

Political Forum



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POLITICAL FORMS

A HANDBOOK
(ABBREVIATED)

By: Al Bieser

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200 Castaways

Picture yourself on a cruise ship in the middle 1800s where all the passengers have won a contest. The 200 winners have come from nearly every walk of life. One sells insurance, another is a plumber, yet another makes shoes, etc. Everyone is excited about being on this voyage. As with most such cruises, there is far more food than anyone should eat, and this is doubly true of the available alcohol. The evenings are filled with feasting and dining and the days are glorious with clear sunny skies and a sea that is dark blue and yet so clear that you feel you can almost see all of the way to the bottom.

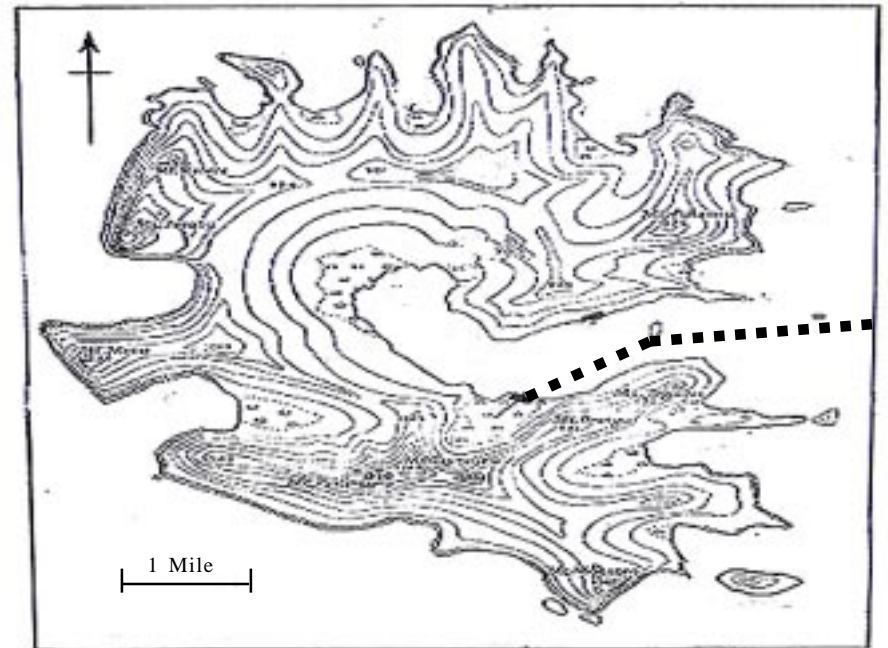
On the third day out the weather changes. The island of Tahiti is more than 700 miles away, to the northwest. The wave height has grown from 3 or 4 feet to 60 or 70 feet. The bow of the ship often submerges into the oncoming water. Visions of Magellan's trip around Cape Horn strike the heart of many of the passengers who have never been at sea before. The 225 foot ship rolls nearly a third of the way to the horizon. Eating is impossible as the dishes would spill their food even if they weren't sliding so badly on the table. One of the passengers knows a little bit about navigation and tells his fellow passengers that they must be well south of the equator, which means the weather would be approximately the same as Houston's except that summer would now be transformed to winter and vice versa. It was March and thus the Fall was approaching. Many of the passengers became so seasick that they almost would rather be dead than alive. Those that did not suffer this were still frightened to a point of being uncontrollable.

About three in the morning of the fourth day the

passengers were thrown wildly about their cabins as the ship struck land. But what land is this? We've sailed beyond the Austral Isles and there should be nothing here. Certainly none of the charts indicate as much. And yet as the sun rises we find our ship is badly wrecked within a bay with beautiful white sand beaches. The island itself now protects us from the wind which has shifted from Southeast to Northwest and has fallen from near hurricane strength to a very mild 15 to 20 mph.

The ship had broken apart. There were some edible supplies and the clothes the passengers had brought with them were salvageable. However, the passengers and crew both new that there was no way to summon help¹. Somehow, they were going to have to establish a community that would have to last for a number of years!

¹ Radio was not in general use even at the time of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.



It was soon discovered that there was a beach about a mile long at the far end of the bay. The ship had broken apart when it hit the second islet at the entrance to the bay and the wreckage was scattered onto a small beach just beyond.

Captain Sharp and his crew worked tirelessly to make sure that all of the passengers were taken ashore and that life boats were secured so that the various materials which might be salvaged could be taken to shelter as soon as the storm was over. As quickly as possible a temporary shelter was built on the small beach and as soon as the storm was over, work began on a large permanent shelter on the mile-long beach. This shelter was then used to store and protect all of the salvaged food and tools that could be taken off of the wreck before it finally was demolished in a few days by normal tidal action.

