

True Preparedness in a Societal Collapse: It's Not What You Think!

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The Golden Rules:

- Plan on Getting the Hell Outta Dodge
- There is Safety in Numbers
- FEMA and/or Other Government Agencies are NOT Your Friend
- Any and All Unprepared Neighbors are NOT Your Friends
- Understand WHO Your Enemy Will Likely Be
- Boy Scout Styled “Wilderness Preparedness” is Completely Useless in Such Situations
- READ the RIGHT Books and Prepare the RIGHT Items
- *Whomsoever Remains Alive After the Smoke Clears Makes the Rules!*

Location, Location, LOCATION!!

*“Should I stay or should I go now?
If I go there could be trouble
and if I stay it could be double.” - The Clash*

If you are in any type of Urban, Suburban or even a Small Town setting, then it is absolutely critical that you begin quickly assessing your options with regard to securing a place far out in the country – preferably with 'end of the road' privacy, adequate water and soil – and prepare it for prolonged isolation along with enough other like-minded persons to defend it twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Why is it so crucial to flee any populated area? Simply put, each and every person within that community will become a potential enemy. Hunger and panic become prominent motivations for turning normally solid and polite citizens into unpredictable and even brutal enemies. Always bear in mind that our society has clearly devolved into one of “entitlement” and other socialist attitudes. “Since you have all this food, then it's your duty to share it with all of us for the good of society.” It's a twist on the old *Ant and Grasshopper* story with the grasshoppers outnumbering the ants 1,000 to 1 (and yes, you're the ant!)

Establish an emergency evacuation plan for fleeing to your country retreat. Plan it along back roads only and have several “contingency routes” in addition to your main one. If you're trying to flee along a high-traffic route, and even if you're lucky enough to miss any government check-points, you'll still likely get stuck in the midst of the massive exodus of other people also trying to flee the city. Don't get bottle-necked!

So, you absolutely, positively can't afford to leave the city; what should you expect? Well, for starters, you should expect to become *utterly dependent upon the charity of others and decisions of others*. If that charity is lacking and/or their decisions are not in your interest, then you're stuck with it nonetheless.

IF YOU STAY, then you should expect the following:

- ✓ Far more difficult to survive
- ✓ Rampant Crime – far beyond what is normal
- ✓ Agricultural areas limited to yards and (shared) parks
- ✓ Most government intervention (including martial law)
- ✓ A potential grid-down scenario (no electric power)
- ✓ Any chink in the water system can be catastrophic
- ✓ Any chink in sewer system can be catastrophic
- ✓ Any chink in trash pickup can be catastrophic
- ✓ Police, Fire and EMS likely to be quickly overwhelmed and unpredictable
- ✓ Less able to establish a defensive perimeter
- ✓ Exponentially higher chance of various diseases becoming a serious problem

The first thing I hear when I suggest “getting outta Dodge” is something to the effect of “how on earth can I afford to buy a ranch?” Well, the quick answer is, “you don't have to be able to afford a ranch. All you have to afford is 1/10th or 1/20th of a ranch,” which segues us perfectly into the next of these most important survival points ...

There Really IS Safety in Numbers

Here's the scenario: You're filthy rich and have stocked up 100yrs of long-term storable food, a zillion rounds of ammunition with the very best firearms money can buy to fire them from and have every other possible survival item you could ever hope to envision needing, in triplicate. You've even had the wherewith-all to secure a 3,000acre retreat far out into the valleys with all the comforts of Ben Cartwright's Ponderosa and fortifications to rival Ft. Knox. Only problem is, it's just you, your wife, your two kids and your diabetic mother-in-law residing there. Just how do you propose to defend your retreat; even one so well thought-out and defensible? If you don't have the warm bodies to place a 24/7 watch – in all vulnerable directions – then *you will be overrun in short order*. You need enough capable people for early warning and defensive firepower.

The second benefit to recruiting several other like-minded prepared folks into your retreat (the minimum number recommended by reliable sources is twelve adults and preferably 1½ or 2 times that number) is that when your resources are combined, purchasing a 30acre tract out in the sticks suddenly becomes a doable venture.

An additional suggestion is to discuss amongst yourselves just who in your group might be capable of actually *living at the retreat* in order to both guard it and it's contents as well as having someone there to continue upgrading it and preparing it for when the time comes to flee to it. Nowadays, it's quite common for people to be able to work out of their home on a computer and

satellite internet has come a long way since it's inception a decade or so ago. It's now an affordable option as well as even being considered a “broadband” option (I use it myself and can attest to that.) There is of course the additional option to have someone who is retired to man the fort.

Another tip is that in almost any situation where you're dealing with many acres, surrounded yet again by other vast acreage, it's almost inevitable that there will be peaks and valleys and bends and wooded areas, which make it necessary to setup *Listening Posts – Observation Posts* (LPOPs) at one or more carefully selected locations throughout the acreage, in addition to having a manned HQ somewhere at the living site itself. The ability to see for hundreds of yards in all directions around your retreat is absolutely critical to protecting yourself from a potentially unhealthy surprise. As an example, I have two LPOPs *in addition to* an HQ, giving me three locations *which all must be manned at all times*. Given that, it's easy to understand just how important it is to get as many folks on board with you as possible; as you're liable to need a few or even several members manning various sites within your retreat at all times!

One final way to look at any decision to pool together to purchase a tract of land in the sticks is that you will – in the meantime – be able to enjoy the great outdoors on a shared basis. Think of it as a “timeshare” location, in other words. Taking your kids and grandkids out to the retreat to learn about the way things were in slower and happier times can never be a “bad thing.” Plus, while you're all out there, you could use that time to do a bit of upgrading to the retreat. You would also have a partial claim on a tract of land plus whatever amenities happen to be in place thereon, which is of course an assured asset once things simmer down in the future too. Consider it a wise, tangible joint-investment!

We're With the Government and We're Here to Help!

Yeah, right ... and I have a nice ocean-front tract in Arizona I'm willing to sell at a good price!

I suppose I could just say, “Katrina – 'nuff said” and leave it at that, but I like my soap-box too much for that. I find that it's becoming easier and easier to convince people that FEMA or any other “governmental assistance” agency is not going to be any real help in a true crisis. In fact, I'm finding that I don't have to “convince” anybody at all any more; they know better and that's a good thing.

