

INVISIBLE

RESISTANCE TO

TYRANNY

How to Lead a Secret Life of Insurgency in an Increasingly Unfree World

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INVISIBLE RESISTANCE TO TYRANNY

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*Invisible Resistance to Tyranny:
How to Lead a Secret Life of Insurgency in an Increasingly Unfree World*
by Jefferson Mack

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C H A P T E R 1

A TERRORIST WAKE-UP CALL TO WAR

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government.

Declaration of Independence
Second Continental Congress
July 4, 1776

They came out of a morning sky, American commercial aircraft piloted by religious fanatics who had hijacked four planes loaded with innocent passengers. Within hours almost 5,000 American men, women, and children were suddenly dead, murdered in a vicious act of terrorism that wrenched us all into a new kind of war. It is a war in which every individual American suddenly finds him- or herself on the front lines, the possible target for the next act of terror the enemy chooses to launch.

We have no way of knowing how long this fight will continue, how many more acts of terrorism we will suffer, or what sacrifice we will have to make to defeat our enemy. What we do know is that we will prevail.

We will not win because of our great wealth, scientific know-how, or sophisticated military machinery. We will certainly not win because of our political leaders' courage, strength, intelli-

prise attack. The attack on the United States on September 11, 2001, was a pure act of terror.

True Freedom Fighters Don't Kill the Innocent

A terrorist will commit acts of extreme violence in an attempt to force an enemy to act in the way he desires. The theory behind acts of terror is that ordinary people, frightened by the terror, will force their government to give in to the political demands of the people committing the terrorism. Acts of terrorism are always committed by unpopular political groups who can't achieve their goals through peaceful means or military action. Unable to win by diplomacy or waging war, they turn to acts of terrorism, hoping to further their cause by making the whole world their enemy.

The problem is, it doesn't work. It almost always has the opposite effect. It scares the civilian populations to the point where they will applaud any action their government takes to counter the terrorism, even if it means almost total loss of their own personal freedom.

We've have seen how miserably the theory of terrorism failed on September 11, 2001. Never, since the attack on Pearl Harbor 60 years before, have we seen Americans and their political leaders so united in a single common cause. We have seen how miserably it failed after the bombing of the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, when the federal government enjoyed wide-ranging approval to further curtail the rights of Americans who had nothing to do with that crime.

People who love and fight for freedom do not commit acts of terror, ever! Anyone who truly believes in freedom can never condone or participate in any act of terror. A freedom fighter, whether operating as part of an army or alone and in secret, will only consider committing acts of violence as a last-resort measure, when the situation has deteriorated to the point where civilians are being killed by a government out of control.

Those fighting for freedom want only to convince governments to leave them alone to enjoy freedom. When terrorists refuse to leave free people alone, freedom fighters respond with acts of war, not terror. The brave civilians on United Flight 93 committed the first act of war in response to the terrorism of September 11, 2001. Those heroes pointed the way, showing how each one of us, acting as a free individual, can help wage the war on terrorists, just as free individuals can wage war against tyrants.

Individual Resistance to Terrorism and Tyranny Starts with One Free Human Being

Every freedom-loving individual has a role to play in the fight against tyranny and terrorism. Acts of invisible resistance to both tyranny and terrorism occur when individuals—acting without direction or guidance from any leader—resist, obstruct, frustrate, expose, and interfere with tyrants and terrorists and those who actively support or execute the orders of tyrants and terrorists.

Individuals involved in invisible resistance act alone or in cooperation with a few trusted friends or others who also face the same immediate risks. They pick their own targets or, in the case of terrorism, their targets pick them. They choose their own form of action depending upon the opportunities available and individual abilities and limitations.

Individual Resistance to Terrorism— the Easy Part of the Equation

Individual resistance to terrorism requires the same mindset that we use when defending ourselves against criminal attack. Smart ordinary citizens don't go looking for criminals to attack; indeed, they do everything within reason to avoid any contact with criminals. We avoid dark streets and other places where criminals are likely to lurk. We put locks on our doors, keep a watch on those around us, especially when dealing with strangers, and we arm and prepare ourselves to handle criminal

attack should it occur. When criminals do attack, brave men and women fight back. We also cooperate with police authorities when we have information on criminal activities.

