

## Relaunch Platform

The “we’re all in the same boat” theme of this book refers specifically to American citizens in the 21st century. America has been more divided since 2016 than any other time since the Civil War. I have experienced this divisiveness the same way countless millions of other Americans also have, practically daily. The complexity and often absurdity of the entire political situation in the USA since 2016 eventually inspired me to eventually go “all in” and package my thoughts on this very important subject into this “guide” which addresses the problem of our deep political divide, how and why it is a serious threat to national prosperity if not downright existence, what has caused and perpetuated it and how Americans have a choice to take action to resolve it and thrive together going forward by cooperating toward a common goals, primary of which must be to get the elected politicians in Washington, D.C. to initiate desperately needed reform instead of wasting time and energy in what is akin to a tug-of-war. That will not be easy, but there is a way and that is a large part of what this book is about and why I invested the time and effort to write it.

This book is conceptualized as many things; a proposal, an outline, a reference resource, an overview, a summary, an introduction, and more. It provides an overview of a broad scope of material which, for lack of space, allows for only a cursory introduction on most subjects. It is an educational tool which introduces a new online platform and directory for autodidacticism (self-education) at [www.thesameboat.com](http://www.thesameboat.com) where the book’s text is presented in web format, complemented by references and links to numerous excellent books, videos, websites, podcasts and more for further learning and online discussion. I am also planning for the site to have a comparison feature which can calculate to what degree any participating reader agrees or disagrees with me on specific subjects and in general. I hope you will check it out!

This book is written with numerous different potential readers in mind. Overall it is meant to be a “must read” for every American who votes. It contains many facts and so much information that almost anyone who reads it will learn a lot or a whole lot, depending on one’s current level of knowledge. So anyone who is interested in knowledge, self education and / or politics should find this book to be very enjoyable and valuable. This book is meant to help raise the bar in the quality of the political rhetoric going on between the left and the right. I find this to be a necessity because there seems to me to be a whole lot of inane bickering going on between people who are significantly lacking essential knowledge regarding the subjects which they have passionate opinions about. I believe it is likely that 90% of college students don’t know 90% of what is in this book as far as factual information goes and I do have these persons in mind as I write this. I believe that if they want to consider themselves educated and they are interested enough in politics at least enough to vote, then this book is designed to be an absolutely must read for them, as well as for high school students. And that being the case, I also write this with the parents and grandparents of high school and college students in mind who want to encourage their child to establish a strong base of knowledge and introduce them to the value and potential of self education. For them, \$20 spent on this book is meant to be the best possible bang for their buck when it comes to an investment in their child's education. That's less than 1/1000th of what almost any semester in any college costs these days. 1/10,000th for a full four years!

Nothing I write about herein should be considered controversial, although it most likely will be by many because I am writing it from the perspective of a conservative. Many of those opposed to the politics of the Republican party will choose to label me a “right winger” and whatever else and not read it at all. I am writing this with these persons in mind as well. Ultimately those who will get the most value and enjoyment out of this book are conservatives of any age. The Same Boat was originally thought of as something a conservative could give to a Democrat-voting friend or family member as a well-organized and thorough answer to their bewilderment as to how anyone could possibly support D.J. Trump. This book is for them, as well as their Democrat-voting friends who we hope will take the time to read it and consider its content with an open mind. If their worldview is subsequently significantly more aligned with ours by the time they are finished, then this book would have achieved one of its primary goals. Naturally it is my hope that just that will occur many times.

A cold civil war has been going on in the USA since 2016. Like all wars, this information war and war of opinions also involves powerful players, strategy, deceit, tactics and much more. Its victims are We The People, in many different ways. The most obvious manifestation of this war is the vying for political power at the federal level strictly along party lines in an ongoing ideological power struggle between entrenched, hypocritical ultra-rich career politicians amidst an all but completely ignored mire of corruption, conflicts of interest and even potentially seditious actors. We should all be aware that something new must finally be done when for over 30 years only 10% of us feel that our “congress” in Washington, D.C. is doing a good job yet the re-election rate of our representatives and senators has consistently remained around or above 85%.

