

## USA -- Federal or National Government?

Kenneth W. Lent – *Faith of the Covenant Fellowship, Virginia*

Although we speak of America as being a "nation", that term has been loosely used without defining the lawful meaning of it as applied to our country. Most everyone is inclined to refer to America as a *nation* simply in the same way most people call any brand of facial tissue a "Kleenex". In every day conversation there is no harm in doing so, but for our purposes of unraveling what went wrong with American government, we must be more precise in our terminology when trying to gain an understanding. That includes defining what form of government our country was intended to be when established at the beginning of our Union.

The heading sentence of our Declaration of Independence of 1776 reads: "*The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America*". Please carefully note that the word "united" is not capitalized, but States of America is capitalized. By law, it was simply "the States united". At the time of the writing of the Declaration there was no United States. In the last paragraph of that document we read, "... *the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States*".

The people of the American colonies knew that they were free born into Rights given from God and for that reason their colonial union was an association of Independent States, run locally by natural born persons. Upon winning the War for Independence, Congress assembled to spell out the terms of that union in a contract called "The Articles of Confederation and perpetual Union". Article One stated, "*The stile of this confederacy shall be 'The United States of America.'*" (Note now the use of the term United States of America – a confederacy) A federation was formed for friendly security among the Independent States with the State governments themselves having only delegated powers as being servants of the natural born people.

Under this contract for the federation now called *The United States of America*, Article Two stated, "*Each State retains its sovereignty, freedom, and independence ---*". So under the true and lawful "United States of America", a confederated union, there is no such thing as a national government. Next, Article Three explained the reason for this federation called The United States of America, "*The said States hereby severally enter into a firm league of friendship with each other, for their common defense, the security of their liberties, and their mutual and general welfare ---*"

Technically, at law the new union of the United States of America was not that of a nation over the States, and moreover the people did not want a superior nation over the States. Our law clearly stipulates a difference between a federal government and a national government. By original American law each State is of its own accord a national government, ruling within its own jurisdiction. If the States absolved themselves of their own sovereign power and then created a union where a central government would rule over all the States as one collective body --- that would be a national government

superimposed over the States. A federal government is a federation of States that are independent of each other in power, but join in a compact to agree on certain mutual benefits where they help each other. (see Black's Law Dictionary, 4th ed. pg. 1176). The *United States of America* was forever to remain a federation of Independent States run by natural born persons, such persons delegated from the States creating a federal government to act as a board of consensus to air out agreements. This is true both of the union under the Articles and the union under the Constitution. The primary focus was Godly self government by local people.

Today the once federal government of Washington D.C., without any lawful authority to do so, has assumed the power of a national government, thus changing the intent of the United States Constitution – a document for a federation, a federal document.

Many who fault the U.S. Constitution as being the source of our central government woes have probably not grasped this difference between Federal and National. Although we have become a nation known generically and casually as the United States of America, the Constitution never did allow for it, at least not in using “national” as our government at law. Demographically or geographically it has become acceptable to describe our county of America as a nation, and no harm is really done in every day conversation. But when it comes to our form of law, careful distinction must be made between “national” and “federal” or we can (and did) quickly lose our liberties to an onslaught of un-American legislation resulting from a misunderstanding of these terms. America may be a nation, casually speaking, but it does not (lawfully at least) have a national government.

The claim that "we were fine under the Articles of Confederation" but "gave our rights away" under the Constitution is erroneous. The Constitution did not create another **form** of government different from the one organized by the Article of Confederation, a federation. The Constitution was merely an extension of the organic law intent of those Articles. The preamble of the Constitution says in part, "*We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union ---- do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America*" (the distinct name of the union designated in the Articles of Confederation – namely a federal union of Sovereign States).

Therefore we see that the Constitution did not make a separate or different Union, but a more perfect Union. More perfect from what? More perfect from the Union already in existence under the Articles of Confederation, which itself was an expansion of the Christian law of the several Colonies. To insure that this was the case, Article VI of the U.S. Constitution declares, "*All debts contracted and Engagements entered into, before the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.*" What prior engagements? The engagements of Christian law entered into between the Colonies as separate States that form the background of organic law upon which this country was founded. Therefore, Article VI of the U.S. Constitution incorporates into the Union all of the previous Christian law of the colonies which preceded the Constitution's ratification in 1789.