What I will add is that *FEMA and other governmental agencies are not only not your pal, they likely will be your enemy!* You'll never hear anything but good things about FEMA or other such agencies from the mainstream media, because they're merely propaganda agents for the government. Now, if you have yet to figure that out then please refer to the aforementioned ocean-front property I referred to above. Sure, the media did report about some bad aspects of FEMA's response (or rather lack thereof) during Katrina, but it was mostly about “this or that topic” needing to be addressed or “if they only fired this guy and hired that gal” it'd be okie-dokie. They never, ever would talk about it being a potential *systemic problem with big-government intervention* in the first place.

I can assure you that if the federal government (and most state governments) feel that they're losing their dictatorial grip on any facet of society, they'll do anything and everything in their immense power to quell any unrest and perceived threat to that power. That includes oppressing YOU in any way that they feel is needed to retain that grip. That will also potentially include “relocating” you and “reeducating” you if they feel it's necessary. They won't care whether you are a “good citizen” or not. All they'll see is that you're a “potential threat” and act accordingly. The FEMA Camps (most are just

“authorized on paper” but can be built literally within hours when needed) that you've undoubtedly heard about lately are not there for your protection. They're there for the *government's* protection; or more accurately, for the purpose of *Continuity of Government* (to put it in their own parlance).

If you are truly prepared and any government agency representative(s) approaches you, insisting upon “helping” you in the crisis, inform them in no uncertain terms that you are perfectly capable of taking care of yourself and reciprocate the insistence that they leave you alone. If they persist – especially at the point of a gun – then they are by definition, from that point forward, usurping the constitutional authority allowed to them by *We the People* and should be considered your enemy. What you do beyond that point will be something that you'll all have to come to grips with according to your own conscience. All I'm suggesting is that you consider the possibility of that happening and follow your own moral compass accordingly.

Howdy Neighbor! Remember Me, 'Ol Buddy 'Ol Pal??

We've all heard the stories about the poor lonely little-old- lady who won a zillion bucks in the lottery and was suddenly – miraculously – swarmed with relatives and friends whom she never even knew existed. Well, during a societal crisis – and especially during a crisis with hyper-inflationary depression in tow – your food stores will be the same as that little old ladies' zillions. So will your ammunition. So will your water source. Even your drum filled with 1,000 rolls of *toilet paper* will be worth a not-so-minor fortune! (you did think about toilet paper and women's hygiene products, didn't you??)

Although I'm interjecting a bit of humor into this scenario, it really could be anything but funny. I can assure you that if your neighbor has watched his little daughter starving for the past week and somehow figures out that you have food, then your life just became worth about a plugged nickel. All of the practical, moral and meaningful traits with which we've come to associate with “civilized society” will unceremoniously fly out the window. Survivalism is a mode into which all creatures will revert when the situation devolves into starvation and anarchy; yes, even we “civilized” humans. A desperate mind begets desperate measures. If it's a father's choice between watching his little girl slowly starve to death or killing you in order to avoid that happening; you're gonna lose every time, unless you're prepared to protect yourself against that scenario.

Bear in mind that I'm not saying that there should be no charity during a crisis. I'm most definitely not saying that. In fact, simple acts of charity will be one of the last remnants of true humanity that we're likely to witness during such deplorable conditions and we should cling to it with renewed vigor. What I *am* saying is that you will have to temper your charity very, very carefully and dole out assistance with wisdom and with the understanding that just by your kind actions, you could be setting yourself (and your entire retreat) up for being overrun by starving masses. We've all seen the food handouts getting out of hand (and even deadly) off the backs of trucks in Somalia, Ethiopia and elsewhere during similar starvation crises.

If it's a large crowd asking for charity, I'd say turn them away at all costs. There is simply too much risk that they could become a real threat if they were to decide to turn on you; especially if they figure out that you're well stocked with preparedness food and other items. Make them think that it's simply too costly for them to try and attack your retreat. Even with a small group of “just a few” people approaching and begging for a handout, be very careful about what you say or do. They could

easily be a part of a larger group of folks, or they could actively seek out a larger group to join with in order to then try to overtake you. I'd even suggest *covertly following them* after you've sent them on their way with their water-jugs full and a few packets of Ramen in their pockets, in order to determine if they have nefarious intentions toward you.

Now, there is yet another scenario one must consider: There may eventually be one or more people who happen along who would actually be a bona-fide asset to your retreat. Although they may not have the requisite items for becoming a member of the retreat as spelled out in your retreat's bylaws, they nonetheless might be worthy of bringing on board. Doctors, nurses, special-forces military, engineers, farmers and other such people with specialized skills might merit an invitation to join even though they're not an original member. You'll just have to judge that on a case-by-case basis. That's also why it's prudent to store items beyond (even far beyond) what you'll need for your own survival. In fact, there are three distinct purposes for storing additional resources:

1. Walk-on Members Who Merit Inclusion
2. Charity for Hapless Passers-by
3. Barter (Welcome to your “New Money Supply”)

Just Who IS The Enemy?

Well, in a word: everybody. At least that is the potential you'll face and one which you should always keep in mind. This ain't your daddy's war. First, it will be on our shores, as with the American Revolution and the War Between the States. However, it's likely to become far beyond even those two notable times in our nation's past.

Here are just a scant few of the many, many potential foes we might face:

- ✓ Starving neighbors and unprepared (former) friends.
- ✓ Equally starving immediate and extended family members (who all laughed at us for “being paranoid and wasting our money”).
- ✓ Despotic power-trippers hiding behind federal government badges.
- ✓ Homeland Security authorized military units (eg, NORTHCOM), brainwashed into oppressing citizens in our own country, by a criminally-usurped unconstitutional federal government,
- ✓ Local petty despots (mayors, constables) intent upon asserting their new-found authoritarian powers (in their own mind) and demanding we “share with all for the good of the community”.
- ✓ Former criminal armed-gangs becoming *really bad* criminal armed-gangs.
- ✓ Newly formed “neighborhood watches” who will also likely demand that you “share for the good of the community” (which of course means them).
- ✓ Former governmental bodies, such as police departments (most of whom will have simply gone home to take care of their own) who have rogue elements form into criminal armed-gangs.
- ✓ Enemies from other countries taking advantage of our bad luck.
- ✓ Racial hate-groups taking advantage for “race's sake.”
- ✓ This list could go on and on and on, but you get the picture ...

The bottom line in all this? Just try to be prepared for any contingency, both with your survival equipment as well as with your attitude. You must think outside the box in an atmosphere which will be most decidedly outside the norm.

Wilderness Survival -vs- Real-World Survival

I was a Boy Scout during my youth (I went as far as *Life Scout* and my brother made *Eagle Scout!*) I truly enjoyed that experience and it taught me quite a bit about wilderness survival. What it didn't teach me, however, is how to survive in a societal collapse. In fact, the many things I learned in scouting will mean almost doodley-squat in such as scenario.