Through our current time of division, misinformation, disinformation and general lack of complete information, America has also suffered from a leadership vacuum. That vacuum is not only what enabled Donald Trump to succeed in his campaign for President but was also the reason why he ran in the first place. An excellent leader attempts to and generally succeeds in convincing a significant majority of his nation’s people to support their policies. D.J. Trump did not succeed in doing this and notably did not even attempt to address or enlist any of his detractors as potential supporters, which I believe was one of his biggest mistakes. During Trump’s presidency I often wished I was on his staff. Much of what I say herein includes things I would have encouraged him to communicate to the people.

My original title to this chapter was The Same Boat Premise and Our Commons. The premise is that if we do not cooperate to steer our great ship through the storm we are only beginning to face then it may go under or at least never be the same ever again, whereby all but the most wealthy Americans will suffer. By Commons I am referring to common history, common decency, common ground, common law, common desires, needs, hopes, interests, common sense, values, likes, dislikes, opportunities, expectations, liberties, and appreciation, among others. Americans have so much in common it’s astounding that the nation seems to be so divided.

In order to solve a problem for the long term it’s generally best to go to the root of the matter; The

source. I think it is important to first draw attention to one of the roots to our current dilemma in the USA; a lack of recognition of how much we actually agree upon. The purpose of this chapter is to underscore and demonstrate this fact while proposing that we consider and affirm specific fundamental principles which have been and must remain as the very basis of our society.

#### A Newly Affirmed Foundation\*

\* that we can ALL agree upon and use to solve almost all of our problems in just 1 or 2 generations if the vast majority of us were on board.

#### Five Big Questions

1. Is Right better than wrong?
2. Is good "better" than evil?
3. Is it "better" to make the world a better place, or a worse place?
4. Is love "better" than hate?"
5. Is being positive more positive than being negative?

Do you believe that a society would in general be more successful and enjoyable if its members all knew and practiced common standards regarding a code of common decency, conduct and respect for one another?

#### Focus on Virtues

1. Personal Responsibility and Awareness
2. Integrity and Honesty
3. Fairness
4. Respect and fairness for all. Self respect, respect for others, respect for our common standards, respect for virtue.
5. Essay re. Virtues including: Patience, Goodness, Discipline, Focus, Effort, Sacrifice, Ambition, Generosity, Cooperation, Support, Understanding, Skills, Creativity, Gracefulness, Wisdom and Knowledge.

#### Our Common Values

1. Freedom
2. Opportunity and equality of opportunity
3. Strength
4. Independence and Individualism
5. Goodness and Decency
6. Lifestyle and Success / Materialism, financial freedom, MONEY. No denying it.
7. Relationships, family, security from homelessness, entrepreneurship, creativity, ideas, self-improvement, optimism, leisure time, laughter, enjoyment and fun.

We all value different things more than others but most of the most important are common to most of us. Most of all the top values are common to most peoples' highest-priorities lists.

## Important Principles for A Good and Just Society

1. The Golden Rule has nothing to do with religion and why it should be our primary guiding principle
2. The No Harm Rule
3. Be Aware (of choices being made. Do they violate principles, values, virtue or rules 1 or 2?)
4. Value knowledge and seek to understand more. An ignorant and gullible public is a threat to your country!
5. Be honest. Strive for what is right and reject what is wrong

## What we all do NOT want

1. To be lied to
2. To lose our freedom
3. To experience the struggles and consequences of war
4. Rigged elections nor reason to doubt their results
5. corrupt politicians
6. For our society to be divided because of propaganda
7. To personally be disadvantaged in any way due to our political opinions
8. For anyone to be disadvantaged because of anything beyond their control or fault of their own
9. To be on the wrong side, nor have to change sides or admit we were wrong about something. ...our power struggle regarding which side is right and which side is wrong is going to be one of our toughest obstacles to success. Both sides are deeply entrenched. How can we find our way across the divide. Answer: The Same Boat online discussion platform and self-education resource, directory and portal

And our priorities? Close