



# The Five Thousand Year Leap

The 28 Great Ideas  
That Changed the World  
by  
**W. Cleon Skousen**

*Student Edition*



Thomas Jefferson Center  
FOR CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES

5,000 Year Leap

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# 5,000 YEAR LEAP

## *Study Guide*

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### **Dedicated to:**

That generation of resolute Americans whom we call the Founding \_\_\_\_\_.

They created the first \_\_\_\_\_ people to survive as a nation in modern times.

They wrote a new kind of Constitution which is now the \_\_\_\_\_ in existence.

They built a new kind of commonwealth designed as a \_\_\_\_\_ for the whole human race.

They believed it was thoroughly possible to create a new kind of civilization, giving \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ to all.

Their first design for a free-people nation was to encompass all of North America, accommodating, as John Adams said, two to three hundred million \_\_\_\_\_.

They created a new cultural climate that gave \_\_\_\_\_ to the human spirit.

They encouraged exploration to reveal the scientific \_\_\_\_\_ of the universe.

They built a free-enterprise \_\_\_\_\_ to encourage industry and prosperity.

They gave humanity the needed ingredients for a gigantic 5,000-year \_\_\_\_\_.



## About the Author

# W. Cleon Skousen

(1913-2006)



W. Cleon Skousen was a world renowned teacher, lecturer and scholar for more than 60 years. Born in Raymond, Alberta, Canada on January 20, 1913, Dr. Skousen's growing up years were spent in Canada, Mexico, and California.

At age 17 he served a two-year mission to Great Britain for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He later attended college at the San Bernardino Junior College where he was elected Student Body President.

In 1934 he went to law school at George Washington University in Washington DC, where he earned his Juris Doctorate. At this same time he was employed with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Dr. Skousen married Jewel Pitcher of San Bernardino, California, in August 1936. During their 69 years of marriage, they raised eight children and became the grandparents of 50 grandchildren and more than 130 great-grandchildren.

Dr. Skousen served the FBI for 16 years (1935-1951), and worked closely with J. Edgar Hoover including a hot-spot stint as the director of communications. In 1951 he was asked to join the faculty of Brigham Young University where he headed up the Student Alumni organization. In 1956 he began a four-year appointment as the Chief of Police of Salt Lake City. As a prolific writer and speaker, he also wrote during this period his national best seller, "The Naked Communist" and later became the editor of the nation's leading police magazine, "Law And Order." In 1960 he left the police force and began a speaking tour around the country addressing the important political issues facing America at that time. At the urging of several businessmen, he ran for the office of governor in Utah, but narrowly missed the primaries.

In 1967, Dr. Skousen returned to BYU as a professor in the Religion Department. He was a well loved and popular teacher, and taught thousands of students until his retirement in 1978.

In 1972 Dr. Skousen organized a non-profit educational foundation named "The Freeman Institute." Later changed to "The National Center for Constitutional Studies" (NCCS), Dr. Skousen and his staff became the nation's leading organization in teaching students and legislators seminars on the Founding Fathers and the U.S. Constitution. His books "The Making of America" and "The 5,000 Year Leap" have been used nation-wide to educate students on the original intent of the Founding Fathers.

His many books and recordings addressed diverse subjects ranging from the raising of boys, to the principles of good government, to prophetic history. Dr. Skousen accumulated a wealth of knowledge and optimism—information that he called the "diamond dust" of exciting history, natural law and eternal principles of hope. These principles he painstakingly distilled into the pages of over 40 books and pamphlets, to be shared in an exciting and inspirational manner. This is what made him so popular with audiences of millions around the world. For a period of time, he averaged 300 speeches a year.





# Preface

by W. Cleon Skousen, 1981

The publication of this book is the fulfillment of a dream gestated over forty years ago at the George Washington University Law School in the nation's capital.

As I studied Constitutional law, there was always a nagging curiosity as to why someone had not taken the time and trouble to catalogue the ingredients of the Founding Fathers' phenomenal success formula so it would be less complex and easier to digest. It seemed incredible that these gems of political sagacity had to be dug out of obscurity by each individual doing it piecemeal and never really knowing for certain that the whole puzzle had been completely assembled.

All of this introspective cogitation was taking place during the Great Depression, while this writer was working full time at the FBI and going to law school at night.

A short time before, a brand new majority in Congress had been swept into power, and our professor of Constitutional law was constantly emphasizing the mistakes these newly elected "representatives of the people" were making. He would demonstrate how they were continually seeking answers to the nation's ills through remedies which were not authorized by the Constitution, and in most cases by methods which had been strictly forbidden by historical experience and the teachings of the Founders.

