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SOVEREIGNTY IS THE TRUEST FORM OF FREEDOM TODAY

15 1999

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One book that has made a great impact on popular culture in the last ten years in the sci-fi classic, Neuromancer by William Gibson. His futuristic vision of a world shaped by high-speed technology and virtual reality systems has lead engineers to fulfill his exciting vision by following his ideas. It is such a powerful vision that others are racing to realize it.

I am one of those whose impression of the future changed when I read his work. Information systems hold the keys to the future. Everything could be transacted in cyberspace. There are no limits to one's influence over the masses once plugged in to global media. All systems will be connected to the Internet and the systems will grow in size, complexity, and importance.

The ultimate power would be to maneuver through this system without fear. Fear from governmental authorities attempting to dictate the cyberspace environment is the greatest source of fear. As the world moves into cyberspace more and more international bodies will seek to protect their interests through regulations and rules. These rules will lay out punishments. It could grow into serious punishments for those that did not stay within dictated boundaries as set by authorities.

The cores of the systems will be off-limits of course. These cores will contain the most interesting and useful information. Data that could be used to for advantage in the real world. Some of this data, such as bank codes, and military secrets, should rightfully be protected. Other

things such as nano-technologies and bioresearch could be used to improve the human environment, but private entities will seek to hold it for themselves in the name of commercial advantage.

Wouldn't it be powerful if we could experiment within these new systems without fear from others, to have a form of diplomatic immunity that would insulate you from great harm? It would be the most desirable power in the world to hold. Imagine a time when all the essential systems of the world are on the net and we could explore with impunity. Like Mathew Broderick in the movie War Games we could access the important material (although he accessed systems that should rightfully be protected). If we had immunity we could move without fear of being found out by the government.

How could one attain this level of freedom? The ideal would be to retain the same powers due sovereign nations. One must have diplomatic immunity to be completely safe from prosecution. Why should only governments, rulers, and princes be the only ones with these freedoms? The current system does not allow individual citizens the same authority and governments around the world are not sharing their power. No respectable country is going to allow freelancers to use their county's resources of legal protection.

The only recourse left is to become your own sovereign. Found a county. Go find your own sovereign country to rule.

I will continue for a while as if this is a possibility and go into the legal aspects later. It would have to be an island nation. There are still islands in this world that are available for claim. They are unclaimed and sit outside the 200-mile exclusive economic zone of any country. All that is left to do is stake a claim that you could support in court. Create a government apparatus. Then file for recognition with international bodies.

The status of sovereign nation allows for the greatest amount of freedom in our world today. China attempts to assert sovereignty over Taiwan because then they would be justified in using military means to subjugate 30,000,000 people. Look at countries like Turkey. They kill members of their own population and no one can do anything about it because they are recognized as a sovereign government. Why shouldn't individuals be allowed to live as they see fit as long as it does not interfere with the rights of others? All governments, the United States included, attempt to control their populations through the mechanism of fear.

The amount of sovereign nations in the world is increasing. Look at Kosovo? People may argue that the UN intervened in Kosovo despite the fact that the Serbs held sovereignty over that region, but there is a difference. Serbia had legally gone through the procedure of granting Kosovars self-determination over the direction of their state. There was a legal reason why Kosovars had a right to expect their decision to separate would be respected. Independent societies around the world are attempting to gain sovereign powers for themselves. Look at Aceh, Catalonia, and Quebec.

Trying to establish sovereignty of an island nation is getting ahead of the curve in the worldwide progression toward freedom, but it is a legitimate desire for many people. In 1972 members of the Ocean Life Research Foundation of Carson City, Nevada attempted to lay claim to the Minerva Reefs that lie near the country of Tonga. These people were libertarians searching for a set of unclaimed islands anywhere in the world where they could establish an independent country free of taxes and governmental control. They were unable to hold their claim due to governmental interference from Tonga and its neighbors. The Tongans acted in order to preserve territorial rights to resources such as fish, petrochemicals, and polymetallic nodules, that they might be able to exploit in the future.

What is sovereignty? Who decides who gets it? Sovereignty is legal jurisdiction over an area and its people. Why shouldn't I be able to claim sovereignty over the land that I own in the U.S.? There is already legal documentation granting the government authority over the land. It is entirely a legal term. However, there are no legal claims to many tiny islands around the world. Claim one of those. Who is to say that the legal and economic activity that transacts there does not entail sovereignty? Nobody. You must take the position that it does. The U.N. might try to claim that these activities do not meet their standards for a legitimate claim to sovereignty. Who gave them the right to decide these things? Nobody. Some things in the world are there for the taking. Sovereignty must be claimed, defended, and realized with out the assistance of the governmental institutions in place.

