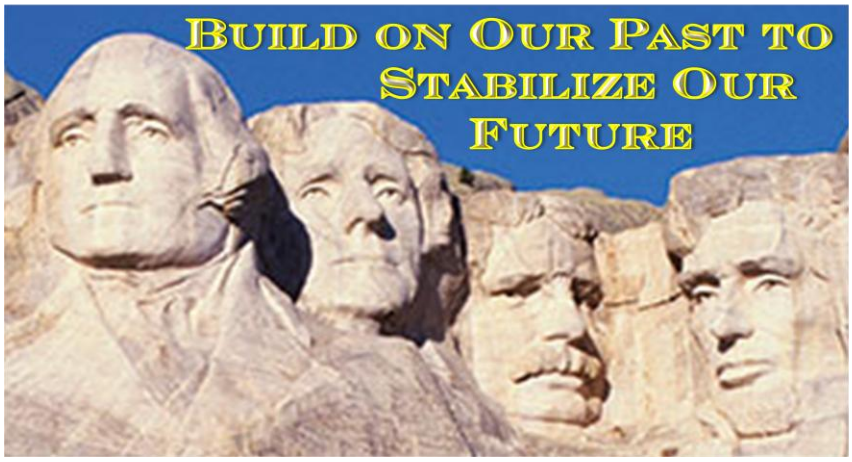


To build a world we can trust
-- a world that is socially, economically, and environmentally friendly --
we can benefit by taking cues from enlightened thinkers and leaders of the past three centuries.

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

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 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.