As I talked to some of these enthusiastic new Congressmen, it soon became apparent that their zeal was sincere and that any mistakes they might be making were the results of ignorance, not malicious intent. In fact, all of us belonged to a generation that had never been taught the clear-cut, decisive principles of sound politics and economics enunciated by the Founders. Somebody had apparently decided these were not very important anymore.

To this extent it could be said that, ideologically speaking, we were a generation of un-Americans. Even those of us who had come up through political science had never been required to read the Federalist Papers, John Locke, Algernon Sidney, Montesquieu, Adam Smith, Cicero, or the original writings of the men who put it all together in the first place. One of my undergraduate professors had even said that the Constitution was obsolete. He said it wasn't designed for a modern industrial society.

Nevertheless, one of my friends in Congress said he would like to study the Founders' ideas. What he wanted was a simple, easy-to-understand book. So did the rest of us. My text on Constitutional law was three inches thick and was so cluttered up with complex, legalistic rhetoric that it would only confuse a farmer, businessman, or real estate broker who had just been elected to Congress. It was even confusing to those of us who were trying to get a handle on "the system" so we could pass the bar examination. The fact that some of us did pass the bar "the very first time around" was always counted within our secret circle as a providential miracle! As the years went by, I continued to look for a book which laid out the great ideas of the Founders so that even a new Congressman could "read as he ran" and get a fairly good comprehension of the

Founders' ingenious success formula. I did find a number of writers who seemed to come within striking distance of the target, only to back away and never complete the task. Often their tomes were long, tedious conglomerates of abstract complexity. Of course, there were lots of books on Constitutional “nuts and bolts,” or the mechanics of government, which were similar to my texts in political science. However, none of these ever portrayed a philosophical comprehension of why it was all supposed to be so great.

Eventually, circumstances were such that this writer overcame a prevailing sense of apprehension and undertook the task of trying to do something along these lines just as a matter of personal insight. Now, a hundred digested volumes later, and after a most gratifying visit with many of the Founders through their letters, biographies, and speeches, this book has been assembled.

It may appear to some to be a very modest contribution, but it has been a monumental satisfaction to the author. Never before have I fully appreciated the intellectual muscle and the quantum of solid character required to produce the first modern republic. I have gained a warm affection for the Founders. I have learned to see them as men imbued with all of our common weaknesses called “human nature,” and yet capable of becoming victorious at a task which would have decimated weaker men. I have learned to glory in their successes and have felt an overtone of personal sorrow when they seemed to attain less than they had hoped. It has been a marvelous adventure in research to perceive the ramifications of the Founders' formula for a model commonwealth of freedom and prosperity which became the United States of America.

When it comes to acknowledgments, I find myself, like other writers, overwhelmed with obligations. How can one thank a thousand researchers and writers on at least three continents who have spent much of their lives digging up and recording the detailed treasures concerning the lives and thoughts of those distinguished nation-builders whom we are pleased to call our Founding Fathers?

At closer range, the task of expressing appreciation is not so difficult, provided that this author can be forgiven for not including all who deserve meritorious thanks.

First and foremost, I must do what so many writers seem to be admitting lately, and that is expressing a frank confession that their books would never have been written without the patient and enduring support of a loving wife. This is particularly true in my case. Her task of assisting an author-husband has been intermingled with raising eight children, trying to run a household with more than 3,000 books scattered about, answering ten to twenty-five telephone calls each day, and trying to locate her husband in time to eat dinner or meet a group of visiting dignitaries. All this and much more has been the continuous routine of my beautiful and patient helpmeet who was appropriately named by her parents, “Jewel.”

Also involved in a most intimate way with the completion of this book has been the working staff of the Freeman Institute. Many of them have assumed day-and-night assignments in travel and administrative drudgery so that I might be free to the greatest possible extent to complete the research and writing for this project.

Glenn J. Kimber, our Vice President in charge of the Institute's nationwide operations, has gone the eleventh mile to be of assistance. He has made excellent suggestions which have been adopted. He has structured the channels of administrative responsibility so that this work could be completed with the very minimum of interference by the requirements of a busy headquarters operation.

I am also indebted to Mark A. Benson, our Vice President in charge of development. He has rallied friends and supporters to provide the financial assistance needed to bring the project to finalization.

In this connection I must give special thanks to the Garvey Foundation. This Foundation was largely responsible for the grant which provided the means to hire the personnel needed to expedite the completion of this work in time to be used during the fall term by high schools and colleges. I am also grateful to Willard W. Garvey, President of Garvey Industries, Incorporated, who exhibited such a keen interest in this project and encouraged us to pursue others closely related to it.