Several of the passengers had been raised in mountainous country and they were anxious to explore the four peaks that rose over 4000 feet from the Ocean surface. As a matter of fact most of the island was mountainous and covered with a wide variety of fruit bearing trees and bushes. The areas surrounding the beaches and coastal areas were covered with palm trees. Further, most of the valleys had small waterfalls at their head, and the problems of food and water did not appear to be a problem.

The captain suggested that each man and his family build their own shelters in the area of "One Mile Beach." Everyone agreed that this was a good plan and began to quickly build their shelters. As this work was being completed the captain supervised the distribution of food, materials, and tools that had been placed in the shelter.

As none of the passengers had ever been at sea or even visited a South Sea island, they quickly accepted his leadership. The crew had accepted orders from a ship's captain for many years and for them this was normal.

The Passengers

The captain decided that the first need to know what talents and capabilities were available. He decided to make a list of their occupations in alphabetical order. The list gave each of the occupations and one experienced person in each occupation was assigned as chairman of his group:

Accountant, Russell Richardson.
Advertising, Roger Barrow.
Accident First Aid, KIM Henman.
Banker, Wesley Norchester,
Barber, James Digs,
Chicken Farmer, Mark Malott.
Dentist, Sylvia Morris.
Engineer, Timothy Recanna.
Flooring, Jim Stone.
Grocer, Alan Bacliff.
Home builder, Tremont House.
Heating and Stove salesman, Jim Nassau.
Insurance adjuster, Craig Blanchard.
Jeweler, Georgia Frank.
Kennel Operator, Ellen Barkington.
Lawyer, Lynn Farstone.
Mechanic, Jack Snyder.
Medical doctor, Lenelle Devereux.
Nurse, Adriana Rinder
Pastor (Unitarian), Howard Albertson.
Pharmacist, Katy North.

Police Lt., Erin Lott.
Rabbi, Sol Davidson.
Real Estate broker, Bob Homes.
Ship builder, Bradford Wilson.
Shoe Maker, Bill Shephard.
Swiming instructor, Wallace Dear.
Tax Assessor-Collector, Hynam Ableson.
Veterinarian, Vance Brown.
Welder, William Rivera.

Basic Communism

There might be a few common occupations which were not included, but the list of passengers seemed to include enough variety to guarantee a working community. The primary problem presenting itself was that many of the occupations needed machines, for their craft. These often required modification or even an initial building from scratch. This of course, meant that some of the people would have to be taking food and various other supplies from the pile before they could start to contribute to it. The captain remembered that the Mayflower compact had a similar problem and they solved it by simply making the rule that each person should take from whatever supplies were available on the basis of his or her need and would put new supplies into the shelter's pile as quickly as possible. So, he put this into effect.

Two small problems were obvious:

- The first example of this occurred when Jim Nassau complained that he was having to work harder than others and insisted that he should have the ability to get more than the share he was allotted. Then there were a series of people, like Lynn Farstone, who continually took from the pile when no one was looking. Lynn and the others insisted that they were not subject to the rules they had argued against, "In the first place." In short, some of the people were found stealing from the supply pile:0

- The second problem was that one aged couple, Howard Albertson and his wife, would not be able to contribute anything, but certainly the community would not want to let them starve.

As a result of these two items, Captain Sharp assigned Police Lt., Erwin Lott, the task of guarding the pile 24 hours a day, and the elderly couple were allowed to take from it but asked to be careful that they took only their absolute needs. The security and charity were looked after by Lott who was given the only key to the shelter. He was ordered to open the pile only during daylight hours, and theft was prevented along with the possibility for the elderly to take too much was thwarted.

With these solutions in mind the initial Constitution very simply became, "To each according to his needs and from each according to his ability to produce." The fact that this was right out of the Mayflower manifesto did not seem to bother anyone. Of course it should have.

The people who produced the essential items; such as food, clothing, and shelter; worked hard for a while but ultimately lost heart. All the others were taking essentials and some luxuries from the pile and not working hard to produce the things for which they were responsible. For instance, the dentist, Sylvia Morris, insisted that she had gone to college for six years and served as an assistant for two years just to be able to be a dentist. "Just why," she asked, "should she work as hard as a common laborer?" Others simply took the attitude that as long as there was plenty, why should they work at all!