Those of us who want to do our part to resist terrorism will go about our daily lives and hope that we never actually have to deal with a terrorist. At the same time, we will be alert to the fact that they are out there, that they are planning more attacks, and that any one of us might suddenly find him- or herself in a situation in which how one reacts may not only mean the difference between one's own life and death but the lives of thousands of our fellow citizens.

Invisible resistance to terrorism consists of three basic rules of action:

1. Do every thing possible to ensure you do not become a victim of a terrorist.
2. If, despite those efforts, you find yourself involved in a terrorist action or engaged with anyone you suspect intends to commit an act of terror, be prepared to do everything possible to frustrate the will of the terrorist, including the use of deadly resistance.
3. Demand that our political leaders give full attention to fulfilling their oath of office to defend our country against such acts in ways consistent with the U.S. Constitution.

The terrorists who carried out the attacks on September 11, 2001, were living among us. While the pundits have talked about possible failures by our government in identifying them beforehand, there must have been many situations in which a *single, alert citizen* could have frustrated their plans. It might have been an airport security guard, an alert airline agent, a suspicious neighbor, a hotel clerk, or even a waitress or taxi driver.

We have to admit that none of us suspected that such things would ever happen. Now we are warned. Therefore, every one of us must go about our daily lives aware that someone we meet

along the way may be planning to commit an act of terror. We are already seeing evidence that Americans are intent on resisting terrorism. Crop duster pilots are taking key parts of their planes home at night. People on fishing trips are watching who might be dumping what in a reservoir. Citizens across the country are buying gas masks, water filters, medicines, and firearms. Many are changing travel plans by driving a car instead of flying so that they can always go armed, ready to resist with deadly force if necessary.

Our political leaders are also reacting. They know that we will hold them to their promises to find and punish those responsible as well as those who harbor and support them. We have made it clear that should they fail to do so, we will take our revenge on them at election time.

We will endure and we will defeat the campaign of terror that has been launched against us. But when that job is done, we will still have the problem of the drift of our country into democratic mob tyranny.

Individual Resistance to Tyranny— the Difficult Part of the Equation

Once we have identified, punished, or neutralized those responsible for the events of September 11, we will have a much more difficult problem to deal with—the problem of what has happened to freedom in our own country. The part that any ordinary citizen will play in the fight against terrorism depends on luck of the draw, with most of us having little or no opportunity to act at all except to live our lives without fear, but every one of us can take action against democratic mob tyranny.

Prior to September 11, 2001, those willing to fight for freedom had concluded that the greatest danger to our freedom was the drift into democratic mob tyranny deliberately manipulated by our own political leaders. We rightly understood that the enemies we must fear most are not the ones on a foreign shore but the enemies of freedom inside our own borders.

Now, even when we are under attack from a foreign source,

INVISIBLE RESISTANCE TO TYRANNY

drugs goes down while availability goes up. Anybody who wants to smoke pot, shoot smack, or do a bit of ecstasy can do so any place in the United States.

The people who tout the totalitarian principle of gun control keep telling us that the majority of Americans want some kind of restriction on private firearm ownership. The number of laws that have already been passed limiting gun ownership is staggering, and new laws create whole classes of new criminals who refuse to comply with them. They don't surrender their assault rifles in California, they carry concealed weapons without bothering to register, and they buy guns from underground sources by the thousands.

So what! No majority in a free country has the right to take away the freedoms of any minority. That's what freedom is all about, and owning a gun is a damn good way to help make sure nobody starts interfering with your personal freedom. As long as the people who understand and believe that principle insist on keeping their guns, no matter what the law says, we are going to be able to keep them.

Bad Citizens Get Good Laws

After years of steadily spiraling upward, our taxes are finally starting to come down. That's not because it's what Congress and the president really want. They have no choice. Americans used to be pretty good taxpayers until things got out of hand and the government became a leviathan of inefficiency, corruption, and unbridled power. Many of our fellow citizens finally woke up and realized that the political frauds in Congress were financing a power trip on the backs of the taxpayers.