In the technical field, I cannot be too extravagant in expressing appreciation and praise for the extremely competent skills of Andrew M. Allison, editor of the *Freemen Digest*. He scrutinized the manuscript first through a microscope and then through a telescope to verify the accuracy of quoted material and the authenticity of documentary sources.

My son, Harold Skousen, is also deserving of my deepest thanks for diligently working on the layout and graphics, all of which was done in between the complex ramifications of setting up a new television studio.

Those closely associated with the *Freemen Institute* will understand how warmly I feel toward the tremendously loyal and hard-working staff who often work overtime and on Saturdays to provide the services of the Institute, which now extend all across the country and into several foreign countries as well. I think they know how grateful I am for them.

It should also be mentioned that the deployment and coordination of production and remarkably accurate typesetting, re-typesetting, and deciphering of the author's constantly changing corrections and additions were all capably accomplished by Jean Marshall and Ken Neff.

So, to all of these and many others not specifically mentioned, I am eternally grateful. And to the student who has a longing to appreciate the pioneers who built the American commonwealth, this book is offered. It is hoped that it will be helpful and understandable, and will to some degree provide the stimulating inspiration which the research and writing of it brought to the author.

W. Cleon Skousen



# Introduction

Colonies of civilized human beings have been emerging and disappearing on the continental fringes of the Planet Earth for over 5,000 years. Each of these ganglia of civilized mankind had similar \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ fulfilled them, at least, not in their fullest dimensions. Some built cities for over a million people that now lie buried in the skeletal debris of the Sahara sands. Others built cities that were even larger -- in Asia and South America -- but snakes, rodents, and entangled vines are about all that live today in the ghostly grandeur of their ruined past.

## A New Beginning

It was in 1607 A.D. that another such attempt was made to lay the foundations for man's most modern civilization. Undoubtedly the annals of humankind will ultimately show that this one turned out to be different.

The settlement was called \_\_\_\_\_ after his royal highness, James I, King of England. It was the first \_\_\_\_\_ colony of England on the North American continent. The settlers of Jamestown had been assigned the task of establishing an Anglo-Saxon foothold in the hot, humid, and totally hostile wilderness of what we now call Virginia.

## Shades of the Primitive Past

The most striking thing about the settlers of Jamestown was their startling \_\_\_\_\_ to the ancient pioneers who built settlements in other parts of the world 5,000 years earlier. The whole panorama of Jamestown demonstrated how shockingly little progress had been made by man during all of those fifty centuries.

The settlers of Jamestown had come in a \_\_\_\_\_ no larger and no more commodious than those of the ancient sea kings. Their \_\_\_\_\_ still consisted of shovel, axe, hoe, and a stick plow which were only slightly improved over those of China, Egypt, Persia, and Greece. They harvested their grain and hay-grass with the same primitive scythes. They wore clothes made of thread spun on a wheel and woven by hand. They thought \_\_\_\_\_ was a staple food. Their medicines were noxious concoctions based on superstition rather than science. Their transportation was by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Most of them died young. Out of approximately 9,000 settlers who found their way to old Jamestown, only about \_\_\_\_\_ survived.

## Why Jamestown Was Different

It was in Jamestown that \_\_\_\_\_ economics were experimentally tried out by these European immigrants, who found them to be worse than \_\_\_\_\_ had described them.

Eventually, it was in Jamestown that a system of free enterprise principles began to filter up through the years of “starving time” to impress on the settlers those dynamic ideas which were later refined and developed in Adam Smith's famous book, *The \_\_\_\_\_ of Nations*.

It was among these early settlers of Virginia that a sufficiently large population finally congregated to permit the setting up of the \_\_\_\_\_ popular assembly of legislative representatives in the western hemisphere. The descendants of these Virginia settlers also produced many of the foremost intellects who structured the framework for the new civilization which became known as the United States of America. From among them came Thomas \_\_\_\_\_, author of the Declaration of Independence; James \_\_\_\_\_, “father” of the Constitution; George \_\_\_\_\_, hero general of the War for Independence; George \_\_\_\_\_, author of the first American Bill of Rights in Virginia.

Virginia was the largest of the thirteen colonies, with half-a-million inhabitants, and she furnished \_\_\_\_\_ of the first five Presidents of the United States.

## **Two Hundred Years Later**

Soon two whole centuries had passed into history. By 1976, the “noble experiment” of American independence and free-enterprise economics had produced some phenomenal results.

One need not be an American citizen to feel a sense of genuine pride in the fantastic list of achievements which bubbled up from the massive melting pot of humanity that swarmed to the shores of this new land and contributed to its mighty leap in technical, political, and economic achievement.