The essential items were, to some extent, available from the ship wreckage and the system worked for a while. However, while the ship supplies were running out, the people who were supposed to be contributing to the fuel supply, making the shoes, building streets and so forth had done very little. The people producing new food, clothing and shelter began to feel put upon and slowed down in their production activity. In short, the community began to fall apart. It's too bad that the people who were copying the Mayflower experience had not remembered that this was exactly the same fate they met. In fact, during their first hard, New England, winter many of them died as a consequence.

The leaders of the new island society were therefore forced to enlarge the security force and tell people what work they would have to engage in, whether they liked it or not. These jobs were given quotas and punishments extracted from those who did not produce enough. Obviously the societies government could not do as we often see today and print money with which people thought they would then be able to buy whatever they needed. *Then as now, the only thing there was for people to eat, wear or live in, was in no greater supply than that which had been made by the castaways themselves!*

Socialism (AKA) **Dictatorship**

The situation was desperate. Something had to be done! New organization was required!

The castaways quickly went to work and created a new constitution. From it a new government took over total management of all production so that they could “make sure” that exactly the right amount of everything was produced to meet the needs of the group. This meant of course, that the new group managers had to be fed, clothed and housed. Further, given the amount of time they had to spend in their managing activity, they could not produce anything themselves. This meant, of course, that there was less in the pile for all of the producers as some of what they might have consumed now had to go to the many managers.

At this, Adriana Linder, one of the better educated members of the group, remembered that this was exactly the form of government that existed throughout recorded history until the forming of the United States government. It was given several names: kingdom, socialism, fascism, dictatorship, etc. For over five millennia these had been used. Surely, Adriana argued, this form of government must work successfully.

Captain Sharp then directed that a “cabinet” be formed. Each Cabinet Secretary was to look after a specific activity:. Mechanic, Jack Snyder, was appointed Secy. Of

Industry. Similar assignments were: Health and Welfare, Dr. Lenelle Devereux; Animal production and care, Veterinarian, Vance Brown; Religion and Civil Ceremonies, Howard Albertson; Government buildings construction and care, Ship builder, Bradford Wilson; and Treasurer, Tax Assessor-Collector, Vance Brown.

A number of these Secretaries began to argue on a regular basis. For instance, the Government building Secy wanted ever more money than the Treasurer thought was necessary. These arguments lead to unethical politics being used. In all of this type of arguments, sides were organized. Brown and Devereux joined with Albertson and agreed to give their support to any other Secretary who would vote with them for money for their departments. In short, teamwork was lost within the Cabinet. Power acquisition became the “name of the game” instead of motivation to produce.

Nevertheless, Nurse Rinder lead the argument that this government was the best. She felt it was imperative that government insure the provision of all the essential goods and services. Let’s face it, she argued, for a couple of centuries the United States had left this to the individual to do for himself. When he or she could not, the churches provided it as a charity function. This was slow in coming, she claimed, and in the case of medical care “Only the government could be relied upon.”

Captain Sharp had always been chosen to “lead” the group and he was sure that would continue. He further argued (to himself and his crew, of course): “After all, more must be provided for the King and his royalty. Further, the non-royalty could not be allowed to be given enough to be

able to resist the royalty receiving so much. And naturally, the royalty knew that they must have this to buy the greatly added security they would need when the population saw how well the royalty lives, compared with the populus.”

However, it didn’t take too long before the group began to understand why that during the 5,000 years that this form of government had been tried very little progress was made. In short, such governments had provided very little motivation to work hard. Instead they caused the initiation of power grabs and even wars.

Something else had to be tried. To begin with, as the needs of each person or family were different it was decided that some form of money should be adopted. Captain Sharp recalled seeing a limited number of seashells of a particular type on the little beach. The captain and his crew collected all of these that they could find. A committee was formed to determine how many shells would be a fair price for all of the materials at hand. The total value of all of the goods in the pile had to equal the number of shells. The available shells were then distributed on a basis of social level within the community For instance, the captain received a larger number than the shoe maker, Bill Sheppard, who received more than Grocer, Alan Baycliff. Each person could then take anything from the pile but had to give up the value in shells to the Pile Manager. Further, as people brought new items to be placed in the pile, the shells the Pile Manager had collected for goods and services taken, were distributed on the original “social” basis.

