

MEDIA KIT

Reviving Our Republic is not a critique of our political climate—it's a call to action for engaged citizens who yearn for meaningful change.







T I T L E

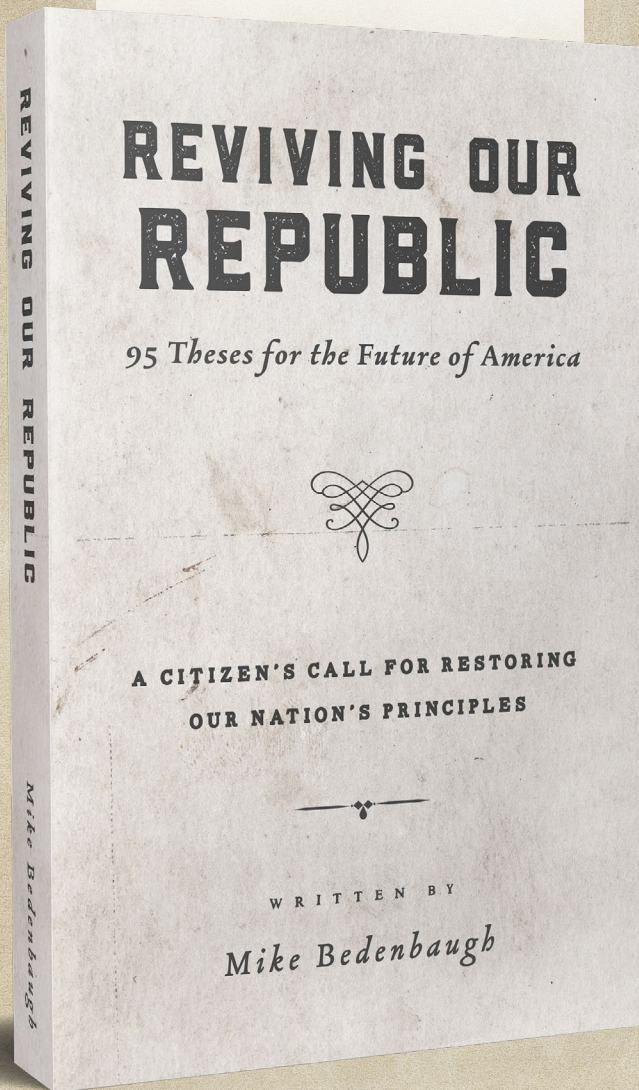
REVIVING OUR REPUBLIC

95 Theses for the Future of America

A U T H O R

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TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE



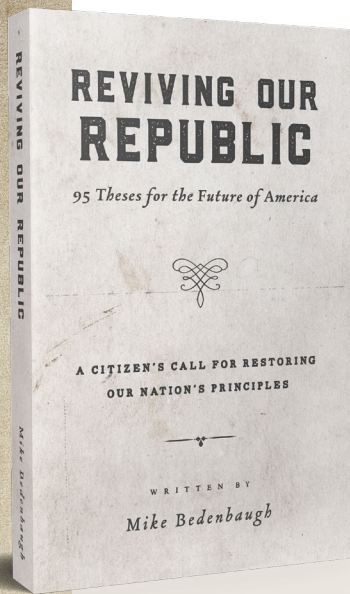
POLITICAL SCIENCE
& DEMOCRACY



IDEOLOGIES &
DOCTRINES



HISTORY &
THEORY



ABOUT THE BOOK

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The United States is in a partisan gridlock. As our constitutional principles erode away and the decline of civic engagement threatens the foundation of American democracy, navy veteran turned preservation leader Michael Bedenbaugh presents a compelling vision for the future of our country.

Reviving Our Republic: 95 Theses for the Future of America is a bold blueprint for addressing the most pressing challenges facing our nation today. Drawing inspiration from Martin Luther's historic call for reform, Bedenbaugh offers a dynamic framework for political reform, reinterpreting founding principles for modern 21st-century challenges. Grounded in lessons across history from the warnings in Washington's Farewell Address to the Citizens United decision of 2010 that enabled influence of corporations on policy, *Reviving Our Republic* is a fresh, nonpartisan approach to restructuring American governance, with 40 actionable proposals aimed at fostering a more responsive, accountable government.

In this blend of practical experience and scholarly insight, readers will learn:

- ◆ Proposals to reform the electoral system, including instituting term limits and Electoral College reform.
- ◆ Strategies to curb corporate influence in politics and strengthen individual liberty.
- ◆ A plan to restore the balance between federal and state powers, reviving true federalism in our national government.
- ◆ Methods to ensure fiscally responsible governance and address the national debt crisis.
- ◆ Ways to realign foreign policy with America's founding principles of neutrality in world affairs without hiding under isolationism.