The spirit of freedom which moved out across the world in the 1800s was primarily inspired by the fruits of freedom in the United States. The climate of free-market economics allowed \_\_\_\_\_ to thrive in an explosion of inventions and technical discoveries which, in merely 200 years, gave the world the gigantic new power resources of harnessed electricity, the internal combustion engine, jet propulsion, exotic space vehicles, and all the wonders of nuclear energy.

\_\_\_\_\_ were revolutionized, first by the telegraph, then the telephone, followed by radio and television.

The whole earth was explored from pole to pole -- even the depths of the sea.

Then men left the earth in rocket ships and actually walked on the moon. They sent up a space plane that could be maneuvered and landed back on the earth.

The average length of life was \_\_\_\_\_ ; the quality of life was tremendously enhanced. Homes, food, textiles, communications, transportation, central heating, central cooling, world travel, millions of books, a high literacy rate, schools for everybody, surgical miracles, medical cures for age-old diseases, entertainment at the touch of a switch, and instant news, twenty-four hours a day. That was the story.

Of course, all of this did not happen just in \_\_\_\_\_, but it did flow out primarily from the swift current of freedom and prosperity which the American Founders turned loose into the spillways of human progress all over the world. In 200 years, the human race had made a 5,000-year leap.

### **What About Progress in Reverse?**

Unfortunately, every new generation of human beings seems to feel the instinctive and passionate necessity to reinvent the sociological wheel. The \_\_\_\_\_ sciences capitalize on the lessons of the past, but the \_\_\_\_\_ sciences seldom do.

In political and social relations, a single generation will sometimes duplicate the same error half-a-dozen times. Too many human beings are doing it today.

They are muddling their lives with drugs, riots, revolutions, and terrorism; predatory wars; unnatural sexual practices; merry-go-round marriages; organized crime; neglected and sometimes brutalized children; plateau intoxication; debt-ridden prosperity; and all the other ingredients of insanity which have shattered \_\_\_\_\_ mighty civilizations in the past.

These elements of social \_\_\_\_\_ can have a devastating impact on the highly technical and delicately interdependent civilization which freedom and prosperity have brought to mankind.

### **Time to Get Back to Basics**

The goal of life is not really space travel, backyard swimming pools, glider planes, entertainment extravaganzas, big, fast cars, or thrill pills. What human beings are really seeking is individual \_\_\_\_\_, self-realization.

Human happiness thrives only in a certain kind of \_\_\_\_\_. The prerequisites for that environment are being destroyed. Many millions of people do not understand what is happening to them. They just know they are not genuinely happy.

The answer to most of the problems is comparatively simple. Return to fundamentals. Get back to \_\_\_\_\_. Nothing in this life is ever going to be perfect, but it can be much more gratifying and a lot less dangerous if we can get back to the fundamentals that provided that amazing 5,000-year leap in the first place.

That is what this book is all about.

## The 28 Great Ideas That are Changing the World

There was hardly a single idea which the American Founding Fathers put into their formula that someone hadn't thought of before. However, the singularity of it all was the fact that in 1787, when the Constitution was being written, \_\_\_\_\_ of those ideas was being substantially practiced anywhere in the world. It was in America that the Founding Fathers

assembled the 28 great ideas that produced the dynamic success formula which proved such a sensational blessing to modern man.

Now that many of those precious principles are fading into oblivion and scores of \_\_\_\_\_ problems have risen to plague humanity, it should be in America that the banner of human hope is raised again.

Of course, we should remind ourselves that it took the Founders \_\_\_\_\_ years (1607-1787) to put it all together, and they made numerous mistakes along the way. Nevertheless, when they finally put the new charter into operation, George Washington was able to write after only two years:

“The United States enjoy a scene of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ under the new government that could hardly have been hoped for.” (Letter to Catherine Macaulay Graham, 19 July 1791; John C. Fitzpatrick, *The Writings of George Washington*, 39 volumes, United States Government Printing Office, 1931-1944, Washington, D.C., 31:316-317.)

The next day he wrote to David Humphreys:

“Tranquility reigns among the people with that disposition towards the general government which is likely to \_\_\_\_\_ it.... Our public credit stands on that [high] ground which three years ago it would have been considered as a species of madness to have foretold.” (Ibid., pp. 318-319)

Not only did it change the United States, but within a few years it aroused the admiration of the whole world.

