



The following insights are short and to the point. We use them in our discourse about trust, leadership, and our democracy. --- Robert Porter Lynch

*To build a world we can trust
-- a world that is socially, economically, and environmentally friendly --
we can benefit by taking cues from enlightened thinkers and leaders of the
past three centuries.*

*Distrust in our most cherished institutions is the like a
“termite invasion” eating out the core of American democracy
and our confidence in our values and ourselves.*

*We are at a tipping point – failure to act jeopardizes our
democracy and economy. We are heading into an abyss.
Our younger generation is losing hope.*

*This breach of trust is burdened
with grave penalties and dire consequences.*

*Across the globe, democracies are succumbing to fallacious
leaders with little vision, poor values, and lack of character.*

**TRUST DETERMINES
THE COURSE OF HISTORY,
THE DESTINIES OF NATIONS,
AND THE FATE OF PEOPLE**

-- Paul R. Lawrence, Professor, Organization Behavior, Harvard Business School

***Most of the voices we hear are the voices of arrogance by bullies.
The world is filled with enthusiasm and brains.***

***The problem is that all the brains have no enthusiasm,
and all the enthusiasts have no brains.***

The world is dying of hot heads and cold feet.

In an era of danger, we must exhibit courage rather than fear.

***In the face of ideologies passionately held, we must renew our confidence (trust)
in our own institutions.***

- Henry Merritt Wriston, educator, c. 1954

***"It is the lack of [trust] more than anything else that kills civilization. We can
destroy ourselves by cynicism and disillusion, just as effectively as by bombs."***

Kenneth Clark, Civilization

***"Self-distrust is the cause of most of our failure. In the assurance
of strength there is strength, and, they are the weakest,
however strong, who have no faith in themselves or their
powers." — Christian Nevell Bovee***

***"Courage enlarges, cowardice diminishes resources. In
desperate straits the fears of the timid aggravate the dangers
that imperil the brave." — Christian Nevell Bovee***

***Panic is a sudden succumbing to our fears, becoming swamped by a flood-tide of
negativity and darkness, extinguishing glow of possibility. -- RPL***

Viciousness engulfs the void not filled by virtue.RPL

***Passion cannot see beyond its nose; Reason sees over the horizon and around
corners – RPL***

***Trust is the most important factor keeping a democratic society together,
enabling diverse people to function without unnecessary strife and discord.***

The Dark Ages Attest: in a world of fear, implosion soon follows.

***The Coward Polarizes and Demonizes others;
cowering behind the castle walls of his tribe's belligerence.***

Master Manipulators, posing as false gods and saviors, promise security to fill a yearning for a simpler, safer world; in return for loyalty pledges -- because they can't earn trust
The future of America depends upon our commitment to a renewal of vision, of energy, of values, and of trust.

Today we have no Central Organizing Principle.

Raw Emotion has displaced Reason as the ruling principle of our time.

*When leadership declines, character soon follows;
when character declines, institutions decline;
civilizations are next in line.*

***WHEN CHARACTER'S LIGHT FAILS TO SHINE,
TRUST IN INSTITUTIONS WILL DECLINE.....
DEMOCRACY & LIBERTY ARE NEXT IN LINE.***

When Trust Erodes, the Fabric of Society Unravels

What has been lost from our heritage is the Founding Father's deepest commitment to the basic responsibilities every human has to each other, their community, and to their environment.

They were deeply committed to the principle that we must hold our rights as dearly as our responsibilities.

The Founding Fathers issued many warnings that partisan polarization would undermine and potentially destroy the fragile underpinnings of democracy.

*Admonitions without concrete solutions are warning bells no one heeds.
Vision without Execution is Hallucination*

The fall of all great civilizations has always been preceded by fear, distrust, and discord sowed by untrustworthy leaders

Today we are in a three way battle between Order & Authoritarianism, Chaos & Anarchy, and Democracy & Self- Determination. Democracy is losing the battle, primarily because we, as a nation, have lost our moral compass – the chief navigational instrument our Founding Fathers directed us to use to guide the Republic through times of stress and danger. Our democracy has lost its ideological edge because we have lost our moral edge. In this battle, we are losing our right to the free exchange of ideas and the right to our loftiest ideals

Every two years the American politics industry fills the airwaves with the most virulent, scurrilous, wall-to-wall character assassination of nearly every political practitioner in the country -- and then declares itself puzzled that America has lost trust in its politicians.....

Every state in the union will be sending to Congress some brutally excoriated campaign survivor. Congress is guaranteed to be an assembly of the most vilified persons in every American community. Picking a politician ... demands a relationship of trust. Yet..... the politicians work systematically to kill that trust..... Charles Krauthammer,
POLITICAL SUICIDE, October 28, 1994 Editorial in Washington Post

***The problem today: it's no longer just every two years,
it's every day -- The Age of the Permanent Campaign.***

***It is not the bleakness of our circumstances that determines our fate,
but the clarity of our vision and courage of our character to turn the tide.***

RPL