What does it take to establish sovereignty? An official looking document and evidence of a claim should be a good start. In times past countries such as France often made some military

style production of the deal that ended with the firing of cannons and the placement of a permanent looking plaque on a distinguishable promontory. This should suffice. Any economic expenditures should be documented and relevant governmental bodies should be given notice. France took out advertisements in a newspaper when announcing formal claim to an island off of the coast of Mexico.

After staking this claim the first order of business will likely be to secure your claim against seizure by other governments by method of military force. The trick is not to beat a country with a show of force, but to at least make it so difficult that they become unwilling to spend the money it would take to evict you from the area. I once heard that Russia was selling military items with their armaments still intact. If you have the economic resources then this would come in handy. It is sad but true in the international situation today that might often makes right.

Once your claim is free from nasty military entanglements then it remains to develop the resources so that the land could sustain habitable life. One of the essential elements that must be in place for a claim to stand up legally is whether an island can sustain economic life of its own. Again this may come down to definitions. This time the definition at issue will be: 'capable of sustaining economic activity on its own'. If you transact one incident of economic activity such as paying for the plaque that is placed on the island then that can be asserted by you as an economic act that satisfies the requirement. Some others may object but you must stick to your guns at all costs.

The first resources that should be developed are those that produce food and water in order to sustain the population. Natural Heritage Cooperation is in development of technologies that are perfectly suited to these conditions. The major resource available is likely to be the ocean and its mineral rich deep water. Having chosen an island capable of being developed for deep ocean water agriculture is essential for the success of the operation. You would need enough land to cultivate soil and crop production using Dr. Craven's methods. You would use the same methods employed at Keahole Point on the Big Island of Hawaii that have proven food can be produced under adverse conditions such as low rainfall and copious sunshine. Fresh drinking water would also be produced using Dr. Craven's ocean water technologies. Abundant marine life resources would have to be exploited for food production as well. It is possible to sustain life on an island with the minimum physical resources.

Once the island was operating at a level of production that ensured human survival then we could utilize other resources as a means of increasing economic viability. Ocean cables would have to be brought in to connect our country to the world electronically. Then we could utilize the political freedoms to influence other entities to involve themselves with our project. The island could be used as a data haven where all electronic transmissions travelling through our territory would be legally protected for optimum privacy. We could offer legal regulations similar to offshore havens that are used by corporations for financial security (many countries offer their laws as protection against intervention from outside entities such as the Cayman Islands). The country could eventually be used as a desirable launching facility for a floating city type platform. This would allow residents another alternative for living. The possibilities are endless. The chief thing to consider is that we would have to offer laws and legal services of

extraordinary advantage to outsiders in order to induce them to chose our country as a base rather than the other havens that are available around the globe.

Once the operation was running successfully we could bring the same freedoms and advantages to other areas around the globe in the form of embassies. Embassies are land and structures owned in another sovereign country where the embassy country has full legal governance of the territory. I see the possibility of greatly enlarging the size of the land under control by the island nation through methods similar to this. For example, the island nation could pay Papua New Guinea a large sum of money in order for then to grant the island nation one of its outlying islands as a large territory that functioned as an embassy. The island could eventually be incorporated into the island nations officially when the time was right. There are many possibilities. Freedom to act as a sovereign government is the key to the entire operation.

I foresee the possibility of this island nation being included eventually into international organizations such as the U.N. as an equal nation. What is the great difference between a country like Nauru and what I propose here? Perhaps one day by turn of fortune a representative of this country could make its ideas known to the world through assembly with other nations. In is even conceivable that the random selection of the U.N. security council could find this country's representative a member of the most powerful and respected committee in the world today. It would be refreshing to hear this representative give voice to the ideas that many in the international arena can not find the courage to speak about, but that need saying, in such an important venue.

The idea is simple. Freedom will become even more valuable in the near future. The best way to secure these freedoms is by gaining sovereign status as an island nation. The technology to support such as island nation is there. The possibilities for using the freedom are numerous. The ability to gain voice with these international organizations is valuable. There is good reason to pursue the course advocated here. It remains to be carried out.

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