Experience proved these principles were sound. They are sound today. In our modern space-age of Third Encounters and Superman, the Founders' thinking may sound terribly old-fashioned and even pre-Victorian, but their principles have the advantage of an impressive track record of empirical proof that they are practical and true -- \_\_\_\_\_ true. That is their primary credential.

Our purpose is to present the Founders' 28 great ideas in their original simplicity and mostly in their \_\_\_\_\_ words. After all, it is their story. They are the ones who made the fantastic 5,000-year leap possible.



# **Part I**

## **The Founders' Monumental Task: Structuring a Government with All Power in the People**



## The Founders' Political Spectrum

Part of the genius of the Founding Fathers was their political spectrum or political frame of reference. It was a yardstick for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the political \_\_\_\_\_ in any particular system of government. They had a much better political yardstick than the one which is generally used today. If the Founders had used the modern yardstick of “Communism on the left” and “Fascism on the right,” they never would have found the balanced center which they were seeking.

### What Is Left? What Is Right?

It is extremely unfortunate that the writers on political philosophy today have undertaken to measure various issues in terms of political \_\_\_\_\_ instead of political \_\_\_\_\_. No doubt the American Founding Fathers would have considered this modern measuring stick most objectionable, even \_\_\_\_\_.

Today, as we mentioned, it is popular in the classroom as well as the press to refer to “Communism on the left,” and “Fascism on the right.” People and parties are often called “\_\_\_\_\_,” or “\_\_\_\_\_.” The public do not really understand what they are talking about.

These terms actually refer to the manner in which the various parties are \_\_\_\_\_ in the parliaments of Europe. The radical revolutionaries (usually the Communists) occupy the far left and the military dictatorships (such as the Fascists) are on the far right. Other parties are located in between.

Measuring people and issues in terms of political parties has turned out to be philosophically fallacious if not totally \_\_\_\_\_. This is because the platforms or positions of political parties are often superficial and structured on \_\_\_\_\_ sand. The platform of a political party of one generation can hardly be recognized by the next. Furthermore, Communism and Fascism turned out to be different names for approximately the same thing -- the police state. They are not opposite extremes but, for all practical purposes, are virtually \_\_\_\_\_.

### The American Founding Fathers Used a More Accurate Yardstick

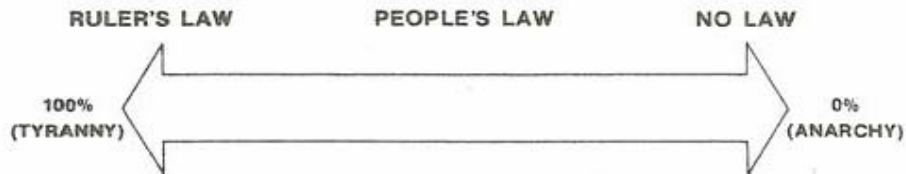
Government is defined in the dictionary as “a system of ruling or \_\_\_\_\_,” and therefore the American Founders measured political systems in terms of the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ power or systematic \_\_\_\_\_ which a particular system of government exercises over its people. In other words, the yardstick is not political parties, but political power.

Using this type of yardstick, the American Founders considered the two extremes to be \_\_\_\_\_ on the one hand, and \_\_\_\_\_ on the other. At the one extreme of anarchy there is \_\_\_\_\_ government, no law, no systematic control and no governmental power,

while at the other extreme there is \_\_\_\_\_ control, too much political oppression, too much government. Or, as the Founders called it, “tyranny.”

The object of the Founders was to discover the “balanced \_\_\_\_\_ “ between these two extremes. They recognized that under the chaotic confusion of anarchy there is “no law,” whereas at the other extreme the law is totally dominated by the ruling power and is therefore “\_\_\_\_\_ Law.” What they wanted to establish was a system of “\_\_\_\_\_ Law,” where the government is kept under the control of the people and political power is maintained at the balanced center with enough government to maintain security, justice, and good \_\_\_\_\_ , but not enough government to \_\_\_\_\_ the people.

The Founders' political spectrum might be graphically illustrated as follows:



### **Ruler's Law**

The Founders had studied Ruler’s Law and knew its chief characteristics. They are as follows:

1. Government \_\_\_\_\_ is exercised by compulsion, force, conquest, or \_\_\_\_\_ usurpation.
2. Therefore, all power is concentrated in the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ are treated as “\_\_\_\_\_” of the ruler.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ is treated as the “\_\_\_\_\_” of the ruler.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ have no \_\_\_\_\_ rights.
6. Government is by the rule of \_\_\_\_\_ rather than the rule of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The people are structured into social and economic \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The thrust of government is always from the ruler \_\_\_\_\_, not from the people \_\_\_\_\_. There is no “rule by the majority”.