Why, you might ask? Well, let's take the glowing example: Suppose you do know how to take a piece of flint, a piece of high-carbon steel and a piece of char-cloth and get a roaring fire started with it. So what ... you can do the very same thing in about two-seconds simply by stocking up on Bic Lighters!! Don't waste your time, efforts and especially finances by pursuing frivolous and unnecessary survival skills. Research what you will truly need in your given situation and concentrate on those aspects alone. Simply having a handful of Wilderness Survival related books on your retreat shelf is all that you'll need to assure that such knowledge is handy.

I highly recommend reading some (or all) of the books that I outlined in my Survival Reading List. If I were to have to suggest just a few, then it would have to be the following:

- [*Patriots: A Novel of Survival in the Coming Collapse*](#), by James Wesley, Rawles.
- [*How to Survive the End of the World as We Know It: Tactics, Techniques, and Technologies for Uncertain Times*](#), by James Wesley, Rawles
- [*Dare to Prepare!*](#), by Holly Drennan Deyo (3rd Edition 2009)
- [*The Modern Survival Retreat: A New and Vital Approach to Retreat Theory and Practice*](#), by Ragnar Benson
- [*Where There Is No Doctor: a village health care handbook*](#), David Werner, with Carol Thuman and Jane Maxwell
- [*Where There Is No Dentist*](#), Murray Dickson

The above books will give you a much more realistic understanding of what you are likely to face in a societal collapse than any book dealing with so-called wilderness survival. Notice also that I've included (as the top two no less) two of James Wesley, Rawles' books. Mr. Rawles is considered by many to be the outright “guru” of survivalism. His [Survivalblog.com](#) site is worthy of a nice, prolonged browse by all who wish to learn about preparedness.

The above reading list covers the books that I would recommend to everybody without exception, but since *information is ammunition for the mind* and we all know that one cannot have too much ammo, if you have the time and finances, I hope you'll build up your library far beyond what I've outlined above. As odd as it may seem at first, I actually recommend reading as much “survivalist fiction” as you can get your hands on (see [Ed's Somewhat Comprehensive Survival Book Reading List](#)) because the novels will help you to “get it” much better. You'll see the problems we'll likely face, such as economic collapse, mass starvation, roving gangs, brutal governmental oppression and the like, laid out in a tangible way. The novels I recommend will also help you to understand that when you're only

“a little bit” prepared, it's almost as bad as not being prepared at all. Well, this pretty much covers the golden rule of “read the right books,” so now let's take a look at ...

Preparing the Right Items

I'd like to say first and foremost, that your brain is the most important item in your entire inventory to prepare correctly! You'll go a long way towards achieving that goal by simply reading the books I've outlined in my reading list and understanding the truth about what we shall soon face in America, which is ignored – by design – by the mainstream media. See my *Real News Links* list on the web. I also like to stress the importance of having as much reference material at your retreat as you will ever hope to need, since it might very well be the only source of information for you in an isolated world. I can't begin to stress just how differently you'll look at this new-fangled problem of survivalism that you find yourself faced with if you just *read the right books*. You'll be focused, energetic and most importantly, you'll be preparing the *right way* from the outset. But, just as a precursor, lets take a look at the basics involved:

FOOD

There are many, many types of food you can choose from for long-term storage. It's wise to consider utilizing all methods, since they all have their benefits and drawbacks.

- ✓ **Freeze Dried** = Longest Lasting + Best Taste Retention + Lightest + Most Expensive
- ✓ **Dehydrated** = Long Lasting + Acceptable Taste Retention + Somewhat Heavy + Moderately Expensive
- ✓ **Grocery Cans** = Short Lasting + Good Taste Retention + Heavy + Least Expensive
- ✓ **Self-Packaged Buckets** = Long Lasting + Good Taste Retention + Good Cost/Size Ratio + Only Good for Bulk Items Such as Whole Grains and Beans, etc.
- ✓ **Dried Foods** = Short Shelf-life + Inexpensive + Easy Preservation Method + Good Nutrient Retention
- ✓ **Home-Canned** = Moderately Long-Lasting + Inexpensive + Time-Consuming + Only Applicable When There's Something to Can + Ability to Continue Canning As Needed
- ✓ **MREs & Related** = Moderately Long-Lasting + Good for Bug-Out Bags & Traveling + Moderately Expensive + Taste Varies

If “money is no object,” then opt for as much as you can in Freeze Dried foods, with additional adjuncts of Dehydrated foods (all in #10 cans / 6-per-case). Additionally, have plenty of Nitrogen-Packaged buckets with “the big stuff” such as Hard Red Winter Wheat, White Rice, Rolled Oats, Corn, assorted varieties of Beans and other such stores. It is absolutely critical that you acquire a HIGH QUALITY grain mill in order to process whole grains and legumes. DO NOT store “already processed” grains (ie, flour and cornmeal) as it has only a tiny fraction of the shelf-life of whole grains.

MREs and other related “emergency food” items are great for stuffing into a bug-out bag or for traveling, *but they should not be utilized as your main food supply*. They're for having on hand to get to your retreat, where your bulk long-term food is stored.

Home canning – although it must be done correctly – is really easy to learn and inexpensive as

far as the equipment needed. In fact, it should be your eventual goal to stop tapping into your long-term food stores and eat either fresh, dried or home-canned foods only. You won't have this ability, however, until you're well established at your retreat and have a viable garden(s) and orchard(s), which can take two or three years to become well-established, so your long term food should be considered the “interim” emergency food only until your self-generated foods are well established. Get yourself oodles and oodles (and then a few more oodles) of canning jars and about 10x that amount of jar-seals along with plenty of lids, plus a good pressure-canner and whatever related canning doo-dads you think you might need. They'll be your real life-line in a very-long-term survival situation.

Lastly, food stored using any of the above methods must be kept in a cool, dry location. Heat and humidity is your enemy and will quickly deteriorate even the most carefully packaged food stores. To give you some idea as to the importance of this aspect of food storage, an MRE kept at 60deg F can expect to have a shelf-life of about ten years. If that same MRE is kept at 100+deg F, it will last only about ONE MONTH! How will you keep your long-term food cool during a grid-down scenario? The only way is to have air-conditioning which is operated from a solar energy source, or alternatively, to make use of a “constant temperature” environment such as in a basement or root cellar, etc.