Basic Capitalism

More organization was needed. To put it succinctly, their first two constitutions shared a fatal flaw. Both of them diminished the motivation of those who are producing. And, no matter what monetary system, organization, or government gift motivation was tried; there is no more to be passed out to any group than that which has been produced. Let's make that point once again there is no more to be passed out to any group than that which has already been produced. The only solution is, in general, to give from the pile only to those who produced the goods and services. And, their receipt must be proportional to the value they contributed. (Of course as the production items grew within the community, new shells had to be added so that their total value was essentially the same as the goods and services available. E.g. too much value in shells results in inflation, too little in not enough money being available to buy what is available and prices must fall out of control.)

Timothy Recanna and several of those who had been involved in civics lessons remembered that in the late 1700s a government had been formed which showed our new island society a constitution that would work. Believe it or not, this way was first considered about 750 B.C. (BCE, before the common era, for those who do not believe in the God of Abraham.) The Hebrew King, Solomon, had been given the task of building a temple for the God of Abraham. The Hebrews of Solomon's time built only one, or very infrequently two, story buildings. These were mostly caves

which had been hewn out of rocky cliffs or less stable buildings made by laying a few stones one on top the other. The temple however, was to be thirty cubits (five stories) high and made of such perfectly hewn stones that the temple might last a great many centuries.

To accomplish this task Solomon made a treaty with the king of Tyre to provide an architect capable of designing and building to this requirement. The architect and Solomon agreed that the way to get Hebrew workers to give up much of their time for this task was to promise them that in the process of building the temple it would be possible for them to learn to be architects. They would then be able to go forth in the world and be able to prove, by a system of key words and passwords, that they had received this training and education.

Each man was given a title showing his level of achievement. The beginner was called and entered apprentice. When the apprentice had learned enough to be able to cut stones so accurately that they could be laid on top of each other and produce the 50 feet high building, he was given the title of fellow craft. Once the candidate had reached the highest level of competence in fellow craft work, he began instruction in the arts and sciences required to become an architect. On completion of this instruction and education the candidate was called a Master Mason.¹

As there were few who could read or write in those days, Solomon, through inspiration from God, created secret words and phrases the men could use to prove their capability. Into these teachings, God had placed the way to create a government that would be the most fruitful and lasting possible for man. Sadly the Hebrews still wanted a

King and the twelve tribes of Israel split up rather than follow it. What was also very unfortunate was that in trying to instigate it, Solomon broke a number of the laws of Moses and lost his ability to lead the Israelis. This made the break up inevitable!

The Masons and their means of recognition carried on until the 1600s (C.E.). At that time, the populations of Europe had grown so large that its kings were having trouble keeping their subjects under control. This was particularly true in the United Kingdom. The royalty class had grown so large and covered so much territory that the various princes, dukes, and noblemen of lower rank wanted some of the powers of ruling. As a result, in order to maintain their power, the Kings became quite tyrannical.

At this same time, many of the Master Masons knowledge of mathematics and physics led them to be interested in the works of science in the Universities. This brought the several disciplines together. There after, the Master Masons decided that giving the leadership portion of their “secrets” to men of good will who were intellectual leaders would surely be God’s will. And, the teachings contained within the Masons’ rules of leadership led to the formation of what is known today as the Masonic Lodge.

In the 1600s and 1700s the “Little Ice Age” forced a great many people to flee England, Germany and Scandinavia. The Royalty saw the Masons as untenable competition and called them treasonous. Consequently, most of those with the courage to migrate to the New World were Master Masons. They were, therefore, highly motivated to form a government like that described within the works of the Masonic writings.

Let’s look at some of the requirements found in the Masonic teachings:

1. A political servant must be at least 21 years old.
2. He must be a man who puts his trust in God.
3. He must do justly in all his actions. That is he must be noted for his keeping the 10 commandments
4. He must love mercy
5. He must follow (walk with) God humbly.
6. Just as God would not allow an Israeli who had been a slave to enter the promised land, the Mason must not have the habit of blindly taking orders from a his master.²
7. A man must agree to serving in a position of authority not because he wants power but because he temporarily wants to do whatever he can for those whom he serves. (Remember the *Last Supper* and Christ’s lecture on service to others.)

From other items within the Masonic teachings it was learned that no man nor group of men should have total power. As a result, the US government has a legislative group whose job is to make the laws which the nation must obey; an executive group whose duty is to enforce those laws; and a court system whose duty is to see that neither of those two groups make laws or take actions which fall outside of their limitations as spelled out in the Constitution. It was envisioned that the Constitution might need minor changes from time to time and provision was made for this. However, a constitutional amendment requires the approval of not only all three branches of government but of two thirds of the individual states. Such changes have been rare in our history.