Reviving Our Republic is not a critique of our political climate—it's a call to action for engaged citizens who yearn for meaningful change. Whether you're a concerned voter, community leader, or a student of politics, history, and economics, this book is a radical approach to reform that will inspire you to engage in America's path forward as a united nation.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Bedenbaugh is a respected voice in historic preservation and community development, with a keen interest in constitutional principles and American governance. Born with a reverence for history, Michael served as the former president and executive director of Preservation South Carolina, where he led numerous initiatives that demonstrated the economic and cultural value of historic preservation, showcasing his ability to blend practical solutions with respect for tradition.

Driven by a mission to revitalize America's founding ideals, Michael hosts the podcast *Perspective with Mike Bedenbaugh*, where he explores the intersection of history, politics, and community development. His unique approach combines grassroots activism with a deep understanding of constitutional intent, offering fresh insights into modern political challenges. This approach was shaped by his diverse career, including his role as CEO of Post No Bills, Inc., a product marketing firm that collaborated with corporate powerhouses like Phillip Morris USA, RCA Records, DreamWorks, Universal Pictures, and MGM.

Michael's diverse background includes five years of service in the U.S. Navy aboard the USS *South Carolina*, studies in international studies and history at the University of South Carolina and Columbia University, and leadership roles in both nonprofit and for-profit sectors. He has also served on his hometown's city council and chaired his county Board of Zoning Appeals, demonstrating his commitment to local governance. His efforts in community revitalization and historic preservation earned him the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina's highest civilian honor, awarded by Governor Henry McMaster. As a member of Preservation Action in Washington, D.C., he continues to advocate for policies that strengthen local communities and honor America's heritage.

A native of Prosperity, South Carolina, Michael remains deeply involved in his home state's development while contributing to national discussions on governance and civic engagement. His work exemplifies the principle that understanding our past is crucial to shaping a better future. His book, *Reviving Our Republic*, is an outcome of Michael's lifelong passion for his community, state, and nation, and was inspired by our founding fathers and the principles that birthed our nation.

To explore Michael's perspectives on reinvigorating American democracy through a return to founding principles, visit mikebedenbaugh.com, where he also has links to his podcast, his congressional campaign, and his biography.



AUTHOR HAS BEEN FEATURED IN :



SAMPLE BOOK TOPICS

Talk to Michael about revitalizing American democracy through constitutional principles, electoral reform, fiscal responsibility, balanced federalism, and reclaiming founding ideals in modern governance and foreign policy.

- Term Limits and Turnover: Rejuvenating American Democracy Through Electoral Reform
- Balancing Act: Restoring Federalism in the 21st Century United States
- Corporate Kryptonite: 5 Strategies to Curb Big Business Influence in Politics
- The Neutral Nation: Reclaiming America's Founding Foreign Policy Principles
- Debt-Free Dreams: Practical Solutions to America's Fiscal Crisis
- Electoral College 2.0: Modernizing a Centuries-Old System for Today's America
- Liberty's Lifeline: Strengthening Individual Rights in a Corporate-Dominated World
- The New Federalists: How State Power Can Save American Democracy
- Dollars and Sense: A Roadmap to Fiscally Responsible Governance
- Founding Fathers, Modern Solutions: Applying Constitutional Wisdom to Today's Challenges

BOOK EXCERPT

Introduction

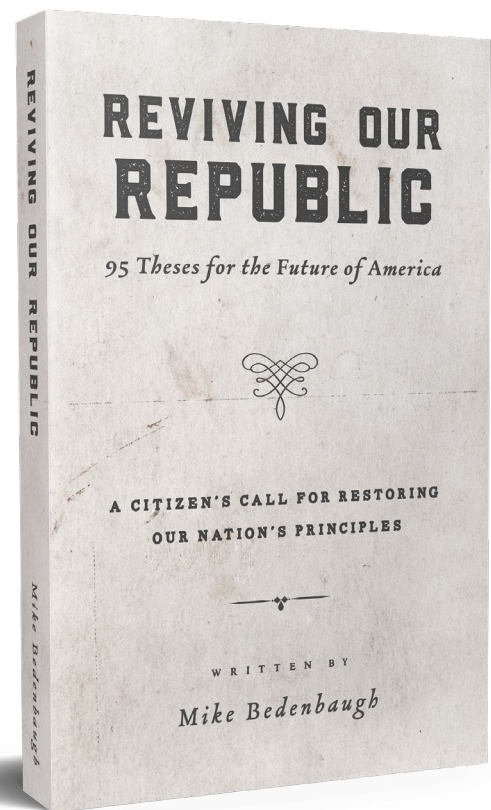
The inspiration for the premise of this book began on the night of August 6, 2015, when I witnessed the first national Republican debate for the 2016 presidential campaign. On the stage were the leading Republicans in the country vying for the post-Obama White House: Jeb Bush, Scott Walker, Mike Huckabee, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, Chris Christie, John Kasich, and Donald Trump. By the time that debate was over, I knew the world of American politics would never be the same.

