



## **"To Preserve the Nation"**

A weekly e-mail message from the Constitution Party of Utah to those who love liberty and wish to preserve it.

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**Please forward this e-mail to all who you feel would benefit from the message**

*Prior to the American Revolutionary War, concerned patriots throughout the American Colonies organized "Committees of Correspondence" to assure that vital information about their liberty, and the political state of affairs was widely distributed, so all who cared could stay informed.*

*This series of weekly e-mail messages is intended to perform a similar modern-day function. Each week, a brief message regarding a current modern issue of liberty will be sent. The intention of these communications is to foster an understanding of how modern challenges that face the United States may be addressed using the wisdom and "original intent" of those who founded this nation. The words of this nation's founders in regards to the current challenges will be the core message of each e-mail. Hopefully, this effort will foster a return to the foundation principles upon which this nation was established so it may again enjoy the fullness of liberty and proper government that was created under the inspiration of God.*

**Week Eight Message – August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

### **"To Regulate Commerce with Foreign Nations"**

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 of the United States Constitution delegates to Congress the authority to collect "...Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debt and provide for the common Defense..." In Federalist Paper Number 45, James Madison indicated that the primary source of these revenues for performing the responsibilities of the national government would be import taxes collected as foreign goods were brought into this country:

"The powers delegated by the proposed Constitution to the federal government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the State governments are numerous and indefinite. The former will be exercised principally on external objects, as war, peace, negotiation, and foreign commerce; with which last the power of taxation will, for the most part, be connected." (James Madison, Federalist No. 45)

Article I, section 8, clause 3 of the United States Constitution specifically states that "Congress shall...regulate commerce with foreign nations."

Article VI, clause 3 of the United States Constitution specifically states: "The Senators and Representatives...shall be bound by Oath or Affirmation, to support this Constitution."

In light of the fact that the individual members of Congress have sworn by their oath of office to abide within the bounds established within the Constitution of the United States, the members of Congress are required by their oath of office to uphold the sovereignty and independence of the United States, and act within their duty as assigned within the Constitution.

The United States Constitution directs that the United States Congress is the body that is to regulate commerce with foreign nations. While constantly ignored today, constitutional protocol dictates that authority delegated to a legislative body cannot be "re-delegated" by that body. Constitutional protocol was well understood by those who founded this nation, and they knew that the authority that was assigned within the Constitution could not legally be delegated to another entity. This matter of delegation was reviewed in the 5th Weekly e-mail message.

In light of this, it is the sole responsibility of Congress to regulate commerce with foreign nations. Congress cannot constitutionally delegate that responsibility to any other organization, especially international bureaucracies that were not elected by the citizens of the United States!

In violation of this critically important principle, on numerous occasions Congress has unconstitutionally voted to delegate this power to international organizations. In recent years, by their actions in this area, Congress and the Executive branch have consistently and methodically subverted the sovereignty of the United States. By their efforts, power to regulate our commerce with foreign nations has been passed to such organizations as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Other so-called "free trade" agreements are pending and aggressively being fostered, such as the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), and the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP), which would effectively erase the borders between the United States and Mexico and Canada. To add insult to injury, the United States generally provides the bulk of financial resources to these organizations, and has only one vote in these decidedly anti-American forums.

Approval of these agreements by our national leadership has allowed international non-elected bureaucracies to dictate numerous economic and domestic policies of the United States in a manner that should be solely the prerogative of the United States. Additionally, these agreements eliminate U.S. import fees, which were Constitutionally authorized as a revenue source to fund the Nation's legal activities; and as this revenue source is eliminated, additional burdens are placed upon the backs of American taxpayers, either through additional debt, or through higher internal taxes.

In spite of this reduction of U.S. tariffs, these agreements are not about free trade. They are about managed trade – trade managed not by Congress as mandated by Article I Section 8

clause 3 of the United States Constitution, but trade managed by supranational un-elected bodies of bureaucrats who will never have their actions questioned by an electorate that can unseat them from their pompous appointments.

Of even greater concern is the demonstrable fact that these types of agreements lead, ultimately, to merger into regional governments, which subvert national sovereignty. These agreements have far less to do with free trade between nations, and far more to do with subverting the sovereignty of the United States to a globalist organization that does not uphold the principles vouchsafed by the United States Constitution.

Just as the European Common Market has metastasized into a supranational regional government that dictates economic and domestic policy to the European nations which have joined it, these American agreements are precursors to a regional arrangement that will ultimately subvert and destroy our inspired Constitution. As testimony of this, we have the European outcome unfolding right before our eyes, as well as the experience our own nation has had with subversive rulings from both NAFTA and WTO. We are foolish to think that these historical facts will not replicate themselves if we follow the exact path that brought about the European Union (EU).

At the beginning of the American Revolution, the great patriot Patrick Henry stated: "I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided; and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past." [Patrick Henry, speech to the Virginia Convention, Richmond, Virginia, March 23, 1775.-William Wirt, Sketches of the Life and Character of Patrick Henry, 9th ed., pp. 138-39 (1836, reprinted 1970). Language altered to first person.]

In *The Tempest*, William Shakespeare observed "...what's past is prologue," meaning the experience of the past is but an introduction to that which is to come. [Shakespeare, *The Tempest*, Act 2, Scene 1]

And in volume one of *The Life of Reason* we read: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.... This is the condition of children and barbarians, in whom instinct has learned nothing from experience." [George Santayana, *The Life of Reason*, vol. 1, chapter 12, p. 284 (1905).]

In light of this wisdom, our concerns about these sovereignty-destroying agreements are well founded. We may learn valuable lessons from the glaring example of the history of the European Union, and from that example we may learn how regional governments that subvert national governments are born. We also have the painful history of many examples of where the actions taken under authority of NAFTA, GATT, and the WTO have undermined the ability of the United States to act independently and to our national benefit. We must learn from these experiences. Wisdom would dictate that we modify our path to return to one that is both Constitutionally sound and protective of our national interests.

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*For information on the Constitution Party of Utah, and to learn of candidates who are associated with the Constitution Party of Utah, or to learn how you may assist in the effort to restore the foundation principles upon which the United States was established, please see our web site: [www.cputah.org](http://www.cputah.org) .*

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