This plan of government worked very well for the United States and it had become a beacon for correct government at the time our castaways found themselves on the island. Some points of interest: slavery had been permitted prior to the founding of the Constitution and ultimately it failed. Their were arguments as to whether *the war between the states*³ was over the existence of slavery or over the fact that the federal government had taken to itself far more power than the Confederacy felt the Constitution permitted. In any event that war eliminated slavery. It should be noted that the United States was thereafter exceedingly blessed in its power to affect the Masonic rules throughout much of the world.

People became aware in the late 1800s that to be in power one must be a Mason. However, many of the people who wanted to be in power did not qualify under rules 3, 4, and 5 above. As a consequence, jealousy removed the requirement for membership in the Masonic Lodge to be a condition of leadership within Society. This proved very harmful. It had taken away the requirement that a leader be a man be of good repute who strives only to do what is beneficial for his fellow countrymen not what is beneficial to himself.

Our castaways were not concerned that this last caveat does not require their leaders to be worthy of their leadership. As a consequence the castaways economy progressed well following the United States example. Charity was extended only to people who could not perform any kind of work. The rule became that those who can work and don't, don't eat.

The people who were willing to set aside some of their

purchasing power were able to use that to make machinery, extra seeds, or money to hire help in their labors. By achieving greater output they were entitled to take more from the pile. I.e. capitalism had been achieved.

The limitations of power at first made the Captain and his crew very unhappy, but ultimately they saw that the more people put onto the pile the more there was for everyone else to share. They also saw that it was very important there was a limited supply of shells for money. If the government had been able to simply make more, the number of shells required to buy anything would have gone dramatically up. For example if a pair of shoes cost 50 shells and all of a sudden the government could double the number of shells that were in use in the system, then the pair of shoes would have a new cost of twice what it had before (or 100 shells.) That is, the value of the shell (money) would be less. E.g. it would take twice as many to buy anything. Or put another way, the person who had earned shells before their quantity was doubled now had only half the price. His contribution of a good or service to the pile remained the same but what he had earned for that production got him only half as much out of the pile.

We have just seen the development of a small government which produces far greater benefits to its citizens than the older systems of communism or socialism. **It is important to note that there are four requirements which must be met in any such government:**

1. People must receive benefits in proportion to what they provide.
2. Charity must be limited to those who cannot work.

3. The Society must have a constitution which limits, to the full extent possible, the powers of government.

4. The elected leaders must be like those described in Micah 6:8. They must do justly, love charity, and walk humbly with their God. Any man who does not follow these rules should not be allowed in any government position. Failure to meet these rules has been the cause of the defeat of all of the great societies to date.

One more thing that must be touched upon concerning all three political forms -- how are the prices set?

In Communism the government sets the price on everything. It will, of course, have to use comparisons within the overall pricing scheme. That is, labor hours, materials and number of units the population will want or need must be considered by a committee or “czar”.

Socialism, etc. sets the price on everything that the government controls, regulates or owns. On these items the price will be determined by committee or Czar as in communism. The prices of items or within industries that government does not control are usually set by government edict, but occasionally they are set by trial and error.

Within a capitalistic system, however, the prices are generally set by “what the market will bear.” In this system the producer must do market research to find out the number of items people will buy. This must consider the quality of the goods people will want, what price they will pay for each level of quality, and then the cost of manufacturing the good or service. Please note that this last consideration may very well determine whether there is any point in undertaking the project. That is, will people want it at a

price which will cover the cost of production and profit enough to induce the producer to make it.

The first two, under communism and socialism, often result in the manufacture of items that cannot be sold or are so cheaply priced that the government has to subsidize them. This thrown away material effectively reduces the desirable items in the “pile” at the expense of everyone. Obviously, the capitalistic system takes a great deal of thought and planning. However, in the end it produces the most goods and services available in the “pile” for everyone’s use..

And that ends our story of the 200 castaways. They succeeded beautifully in forming a small country on the island. About 30 years later sea traders discovered them and took most of the Castaways back to their former homes in the United States. We would like to believe that they passed on the wisdom they had gained to their fellow citizens at home.

We hope that while you were not there you have learned from their trials and tribulations and will do your best to put what they taught and learned into use here.

End Notes

¹ Note the similarity to the modern union titles of Apprentice, Journeyman, and Master Craftsman.

² A recent study showed that about 80% of the U.S. population is willing to give up their liberty in exchange for security. The founders of the U.S. had almost none in this class.

³ Sometimes called *the civil war*, however that is what the British called our revolutionary war. |