WATER

As important as this aspect of preparedness truly is, it also happens to be about the easiest to address. First, you'll want to have plenty of it stored in appropriate containers. Store some in your house, your “escape vehicle,” and oodles of it at your retreat. Make sure and make provisions at your retreat for a grid-down scenario. For example, if you have a well, make sure it has a solar powered pump.

I also highly recommend having a GOOD QUALITY water filtration system on hand. I use (and highly recommend) the [*Berkey System*](#), as it filters out just about anything you'd wish to throw into it and is a KISS setup (Keep it Simple Stupid). It uses gravity-filtration, so there are no moving parts and almost zero maintenance.

Alternatives on a much smaller scale are available at survival supply stores. Katadyn makes a “sports filter” and there are even “pocket filters” for sub-compact use (these you simply insert one end into the water source and suck through the straw. It's filtered along the way). Yet another alternative is the [Steri-Pen](#) water purification system.

You might also toss a few water purification tablets into your bug-out bag “just in case.”

Important Note: water purification tablets are not considered very reliable and hence are not recommended except in true emergency situations. An illness related to drinking contaminated water would be a mere inconvenience in normal times, but could be a death sentence without access to medical facilities.

THINGS THAT GO 'BANG!'

Having been reared by “hillbillies,” it's hard for me to fathom how some folks are so reticent about firearms, since they do go “bang” and I suppose they are somewhat intimidating to the uninitiated. It's important to understand that they are “just a tool” and should be approached as such.

Would you bring a tack-hammer along if you had to drive railroad spikes? Well, the same reasoning applies to firearms. Like I said, they're just a tool and you should equip yourself with the right tool for the job. It's all well and good to start your very first learning experience with a .22 single-action revolver, but it really isn't going to be much good at all in a survival situation. Remember the 'ol saying, "never take a knife to a gun fight?" Well, I'd add to that, "never take a pistol to a rifle fight!" The firearm that you should consider your number one gun is a bona-fide battle rifle. By this I mean one of high enough caliber (and preferably a common and even military caliber) to be useful at long distances (300+ yards). Always remember that the closer you allow a potential foe to approach you, the more apt they are to succeed in shooting you! A good rifleman is considered to be capable of hitting a man-sized target at 500 yards! Strive towards that end.

There are plenty of really good training groups ([The Appleseed Project](#) for instance) which are affordable, easy and specifically tailored toward the general public. They even let women in for FREE! (and I know a few gals who've participated and they LOVED IT!)

So, what are some "typical" good calibers and types of firearms to look at?

- ✓ **M1/M1A or FN-FAL** – in a .308 or 30.06 caliber are excellent long-range battle rifles
- ✓ **AR-15** (or CAR-15, which is the shorter "carbine" version) – This is the "civilian equivalent" of the Army's current issue battle rifle, in .223 (or more correctly and militarily-speaking, 5.56mm NATO)
- ✓ **AK-47** – in 7.62 x 39, which is probably the most common rifle/caliber in the world and is utilized by many, many armies of the world. It was invented in Russia is the preferred rifle/caliber of many of our historic enemies of the modern world. Hey, what's good for the goose ...
- ✓ **SKS** – The SKS is also most commonly in the 7.62 x 39 caliber and is the preferred rifle of China and many other countries. It's the least expensive of the three.
- ✓ **AR-10** – This is the more powerful cousin to the AR-15, which uses the 7.62mm platform (also called .309 caliber) It is designed more as a "sniper" type rifle.
- ✓ **Even just a plain-'ol bolt-action "Deer Rifle"** in .308, 30-06, .243, .270 or 8mm would make a fine battle rifle in a pinch, although it is preferable to have a magazine-fed, semi-automatic rifle as your main battle rifle.

The thing to avoid is thinking of your .22 "plinker" as being a "defensive" rifle. It ain't! A .22 is accurate to about a maximum of 100yds (and quite often even less than that) and then utterly useless beyond that. It also doesn't have the ballistic "stopping power" of a large-caliber firearm either. You might just succeed in "making your enemy mad" and that wouldn't be a good thing in any instance. Shotguns, by the same token, are meant for close-quarters defense situations (where they really shine I might add), but should never be considered a "main defense gun." Pistols are about the "least capable" of all in this regard and should be considered as a "last resort" weapon. Other than being handy to carry, they're only good for a very limited distance and are far less accurate than a rifle.

Now, it's never a bad idea to have *all of the above*, which allows you to cover all bases and in any situation. A battle rifle for all cases when it's applicable, a shotgun for night-time defense or close-quarters combat and a pistol to hang on your hip "just in case." It's even a good idea to have a good .22 "plinker" rifle on hand for hunting small game, as this will allow you to keep the noise down, which is always wise if you're trying to stay *incognito*.

I might add that it's also wise to get good optics to match your rifle. Your rifle will always be only as good as it's ability to hit the target and good optics will help tremendously. Keep it all clean, sighted in and practice, practice, PRACTICE! You might even find out it's FUN!

Just a few quick pointers with regards to ammunition:

- ✓ Have On-Hand 1,000 Rounds of Defense-Ammo BARE MINIMUM for your battle rifle (If you can afford it – and find it – get 10x that much!)
- ✓ Have On-Hand several magazines for each of your firearms that require them
- ✓ Have On-Hand both Practice-Rounds and Defense-Rounds for All Firearms
- ✓ Have On-Hand 500 Rounds for any pistols and shotguns
- ✓ If You Have a .22 (and frankly even if you don't), Purchase Several Bricks (One Brick = 500 Rounds ... 50/box x 10-boxes) for practice-plinking, small-game hunting and trade
- ✓ Have On-Hand Cleaning Gear for Each Caliber You Own & KEEP THEM CLEAN!

SHELTER

This topic is so case-sensitive that I'll leave it to your own imagination to solve your own respective problems with sheltering. About the best I can offer is a few tips to keep in mind:

- ✓ Make sure that the structures on your retreat are either centrally located or otherwise at the most easily defensible location on the entire tract.
- ✓ Utilize multiple layers of defense between you (ie, your structures) and any potential threats. Selectively clear your surroundings so as to have plenty of open ground for viewing any threat at the greatest possible distance. Also have layers of stout fencing around the perimeter and around the site. With all but the stoutest of structures (rock, filled-cell cinder-block, etc.) a rifle bullet can go clean through an entire conventionally-framed house and kill someone on the other side of it; keep this fact in mind.
- ✓ Consider similar bullet-proofing measures for any water tanks, fuel tanks and solar panels you might have on site. Once there's a hole in them, where would you get another one?
- ✓ Setup LPOPs at any and all locations necessary to give a complete defensive perimeter view to as great a distance surrounding your retreat as possible ... and plan on MANNING THEM 24/7!
- ✓ Obviously, it's wise to consider a complete off-grid system if your time and resources will allow for it. This is especially important for your water source(s). Just take care to “black-out” your retreat at night – especially if you're the only kid on the block with any form of electricity – so that no light shines through to attract unwanted attention. Keeping the sound to a minimum is smart for the same reasons (be especially alert when using chainsaws and the like).

