who would have ever thought that the current generation and Congress would [stand idly by](#) and watch such a [rapid disintegration of the American Republic](#)? Characteristic of this epic event is the [casual acceptance by the people](#) and political leaders of the [unitary presidency](#), which is equivalent to granting [dictatorial powers](#) to the President. Our Presidents can now, on their own:



- Order [assassinations](#), including [American citizens](#);
- Operate [secret military tribunals](#);
- Engage in [torture](#);
- Enforce [indefinite imprisonment without due process](#);
- Order [searches and seizures without proper warrants](#), gutting the [Fourth Amendment](#);
- [Ignore the 60-day rule for reporting to the Congress](#) the nature of any military operations as required by the [War Power Resolution](#);
- Continue the [Patriot Act abuses without oversight](#);
- [Wage war at will](#);
- [Treat all Americans as suspected terrorists at airports](#) with [TSA groping](#) and [nude x-raying](#).

And the Federal Reserve accommodates by [counterfeiting the funds](#) needed and [not paid for by taxation and borrowing](#), permitting [runaway spending](#), [endless debt](#), and [special interest bail-outs](#).

And all of this is not enough. The [abuses](#) and [usurpations](#) of the [war power](#) are soon to be codified in the [National Defense Authorization Act](#) now rapidly moving its way through Congress. Instead of



Written by [Thomas R. Eddlem](#) on May 29, 2011

repealing the [2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force \[AUMF\]](#), as we should, now that [bin Laden is dead](#) and gone, Congress is planning to [massively increase the war power of the President](#). Though an opportunity presents itself to end the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, Congress, with [bipartisan support](#), obsesses on how to expand the [unconstitutional war power the President already holds](#).

The [current proposal would allow a President to pursue war any time, any place, for any reason, without congressional approval](#). Many believe this would even permit military activity against American suspects here at home. The proposed authority [does not reference the 9/11 attacks](#). It would be [expanded to include the Taliban and "associated" forces](#) — a dangerously vague and expansive definition of our potential enemies. There is no denial that the changes in [Section 1034](#) totally eliminate the [hard-fought-for restraint on Presidential authority to go to war without Congressional approval achieved at the Constitutional Convention](#).

Congress' war authority has been severely undermined since World War II beginning with the advent of the [Korean War which was fought solely under a UN Resolution](#). Even today, we're [waging war in Libya without even consulting with the Congress](#), similar to how we went to [war in Bosnia in the 1990s under President Clinton](#). The three major reasons for our Constitutional Convention were to:

- Guarantee [free trade and travel among the states](#);
- Make [gold and silver legal tender and abolish paper money](#); and
- Strictly limit the [Executive Branch's authority to pursue war without Congressional approval](#).

But today:

- [Federal Reserve notes are legal tender, gold and silver are illegal](#);
- The [Interstate Commerce Clause is used to regulate all commerce at the expense of free trade among the states](#);
- And now the final nail is placed in the coffin of [congressional responsibility for the war power, delivering this power completely to the President](#) — a sharp and huge blow to the concept of our republic.

In my view, it appears that the fate of the American republic is now sealed — [unless these recent trends are quickly reversed](#). The saddest part of this tragedy is that all these horrible changes are [being done in the name of patriotism and protecting freedom](#). They are justified by good intentions while [believing the sacrifice of liberty is required for our safety](#). [Nothing could be further from the truth](#).

More sadly is [the conviction that our enemies are driven to attack us for our freedoms and prosperity](#), and not because of our [deeply flawed foreign policy](#) that has [generated justifiable grievances](#) and has [inspired the radical violence](#) against us. Without [this understanding](#), our [endless, unnamed, and undeclared wars](#) will continue and [our wonderful experiment with liberty](#) will end.

*Thumbnail photo: Ron Paul*



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