



What are The Tea Parties?

by *Gerri McDaniel*

“What are the tea parties; and, what are they about? For me these events are **about free speech** and the right we have in this country to peacefully and patriotically protest actions which are wrong for America. This is the foundation of the tea parties. Are there other reasons? You bet; however, these are secondary to our freedom of speech (the first amendment to our constitution).

It’s easy for the opponents of this movement to attempt to marginalize it by saying “It’s all about taxes”, or “It’s because you lost.” These statements only serve to illustrate shortsightedness. I would like to point out to these people that we are demonstrating on their behalf as well; they will benefit from our actions as much as every other American.

Beyond the free speech ambitions of this movement, I think the tea party protest concerns include: big government, out of control government spending, unfair tax burdens, the disconnect between elected officials and the electorate, the diminishing American standing in the world, and much more.

We are a grassroots, collaborative volunteer initiative that is chiefly against big government and the ongoing attempts to control more and more aspects of our lives and our decisions. As Abraham Lincoln proclaimed, government should be “of the people, by the people, and for the people”. The current administration is attempting to govern **despite the people**. There has been no attempt to include the people in any of the so-called “change” that we are being force-fed.

Despite public outrage, the administration already has spent and proposes to spend in excess of \$4,000,000,000,000.00. The majority of this will be deficit spending. And, this deficit spending will result in an estimated \$860,000,000,000.00 in interest payments alone by 2019. Recent reports reveal that all tax-paying Americans will pay in excess of \$100,000.00 during their lifetime to pay for this burden. To avoid suicidal depression, I will not even attempt to calculate the payment including principal, additional deficit spending, and the ever-expanding entitlements.

Yes; there is a taxation element to this movement. We cannot spend our way out of our current debacle, and we most definitely cannot tax our way out. Currently, there are as many as dozen “progressive” states proposing additional taxation of some sort. Americans need only to look at the current economic blight in the state of Michigan to foresee the future. Over the last decade, Michigan has led the way in new taxation and governmental spending. At the same time, Michigan is losing industry, small business, and population. This economic model does not work at a state level, and it most definitely will not work on a national level.

Many elected officials in D.C. (and at state level government) do not associate their responsibilities with the voters that put them in office. It is important that we impress upon these “non-representing representatives” the relationship between their service and our vote (or lack thereof). Elected officials have but one purpose, to reflect and support the feelings and opinion of their constituency. Our responsibility is to insure our feelings and opinions are known to them. I hear all the time, “Why don’t they do what we want?” Perhaps, the question should be, “Do they know what we want?”

There are very few actions by the current administration that are beneficial for America and Americans. In recent days, Presidential actions have called in to question American resolve and American pride. Apparently, the administration’s idea of foreign policy is to “roll over” and “play dead”. These are great tricks for a dog, but for the leading country and the leading economy in the world, this is simply not acceptable. During the election, there was a lot of talk about how long it would take to undo all the “wrongs” America had perpetrated on the world. The answer to that question is less than 100 days. This administration has destroyed 100 years of progress in less than 100 days. The question becomes, “How long will it take for America to retake its rightful position in the world?”

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