

Part One, American Government and U.S. Constitution

Lesson 15: Principle 14 -Property Rights Essential to Liberty

Name: _____

Part II: The Founders' Basic Principles – 28 Great Ideas that Changed the World

Lesson 15 Time: 45:41 [for Sunday June 8, 2014]

The 5000 Year Leap: 14th Principle: Reading Assignment:

Property Rights Essential to Liberty (pages 169-77);

Lesson objectives: As a result of this lesson, the student should be able to discuss the following questions/topics:

1. ACCORDING TO ENGLISH COMMON LAW, WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF PROPERTY? (PAGES 169-70)
English Common Law = People's Law (Roman Civil Law = Ruler's Law)
 - it's common to all people
2. WHAT DOES "OWNERSHIP" MEAN, AND WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO HELP MAN SUBDUE AND GAIN DOMINION OVER THE EARTH? (170)
 - o Land and its products were gift of God
 - God gave the world to man
 - Man given reason to make the best use of it
 - Command to "subdue," "have dominion"
 - o Dominion:
 - Control
 - Exclusiveness (ownership)
 - o Private rights in property necessary
3. WITHOUT PROPERTY RIGHTS, WHAT FOUR THINGS WOULD HAPPEN? (170-71)
Without property rights (4 results)
 - (Just when improvement is done, covetous neighbor would take)
 - [Nabal's Vineyard & Ahab is a clear biblical example-cpl]
 - o Destroy incentive
 - o Deprived of fruits of labor
 - o Marauding bands forcible take
 - o Society on bare subsistence level
4. WHY IS AN ATTACK ON PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS ACTUALLY AN ATTACK ON LIFE ITSELF? (171-72) Property is Extension of life
 - o Locke: Property is result of life, energy, ingenuity
 - o To destroy property is attack on life itself!Icon illustrations – cultivate a farm – food by hunting – carving a statue – earning wages
- life is projected into that property (Locke quote)

5. HOW IS OWNERSHIP ACQUIRED? (172)

At What Point is Ownership Acquired?

- o At the first gathering of nature
 - (- when you add labor, you add value that is owned by you alone!)
- o What if we own it all in common?
 - Would need the consent of every person! (quote)

6. WHICH SHOULD BE REGARDED AS SACRED, PROPERTY OR PROPERTY RIGHTS? (172-73)

What is sacred?

- o Property or the right to property?
 - The right to property
- o U.S. Supreme Court (p173) not “of” property.
- o Abraham Lincoln (p174)
 - Why let people become rich?
 - To show others they can be

7. WHAT IS THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT? (173-75)

Primary Purpose of Government

- o Protect property
- o Essential to liberty
- o What about transfer payments?

8. HOW HAS HISTORY PROVEN THE VALUE OF PROPERTY RIGHTS? (176)

- o Davy Crocket story
 - he was a TX congressman, “Georgetown” burning, money from govt to rebuild, farmer plowing refused support ‘Horacio Bunch,’ DC apologized for money spent wrongly.
- o No right of government (quote)
 - [to take taxpayer money and spend it for any unlawful aid or any other support]

9. HOW DO WE CARE FOR THE POOR WITHOUT VIOLATING PROPERTY RIGHTS? (176-77)

How do we care for the poor?

- o anybody but the federal government
 - Grover Cleveland (democrat) - vetoed aid bill (p177)
 - “though the people support the government, the government should not support the people”
- o Poor helped by friendliness and charity.
 - “kindly sentiment which strengthens bonds”– GC [individuals, charities, corporations, communities, etc. giving voluntarily]