FIRST-AID / MEDICAL

Here's where the preparations get a bit trickier. There will always be the usual scraped knees and burned elbows, as with everyday life in normal times, but with the added dangers of bullet wounds, infections without the prospect of hospitals or doctors and other such matters, even the slightest medical emergencies that we take for granted now might be life-threatening in a total collapse. Even something as seemingly benign as an abscessed tooth can be a killer if not treated properly.

Get reference material. Go beyond the standard First Aid Manuals (although it's nice to have them on hand too). Get references on Emergency Field Surgery and get “the basics” in equipment to compliment your books. Above all – GET TRAINING if at all possible. Always actively seek-out those with medical knowledge as potential members of your group. Doctors, nurses, paramedics, pharmacists, dentists and the like can be a Godsend for your retreat. Ask them what they'll need (within the limitations of your resources and site) and get them equipped with it. Better yet, leave that chore for them to handle, because they'll undoubtedly *do it right*.

Make plans for those in your group who have special medical needs. The elderly, children, folks on dialysis or those with any other critical daily needs must be accommodated accordingly ... and that might be a tricky and downright expensive prospect, so start planning now for such contingencies.

Get LOTS of Vitamins and supplements and give serious consideration to “naturapathic” remedies and methods. There are many good books on the subject and you might just find that many of them work even better than the so-called “modern cures.” Also, always be aware of expiration dates; especially with medicines of any kind (including vitamins). Some medications can actually become toxic if taken after they expire! Use the old FIFO method (First In – First Out) so that your stock is always rotated accordingly. This also is a good idea with any food stocks, by the way.

Remember that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Stay healthy!

FUEL

I have a small 4x4 diesel tractor. When I attach my 60” 3-Point tiller to the back of it, I can literally pulverize a swath of hardened soil five-feet wide and thirty feet long by a foot deep in less than one minute flat. That's a total of 150 cubic-feet of soil that looks like it's been through a blender!

Now let me hand you a hoe and spade and see how long it takes you to do the same thing.

I also have three (different sizes) of very high-quality commercial-duty chainsaws with about a dozen chains each and plenty of bar oil and pre-mix additive, sharpening tools, etc. I can cut through a 24” diameter green oak log in about 15 seconds flat.

Now let me hand you a bow saw and see how long it takes you to do the same thing.
I think you're starting to get the picture?

So you've figured out that having a tractor and other such tools is a “good thing” for a retreat environment. You'll have to make plans to keep your tractor, saws – and any other powered tools – fed accordingly. That of course means that you'll have to stock fuel.

There are two simple way to do this: First, there's the common method employed by so many farmers and ranchers, which is to have a large tank (anywhere from 250gal to 500gal is typical) up on a high-base (for gravity flow dispensing). The only problems that I see with this method is that it's a bit too “out in the open” for my tastes and it lacks mobility. The method I prefer is to utilize 55gal drums (buy very clean refurbished ones and buy new O-ring seals for all bungs). There are quite a few advantages to this method:

- ✓ They're much smaller and hence the only way to have your fuel somewhat portable (a drum will weigh-in at about 450lbs full). There is a device you can purchase called a “drum lifter” which you can use with your tractor bucket (you did get a tractor with front-loader, didn't you? I can lift a half-ton or ½-yard of dirt in one bite with mine. Try that with a shovel!) to lug them around easily. I got mine from Harbor Freight Tools for about \$20.
- ✓ With any fuel, air and water is your enemy. With smaller lots, you only have one drum at a time that's open, which means that your remaining drums are filled up to the top with no air gaps (hint). With a good additive to keep the condensation at bay, a well-treated drum of diesel will last ten years or more.
- ✓ Being smaller, they're also low-to-the-ground (a drum is 36” tall) and therefore much more easily hidden from view. If you keep them in a shed, you might opt to rock up the side to the three-foot point, which will then even protect them from projectiles!

Note that diesel will last far longer (about 10x as long) as gasoline, so it's wise to opt for having any motorized equipment in diesel if you have a choice. Tractors, trucks, generators and the like all come in diesel varieties.

Lastly, don't forget to stock up with kerosene for your lanterns and/or heaters. It also lasts a long time like diesel, if treated correctly.

Other related items to consider is oils for lubricating your powered equipment and LOTS of filters for them (oil can usually be reused if necessary; especially fully-synthetic oils ... just keep those filters changed like clock-work!). Consider stocking plenty of the types of spare parts that are the most frequent types to “go out” on a machine: spark plugs, hoses, belts, tires and the like.

Although even I have yet to do this, I've even entertained the thought of purchasing a second “bare bones” tractor with the same engine, to use for simple plowing and, more importantly, to have on hand for spare parts for my “fancy” tractor. I can get such a spare in a 2-wheel drive version with “no frills” for about 1/3 of what I paid for my fancy tractor. Your tractor really will be your “life line” in such situations. I can mix cement, split logs easily, create mulch from limbs, run a backhoe, plow and till fields, pull tree-stumps clean out of the ground, dig post-holes, operate a 3-Point generator, haul very heavy objects ... the list goes on forever. It does the work of 100 men and will be a Godsend during a crisis. Diesel varieties are usually very fuel-efficient too, I might add.

SURVIVAL COMMUNICATIONS

There are many ways to communicate and each type of device is suited for a specific type of communication:

- ✓ **FRS/GMRS** (Family Radio Service / General Mobile Radio Service) – The modern day version of walkie-talkies. Except that they're light-years beyond the walkie-talkies of old. They're cheap, typically utilize rechargeable batteries. Can reach quite an admirable distance; especially if there is a direct line-of-sight signal transfer, and usually can even be pocketed and used “hands free” via VOX (Voice Operated Transmission) technology and kept silent with an earphone. Make sure there are several pairs available at your retreat. Most common versions of these hand-helds are of the “hybrid” variety. That is to say that they are both FRS (lower-

numbered bands with a lower-power capability and no FCC license required) and GMRS (upper-numbered bands with a higher-power capability and FCC license requirement). Note that although the upper-bands require a license, in a crisis situation, I don't imagine many folks (including me) will be all that worried about FCC thugs raiding the premises.