In July prior to the debate, during a trip to Washington, DC, I had the opportunity to visit Mount Vernon. While there, I purchased a biography of George Washington by Ron Chernow. I had just finished reading its 900 pages when I sat in my darkened living room that evening and allowed the reality to sink in that our politics had finally achieved the ultimate conclusion of a wealthy, consumptive society; instead of a knowledgeable debate that elevated solutions to big problems, it was now just another toxic spectator sport.

Reflecting on the debates and the biography, I found myself drawn to another book that had profoundly influenced Washington, *The Book of Virtues*. Washington's moral compass and steadfast character, which guided him through the American Revolution and his presidency, were shaped by the virtues extolled in this book. As I juxtaposed the dignified, principled leadership of Washington with the brash, combative nature of the debate, I realized that what I was witnessing was exactly what he had feared might happen when Americans forgot the lessons Washington shared with our ancestors over 230 years before.

But why is George Washington still important to us now? With all the problems facing the United States of America in the 21st century, why would we look for inspiration from a wealthy and privileged white slaveholder from the 18th century? His faults regarding slavery are clear, and his inability to publicly face the hypocrisy of forging a new nation that could ensure liberty for "all" built on the backs of chattel slavery casts a dark shadow on his record of leadership. We cannot disregard his 18th-century outlook regarding social classes and racial prejudice.

We also cannot disregard his ability to lead and inspire others to build a new national government that would



work and be acceptable to the states. The men who met in Philadelphia during the hot summer of 1787 were not founders of a new society as much as they were architects, utilizing their vast knowledge, applying it to the social landscape that existed at the time, and constructing an edifice unlike any ever constructed. However, everyone in the room knew that there was only one man alive who could lead such an intellectual and political rabble, and they appointed him chairman of the convention. To put it bluntly, without George Washington's example of leadership during the American Revolution and as president of the Constitutional Convention, our nation would not exist.

As the preeminent revolutionary leader, he ensured that the unity among the revolutionary generation, forged by a common purpose of war and nationhood, would not be destroyed during the infancy of our republic's formation. Only George Washington could hold together the Continental Army long enough to defeat the British will to fight, persuade his army officers involved in the Newburgh Conspiracy against overthrowing the elected leadership of the Congress, take the leadership chair of the Constitutional

BOOK EXCERPT (CONTINUED)

Convention, and become our first president and model for presidents to follow. All these things were able to take place because he understood more than anyone the importance of words and the symbolism needed for a successful republic to exist.

Throughout history, many “successful” revolutions in various societies have often devolved into civil war among their instigators. However, it was George Washington’s exemplary leadership and strength of character that forged a unifying principle so robust that our inevitable civil war was delayed for four score and seven years. This delay, until the grandchildren of the founding generation were in power, provided sufficient time for the Constitution to establish its legitimacy as our governing document, ensuring its endurance through the conflagration of 1861.

As chief architect, he knew full well that the structure they created in Philadelphia was going to require a “maintenance plan” so it could stay strong and stable. That maintenance plan was published before he voluntarily retired from the presidency. We know it today as his Farewell Address.

I am convinced that the terrible state we are in now is a direct result of our ignoring the maintenance manual Washington left us. Just as Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg to protest the corruption of the 16th-century Catholic Church and spark the Reformation, I envision my theses as a catalyst for conversation about a new kind of reform against what many see as a corrupted republic. Many of these theses cannot be promulgated overnight and will take time to build a national consensus to enact. Through this book, I hope to inspire a national discussion and revival of the spirit of intentional citizenship that animated the founding of the United States.

Over the past decade, I have utilized the phrase “Place, Purpose, and Preservation” as a sign-off on my podcast and You Tube channel “Perspective with Mike Bedenbaugh” to promote the historic preservation of a specific historic site and the community in which it was located. However, with the writing of this book, that phrase now encompasses a broader scope, including local community, state, and national government that encapsulates the foundational pillars essential to maintaining the integrity of our nation’s republic.

“Place” refers to the environments and settings that shape our individual identities, emphasizing how our connection to specific locations and communities helps define who we are as citizens and lays the groundwork for our personal and collective sense of belonging.

“Purpose” underscores our responsibility as citizens to defend the guiding principles and values enshrined in the Constitution, such as liberty, justice, and democracy, which serve as the moral compass directing our collective actions and governance.

“Preservation” highlights the need for vigilant safeguarding of both our physical and natural heritage as well as core principles to ensure that future generations inherit a nation that remains true to its ideals.

Together, these elements stress the vital role of maintaining a strong connection to our past, upholding our democratic values, and actively working to protect the legacy of the republic for posterity.