The Constitution's Amendments IX and X clarify that it is the Independent States and the natural people governing those States who retain Rights (Divine in nature) and Powers. Plus the Preamble in the first place announces that the Union is still that of The United States of America, known only then to be that term originating within the Articles of Confederation.

The necessity for the Constitution (1787 - 1789) arose from the fact that the people saw that there were certain needs of cooperation between the States of which the Articles of Confederation (1776) were shortsighted (such as a more uniform money system, well maintained post office, patent protection for inventors, inter state roads, inter state commerce, etc.) so they expanded their agreements with some new considerations under the Constitution. The federation Congress decided it would be more expedient to write a new document (the Constitution), instead of inserting all manner of amended tedious paragraphs into the Articles of Confederation, but they were very careful to not absolve the federal form of government already in existence, nor create an agency of a national government over the states which could endanger the existence of the federation.

The heated debate over the Constitution, and the fears that many had of it in those debates, was not over fear of a federal government, but questioned if the new Constitution would replace the already existent federation of States with a contract for a national government. After exhausting deliberation the Constitution was accepted by the majority of representatives because they saw that it did not contract for a national government. It was the following generations which forgot the keen difference between the terms "federal and national" that resulted in abuses of the Constitution and insertion of nationalistic amendments. These nationally oriented amendments, contrary to the intent of the federal Constitution, have turned the document into something never meant to be --- an excuse to advance a powerful central national government oblivious to the natural rights of the sovereign Independent States (the people).

Originally, the United States Constitution with its Bill of Rights (10 Amendments) was a noble document that served us well for a period of time prior to 1860, until additional amendments beyond the first 10 began to be added. The true and original amendment process was intended to bolster any oversight of that document's original intent of providing a way to protect the sovereignty of the States and the God given rights of the natural born people. "Future" amendments to the Constitution were to be for the purpose of bringing the federation more into alignment with Nature's God and righteous government, not to distance the government away from The Almighty's laws.

However, the amendment process took a turn for the worse and began destroying the original intent of the federation, making a powerful central national government over the States through Washington D.C. As the decades passed, the national scope of Washington D.C. became more and more anti-Bible, and more and more usurping in jurisdictional considerations. It no longer saw itself as a moderator of a federation of sovereign States, which it was supposed to be, but saw itself as a ruler over the States which created it.

Time does not permit here the ‘endless’ details of the political evolution that took place, but before too long Washington D.C. underwent a major face lift and identity change. It went from being given the upper and lower case letter name (in the proper Christian English language grammar) of the "United States of America" by the Articles of Confederation and Constitution, to taking upon itself the fictitious legal name of the "THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" (all upper case) which it now uses to enforce its regulations over the States in its court system. While the people slept, Washington D.C. had fornicated with the world hidden government Mystery Babylon the Great Whore warned about in the Scriptures at Revelation chapters 17 and 18. As far as I have been able to research, the all upper case (all caps) title of the national government came into use in the administration of FDR. Some leftist legal gurus of that era must have certainly known the ramifications of that usage.

During 1776 – 1800 the States had created a humble federal servant (Congress) with very limited power at a federal Congressional location for the purpose of hashing out interstate agreements within their (the States’) league of friendship. That league of friendship of States under both the Articles of Confederation and the original Constitution truly was the Christian Commonwealth form of government described by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians chapter two of The Holy Scriptures. It has now been usurped by a national Frankenstein monster out of control. The original Constitution provides for no national government! Yet to our demise Washington D.C. is presently operating a national government in the enforcement of its many policies. The true understanding of the difference between the words “federal” and “national” could have gone a long way in preventing the ruin of our once great Christian Constitutional Republic. It would presently be advisable to grasp and retain that difference for the work of restoring righteous rule after God Almighty has dealt America the appointed punishment upon our *national* government, which holy indignation surely will leave little remaining of our present “system” from coast to coast. Get ready and stay prepared!