- ✓ **CB (Citizen's Band)** – This is the 'ol “Breaker One-Nine” radio that became so popular during the 1970s. Their range is mostly affected by the brand/quality of the unit and (as with all radios) the type of antenna used. The good thing about Cbs is that they're hardy units and come in base-station, vehicle-mounted and hand-held varieties. They're a good 'ol standby to have around for point-to-point communications.
- ✓ **HAM Radio** (more properly called *Amateur Radio*) – This is the cream of the crop in two-way communications for citizen's use. This type of radio also requires a license if you wish to transmit (no license required if you just want to *receive* however). There are also several steps in the licensing process, each one a bit more difficult to learn and obtain. The higher-level licenses give you much more of a range at which you can transmit, though. Inasmuch as HAM is such an in-depth topic, it's best to simply learn from somebody who has their license and is in the HAM community, if you wish to pursue this method of communication.
- ✓ **Scanners** – are merely devices which can be setup to continuously and quickly “scan” through a vast array of frequencies in a given band-range (Police, Military, Aircraft, Marine, etc.) There are ways to “program” specific bands (such as your local Fire, Police and EMS bands) into the unit in order to bounce through those channels only; kinda like setting the memory push-buttons on your car's audio system. Scanners also come in base, mobile and hand-held units and their capabilities are highly dependent upon the antenna used. A good omni-directional outdoor antenna can give you a range of many miles; even into surrounding Counties.
- ✓ **Shortwave** – the “little brother” to the HAM community, shortwave is a receiver-only unit. Nonetheless, with a good antenna and careful setup, you'll be able to reach stations all around the globe, just like a HAM unit (especially and in some cases, only, at night).
- ✓ **Hard-Lined Field-Phones** – With all the other transmit/receive units mentioned above (FRS/GMRS, CB & HAM), your communications can be intercepted and monitored; maybe by people whom you wouldn't want listening in. Ironically, “old fashioned” is the cure in this case. You can readily purchase old military surplus field-phones and the rolls of wire they use from sources such as Ebay and online Surplus Stores. By far the most common ones I've seen are the WWII types from both the U.S. Military and the German Military (I have four German units and about 1½ miles of wire ... all of which ran me about \$270.00) The units I bought are “brand new” in that they've never seen field use. They've been in a warehouse for decades and are in mint condition. This is quite common I've noticed. These are especially handy for running between your respective LPOPs and your HQ. All communications will be completely discreet and incapable of being intercepted, at least not by any methods shy of some top-secret NSA method of which I'm unaware.

Lastly, since we're dealing with communications and intercept-ability thereof, there is a method for covert communications over two-way radios which is about as fool-proof as one can get and (like the old-timey field phones) is also about as simple a solution as you can hope for.

Get several copies of an obscure and cheap paper-back “junk” book from your local book store. Make sure they have the same printing number/edition, etc. as they must be *exactly the same book*. In fact, if you plan on utilizing this method over time, it'd behoove you to make several such purchases

(ie, several sets of different books) so that you can periodically change books if you've used a set extensively enough to become worried about cryptographers deciphering a “pattern” or otherwise if you feel knowledge about your specific book has been breached.

Then, each time you wish to communicate, make sure both parties in the conversation have that same book on hand. All you need to do is simply rattle-off a page number and word number (or, alternatively, letter number, which would be far more time-consuming) and the receiving party only has to look up the words/letters on his or her book to receive the encoded message. Easy as pie and unless the “snooping party” has knowledge of the *exact book* you're using, the odds of it being decrypted are on the order of the number of atoms in the universe to the Nth power! Just make sure to buy your books with cash (and even from different outlets) and keep them secreted away for later use when needed. They'll be indispensable when you need 'em. One final tip with this method is to make sure and “scatter” the words you use. If there's a “the” on page/word 120/27, then don't use it exclusively, otherwise you'll begin a pattern that can eventually be deciphered with a savvy coding specialist. Constantly flip to different “the”s throughout the book.

Feelin' like James Bond yet?

GREEEEEN ACRES IS THE PLACE FOR ME!

Well, if the last section made you feel like James Bond, this one will make you feel a bit more grounded. Once you've established your retreat, begin – right away – establishing your garden(s) and orchard(s). Don't rule-out the many other possibilities that exist, such as aqua-culture (fish-farming) and hydroponics, etc. The main thing is to get your “dirt established” in the area(s) you wish to garden and get crackin'! That's also a good thing for whomever you might setup at the site (ie, your retreat's “Caretaker”) to keep up with. If a garden is established the right way from the beginning, then it's far less trouble to keep up with as time passes. Develop a routine and get those veggies popping their little heads out ASAP. Remember, the whole point of long-term storable food is not to have to use it except in dire emergencies. Grow your own to as great an extent as possible.

A critical thing to remember is to ONLY USE OPEN POLLINATED SEEDS in your garden(s)! I can't stress the importance of this enough. They are the only truly perpetually self-reproducing seeds available, which means that you can save the seeds to replant the following year(s) and they'll always be viable, no matter how many seasons go past. At the rate our “expert scientists” are inventing new ways to screw-up nature, we'll “technologically advance” our way out of existence before long!

Have you had your soil tested by the local Agricultural Extension? They'll typically do it (actually they send it off to a lab) for free and the report will return many details about your soil potential and how to amend it if you wish to make it better. Also, do you have your own high-quality soil test kit for continuous monitoring of your gardens? Something to think about.

Other things you might wish to consider growing are herbs (for both cooking and for medicinal purposes) as well as even tobacco! So what if you don't smoke. Do you have idea what a pack of smokes will be worth – even if it consists of hand-rolled home-mades - when there are none to be had? I'm sure there will be plenty of hapless, hopelessly addicted souls who would sell their left-arm for just one more visit with Joe Camel! Don't forget the rolling papers either. They're cheap and fit into a tiny area. I have a 30cal ammo can (very small) with a whopping 15,000 rolling papers protected inside

(sealed in plastic with desiccant) for just such a contingency. There are many strains of tobacco that grow readily here in the Texas Hill Country (and other strains which are adapted to other areas of the country). Just make sure to plant any tobacco far away from your other gardens so as not to introduce the tobacco mosaic virus into your veggie crops!

SPEAKING OF BARTERING ...