So a whole lot of taxpayers have turned into bad citizens. They figure every angle, both legal and illegal, to reduce their own taxes. We are now a nation of tax avoiders and evaders. Every increase in the tax structure is matched or exceeded by losses as more ordinary middle class citizens figure out ways to

WHO WANTS TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN WITH A BAD GOVERNMENT?

cheat on their taxes. Millions of Americans and more millions of illegal immigrants work off the books and never file a tax return on what they earn. Others report income the government already knows about but don't report any income the IRS won't learn about through their vicious 1099 forms. The elected officials' only choice is to try and convince us through lowering tax rates that things are fair once again. It's another example of bad citizens making good government.

Think of all the other laws that are regularly violated in this country by hundreds of thousands of Americans. Every day across the country, Americans by the thousands

- hire illegal aliens;
- pay for sex with prostitutes;
- engage in illegal gambling;
- produce, trade in, or use illegal drugs;
- drive with no driver's license or liability insurance;
- poach wildlife;
- use insider information when buying stocks;
- work without required professional licenses;
- drive after having a few drinks;
- smuggle goods to avoid states sale taxes;
- operate illegal radio stations;
- ignore copyright laws by making copies of favorite movies;
- shoot off illegal fireworks on the Fourth of July;
- spank their kids;
- cheat on their income taxes;
- let their teenage children drink wine at the dinner table; and
- carry concealed weapons without a permit.

You might not personally approve of all of these illegal activities. Neither do I. But each example demonstrates how much we are a nation of bad citizens. That's why we still have as much freedom as we do. If more Americans start doing this kind of thing, maybe our politicians will finally begin to under-

stand that you can't take an American's freedom away and make it stick.

Our Political Leaders Have Made Us All Criminals

In the modern United States, our federal and state leaders impose so many laws, restrictions, regulations, and requirements on us that government enforcers can build a criminal case against almost anyone they have identified as a serious threat to their continued hold on power. You don't even have to be a real threat to them if they can use you as an example to show their power over the rest of us. Look what happened to the family of Randy Weaver and the followers of David Koresh.

Let any politician, political appointee, law enforcement officer, or other government supremacist discover that you openly advocate limited constitutional government and you will immediately be labeled a terrorist, a gun nut, a racist, a right-wing extremist, or some other hateful epithet that puts you in a category of people deserving the full weight of government violence. Once you have been demonized, then they will start looking for some law violation that you probably didn't even know existed. It may be the IRS, OSHA, FCC, DEA, BATE, or the local sheriff out to bust you for a violation of the building code or sanitation laws, but someone will eventually be coming after you.

Every Bad Citizen Is an Invisible Resister of Tyranny

No government can arrest 20 percent of its population, shoot 25 percent of its workforce, or hire every third citizen as a police officer. In even the most tyrannical regime, any individual who decides to avoid and evade the government will be able to achieve a much greater degree of personal freedom than those who openly confront it. Sadly, I know human nature well enough to conclude that many people are too frightened to take

even the minimal risks involved in being a bad citizen of a tyrannical government.

But let's suppose that 5 or maybe even 10 percent of the citizens in any unfree country decided that they would not only maximize their own personal freedom but would begin resisting the leaders who took their freedoms away in every way possible short of initiating violence. How long could any government survive if that many people, acting independently and without organization, started to commit invisible acts of resistance against their oppressors?

For anyone living in a country where politicians limit personal freedom, learning to be a bad citizen is just the first step to greater freedom. It gets one used to defying authority, ignoring orders, and looking out for oneself instead of the political frauds who take freedom away. More important perhaps, it gets a person used to acting in secret, covertly doing things that improve his personal situation while screwing up the system. He also learns to be proud of what he is doing, but without having to brag about it.

The very essence of becoming an invisible resister to tyranny is to avoid drawing the attention of the enemy while going about the business of maximizing one's own personal freedom. An invisible resister to tyranny looks for every opportunity to withhold cooperation and to engage in secret acts of civil disobedience in ways that keep the enforcers from identifying the offender. Just how far one will go in ignoring or breaking the law in striving to maximize freedom is a personal choice that must be made by every individual.

What It Takes to Be Invisible

Those engaged in invisible resistance are invisible because they are living peaceful, happy, and successful lives without drawing the unfriendly attention of any government agent. They have learned to play the system to their own personal

advantage. To all outside observers they appear to be living an ordinary life. They go to work and have good reputations with their employers, or they run a business with contented customers. They live in comfortable homes, drive safe vehicles, have a happy home life, get along with neighbors, and pay their just debts. They carry driver's licenses, and they have Social Security numbers, checking and savings accounts, investments, and credit cards. They even file tax returns and pay income tax on at least part of what they make.

They never deliberately call public attention to themselves, and they only provide personal information when there is a clear economic advantage for doing so or there is an unavoidable legal requirement. Even so, their names will be in the national databases because there is almost no way to live well in modern American without that happening. However, if government agents look in those databases for their names, all they will find will be evidence of legitimate economic activity. There will be no reports of arrests, convictions, or outstanding warrants; no bankruptcies, civil suits, or bad credit dealings.

This is the secret of invisible resistance to tyranny. Those who understand it will be able to move through society without making any waves, even though they are ignoring or breaking dozens of laws. They can travel in any direction with no fear of interference. They can pass through a government checkpoint with no more than a nod from the officer checking their documents. They can engage in any activity inside the walls of their own home or any space they control with no fear of discovery.

They may be hiding fugitives in their bedrooms, plotting schemes in their dining rooms, building outlawed guns in their basements, or running a spy ring to collect evidence of political corruption. Yet no matter what they do in secret, no one outside their immediate circle of fellow invisible resisters will have any reason to suspect them of being anything but peaceful, law-abiding citizens.

A Note on Terrorism

Of course, passing as good citizens is exactly what the terrorists responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon did while they waited for the final day. But the way to attack terrorism is not to stamp out the freedom of millions of citizens. No matter how many laws are passed to control and track our finances, communications, employment, entertainment, and use of the Internet, motivated terrorists and criminals will still be able to hide among us as ordinary people. Terrorism can only be stopped by hitting it at its source (i.e., those who command and finance the activity) or at its point of attack, or by eliminating the conditions that turn people toward terrorism. All laws that try to limit mobility and communication only limit the freedom of peaceful, law-abiding citizens while making it easier for terrorists and criminals. The best example of how this works are the many unconstitutional gun control laws that practically guarantee that only criminals and terrorists will be armed while their victims remain unarmed and virtually defenseless.

Freedom lovers who learn how to live free while remaining invisible are in an excellent position to take action against terrorism should the happenstances of life place them in a position where they can fight against it. A terrorist will see such individuals in the same way a tyrant sees them—more sheep helplessly waiting for the slaughterer, not as dangerous threats ready and willing to fight back in every possible way.

1. One example of this took place in Monroe, North Carolina, in 1957, when the president of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was given a charter for an official National Rifle Association (NRA) gun club, where blacks were encouraged to learn armed self-defense. Some NAACP members used these skills on the night of October 5, 1957, when they fired in self-defense upon a large Ku Klux Klan motorcade that had arrived at the home of Dr. Albert Perry, a leading civil rights leader in that area.

FOUR STEPS
TO INVISIBLE
RESISTANCE

We obviously do not live in a free society when we have a government that forces us to pay taxes that are then used to feed the lazy, subsidize the lifestyles of the already wealthy, provide health care to the improvident, and finance the indoctrination of our own children. Our own money is also used to prohibit us from engaging in all sorts of activities from starting a business without some bureaucrat's permission to engaging in various recreational activities that would hurt no one but ourselves.

At the same time, we do not live in a totalitarian society in which government agents make all the personal decisions for every citizen. We can travel in any direction and buy or sell just about any product or service we want or can provide to others. Indeed, with the exception of paying taxes, the compulsory education of our children, and the tight control over medical care