Here is just a sample of what might become the “New Monetary Unit” during a crisis situation:

- ✓ **Ammo** – without question one of the best barter items. Larger, common calibers (such as the aforementioned battle-rifle calibers) will be worth the most, but good old-fashioned .22 LR (long rifle) cartridges are cheap and will be “boxes of gold” in such a future.
- ✓ **Open-Pollinated Seed** – Most folks, even the ones who're self-sufficient enough to have some sort of garden, will likely be using hybridized seeds and hence, won't be able to continue their garden after a scant few seasons. Your seeds will be worth *more than their weight in gold* – I guarantee it! Note: You might also hear some folks call these seeds “Heritage” or “Heirloom” varieties.
- ✓ **Food** – Of course; in just about any shape and form. If you have plenty to not only keep yourselves well-fed, but also to barter; all the better! Think “Ramen” and save your good stuff for yourselves unless you're trading for something of equally high value, that is.
- ✓ **Sin** – Oh yeah; it'll sell every bit as readily in a crisis as it does in Vegas today! Like the previously mentioned tobacco, if you have the knowledge and equipment to make beer, wine (and even white-lightnin'), then it'll sell like hot-cakes during a crisis. Just look at how well it did during the *Great Depression* of the 30s! (Frankly, I think ours will be called the *Greater Depression*). If your moral compass allows it, then gofer it.
- ✓ **Miscellaneous** – The “little things” like toilet paper and feminine hygiene products aren't so “little” if nobody has 'em but you! Other things to consider along these lines are Vinegar, canning jars, Sodium Hypochlorite (bleach ... for treating water), soaps (hand, washing, dish, etc.), aluminum foil, hardware (nuts, bolts, nails, etc.), salt (a biggie!), hand-tools (hammers, shovels, hoes, etc.), clothing (you'd be surprised how much thrift-store clothing will fit into a 55-gallon drum. Use a contractor trash-bag for a liner and get the drums with a full-open top and “lock ring” band closure – this is also a good way to store plenty of spare clothing for yourself too, by the way.

You can see that such a list could go on-and-on-and-on *ad infinitum*! Start thinking about the things we take for granted now, but that will be almost impossible to acquire after a collapse and you'll see that you can get many valuable barter items for quite cheap *now* and watch them become *solid gold* later.

Speaking of gold (and silver): During the initial stages of a collapse, it will probably be worth very little, as strange as that may sound. As intrinsically valuable as it might be, *the fact remains that you can't eat it*, and that really will be the measure of the value of an item, at least at first. Once something resembling civilization begins to reshape itself though, it's value should become vastly greater proportionally than it is now. It is currently being (purposely) held back from it's true value in relation to the FRN (Federal Reserve Note) and once the FRN collapses into the abyss (that it created for itself, since it has no backing), there will be no way for the Money Masters to stop the ascendancy

of precious metals into their rightful place.

Yet another tip to consider is that silver is actually in a better position to skyrocket even more than gold. There is approximately six times as much silver in existence than there is gold, yet the gold-to-silver ratio is currently in the mid-60s:1. This is, needless to say, a great imbalance. Historically, when silver was still a common medium of exchange, the ratio ranged between about 10:1 and 16:1. This is still a bit unbalanced compared to reality, but far closer than it is currently. The predictors *who were right* throughout all these recent calamities in the market and dollar valuations, have consistently stressed the wisdom of investing in gold – real, tangible gold – not gold securities. They've also noted the imbalance in the silver -vs- gold ratio, which logically begets the wisdom in investing more heavily in silver even than in gold. I too believe in this wisdom for this and yet another reason that is seldom presented: Silver, being far less expensive than gold and being available in far more “sizes” (silver dimes, quarters, halves and dollars for instance) than gold will be much more easily used as a medium of exchange. Just how do you propose to use a quarter-ounce gold British Sovereign, for instance, if all you want to buy is a few loaves of bread? You could buy the *whole truckload of bread* with that single Sovereign, especially if gold goes through the roof as it's expected to. Tossing the seller a single silver dime, however, might solve the problem much more easily.

ELECTRONICS & TECHIE-TOYS

Ah yes, we spoiled Americans. Even during a crisis, we still stress the need for our toys!

Well, truth be told, there are some ways in which we can “keep our toys” - at least the utilitarian ones – even during a grid-down situation. It has become quite inexpensive to acquire a micro-sized solar-panel or two and a \$10 charge-controller (which keeps a battery from over-charging) and an inverter (if necessary ... which changes the current from 12V-DC to 120V-AC, etc.) Get just a few items like this and you'll be able to operate a CB Radio, a laptop or small LCD TV, and especially recharge your batteries for handy devices. The two main types of rechargeable batteries are Lithium-Ion and Nickel-Metal-Hydride (NiMH). The “NiCad” (Nickel Cadmium) batteries of old are no longer used and should never be considered.

Get a HIGH-QUALITY battery charger and HIGH QUALITY batteries (no, not the ones at Walmart!). They'll recharge hundreds of times and still be useable and that will be critical to keeping yourself “high-tech” with some very handy-to-have-on-hand gadgets which are invaluable during a crisis. It's good to keep them dry and refrigerated if at all possible, at least until a collapse occurs. They'll last much longer in those conditions. Just what gadgets you ask?

- ✓ **Night Vision Equipment** – which comes in various forms, from twin-tubed “goggles” which you can wear over your head and see both in the dark and in “stereo” to simple (and cheap) “monocular” type devices for scanning the darkness. All such equipment comes in varying degrees of quality as well. These qualities are listed in what is called “generation” or simply “genX.” The higher the number “gen”, the higher the quality. The highest quality currently available (that I'm aware of) is “Gen4”, which is what our troops use in Iraq and elsewhere. They are head and shoulders above the surplus “Gen1”s and better products, but then again, they're also head and shoulders more expensive too. In fact, a state of the art Gen4 device can easily cost several thousand dollars, whereas a simple Gen1 or even a Gen1+ monocular can be had for about \$100.00. I have a “Gen1+” monocular and can easily discern figures (animal, human, etc.) at 150yds away on a dark night, so *the lower quality devices are imminently*

useable. Another aspect to remember is that almost all night-vision devices come with an infrared “helper light” attached. Granted, you can see far better with it on than with it off (and you can't even tell it's on with the naked eye), but always bear in mind that it will shine like a super-nova to anybody else (a foe) who might also have night-vision trained on you; so use any helper-lights wisely! These devices also come as night-vision rifle-scopes too, which is handy indeed. I have a Gen1+ scope, which has a 3x Zoom capability and ran me about \$550.00 retail. A bit pricey, sure, but it's the least expensive of the night-vision rifle-scopes out there and puts me waaaay ahead of the game when confronted with a night-time attack. I can hit a silver dollar at a hundred yards every shot with my night-vision weapon – and I can do it in almost complete darkness! That's one heck of an “equalizer” in such a situation. Also one last tip about a potential use for night-vision. If you setup your retreat with cheap and readily available “electric eye” or motion-detector type flood-light fixtures (from any building supply center), then you can always install *infrared flood-bulbs* in them. They automatically turn-on whenever movement is sensed and an intruder won't be able to see them, *unless* they're looking through night-vision equipment, but you'll be able to see them like they're strolling by on a Texas summer day!

- ✓ **Hand-Held Radios** – These will likely account for much of your battery use. Shortwave radios also come in “pocket sized”, battery powered models (I have one that is literally the size of a pack of cigarettes).
- ✓ **LED Flashlights & LED Lanterns** – All hail the genius who invented the LED light! This really is a technological “leap” in portable lighting. Although most LED bulbs put out far less light than a typical incandescent bulb, the trick employed is to simply put many (even dozens) of LED bulbs into the lens, all acting in tandem, in order to produce a similar measure of light. Even with many dozens of LED bulbs on, the LED flashlight takes many, many times less “juice” to use. Some LED lights (including lanterns) can remain on – with standard batteries – for literally *hundreds of hours* before needing recharging. Chunk all your old incandescent flashlights and lanterns into the trunk in the attic and only use LEDs. Just make sure that they take “common” sized batteries (eg, AAA, AA, C, D). You can even purchase “tactical” flashlights in the LED varieties now. They're a bit pricey, but really no more so than standard high-intensity tactical lights. They don't last quite as long as other LED type lights, but they do last far longer than their incandescent tactical cousins.

Although there are potentially many other uses for rechargeable batteries, these are some important ones and you can easily see that although technology isn't an absolute necessity, it sure is handy and can even save your life. You'll have a decided advantage over all but the most prepared people who happen along into your retreat.

LOOSE LIPS SINK SHIPS

Yep, they really do! Keep everything on a “need to know” basis and make all members vow to live-up to that mantra. “Well, I'll just tell cousin Bob ...” can easily lead to “Well, Bob figured we wouldn't mind if he mentioned it to his wife and then his wife brought it up at the Bridge Club meeting and ...”. You get the picture. *Your absolute best defense possible is to never have anybody know that your retreat exists in the first place.* Don't forget, you might just end up having to *shoot somebody* whom you stupidly allowed yourself to tip-off about your retreat, if they then tried to attack you for your food once they're starving, and that would be a travesty to your conscience! Secrecy really is a “tangible” component of your retreat and should be treated with the respect it deserves.

JUST WHERE DOES IT ALL END???

As with so many other things in life, preparedness can be measured in ever-increasing steps. Just what should you be prepared for? What about an NBC (Nuclear/Biological/Chemical) attack? What if China decides they own enough of America to send their zillion-man army to our shores to “claim” their property? What if nefarious factions within Mexico arise and decide to “take back” the Southwestern states of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California (which many hugely popular racist Hispanic groups have demanded by the way)? The possibilities are almost endless and any or all of them could fall into play simultaneously.

There really are so many variables to consider when planning how to survive them and each and every one of them introduces a completely new set of unique needs in order to expect to adequately prepare for them. I've found that the best way to prepare “overall” is to first concentrate on the *universal needs*, such as a retreat, food, water, guns/ammo and the like and *then and only then*, start considering the details pertaining to specific potentialities. Otherwise, you'll drive yourself nuts with the minutia involved and maybe even miss out on some aspects of “the basics,” which could be a catastrophic mistake in *any* scenario.

JUST WHO WILL SURVIVE?

Well, in that regard, I'm afraid your guess is every bit as good as mine! Simple mathematics dictate, however, that those who are the best prepared will definitely have the greatest chance at survival. My hope (and my motivation for passing along this info) is that it will be the CONSTITUTIONALLY MINDED PATRIOTS who survive whatever calamities befall us in the coming months and years. I think it's safe to say that it has become almost universally accepted (except for a few hopelessly brainwashed sheep) that we're in for some very, *very* tough times. We owe it to ourselves for being wise enough to prepare and we definitely owe it to our progeny (lest they be saddled with *our* problems) and we owe it to the idea of freedom to prevail in this fight. We Americans truly are the last bastion of hope in an almost totally corrupted world. The demons promoting the New World Order know this and will stop at nothing – and I do mean NOTHING – in order to see their nefarious plans through to fruition; and that means defeating freedom in America. There can be no other answer for them and there can be no other answer for us except that *we must be prepared to defeat them* and put a stop to them from ever even trying to achieve a similar goal in the future. Our Forefathers demand nothing less than such determination, courage and vigilance from us – for *we are their progeny!* Always keep in mind that if we Patriots fall then it is likely that the *New America* will be much worse than the current America.

A NOTE FROM ED: *As a personal note, I'd like to mention that there really is a "them" to blame it on; although We the People do bear a bit of the blame ourselves for not being as vigilant as our founding fathers warned. I would urge that you read about the incredibly powerful (and unabashedly evil) elites who are desperately sprinting towards the finish line of their long-dreamed-about New World Order. This last 50yds they're sprinting naked – as the old saying goes – and a lot of folks are awakening to their existence; folks who used to dismiss the claim of such elites as "conspiracy theory." The number one book that I'd recommend in order to learn about just who these elites are, how they've come into power and what is on their agenda is [The Creature from Jekyll Island](#), by G. Edward Griffin. Although it's written "for the layman," it's still quite a tough read, mostly due to the fact that the elites and their agenda is a subject that is just so darned deep. There are plots within schemes within plots – all by design – in order to keep us Average Joes in the dark as to their agenda. If you take the time to read this book thoroughly though, it really will serve to open your eyes to an entirely new world that you never knew existed. An invisible world which affects all of us – yes, even YOU. For instance, one reality that you will take away from reading this book is that you'll quickly realize that the so-called "most powerful men in the world" (as our nation's Presidents are so commonly called) are mere puppets in the grand scheme and as such, are actually only minor players in the New World Order, which firmly holds the reins of true power in our modern world. I frankly don't care if you're a Rabid Obamanoid or you think that Dubya Hung the Moon; if you read this book, there will be no turning back and no "unlearning" the truth. We all need to start thinking as Americans and not as factions. I'll give you a hint: that is precisely one of the methods by which these elites have kept us at bay and in the dark for so long. They keep us bickering amongst each other, which keeps us from turning our eyes towards the real perpetrators of tyranny (and the real cause of just about ALL of our many problems), which is THEM!*

**It's NOT Left -vs- Right, It's The State -vs- YOU!
May God Protect You and Guide You in Your Preparations!**

In Liberty,

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