

TACTICS AND PREPAREDNESS

SKILLS AND SURVIVAL FOR ALL SITUATIONS



COACHING SHOOTERS

CHUNK AND PRIORITIZE

Author (in front of red wall) participating in experimental Department of Defense hostage rescue training.

BY CHRIS GRAHAM

Since I was honorably discharged from active duty more than a decade ago, I have worked as an independent contractor.

Originally, I primarily provided “operational support” to high threat security operations in foreign hot spots for the U.S. government and secondarily I provided instruction. Over the years I transitioned to primarily providing instruction, and only occasionally providing operational support.

I have trained SWAT and other law en-

forcement personnel across the country. Some were good shooters, some were not, most were in between. I have trained DOD personnel that ranged from well-conditioned special operations veterans to less experienced guys that never had better than mediocre firearms training previously, and worse yet, some that *thought* they were well trained and skilled, but were not.

Some did not recognize how much room we each have for improvement. I have trained many hundreds of guys from multiple agencies and for multiple specialized missions. Sometimes I have a free hand to provide the best firearms training I can for up to a 10-day block within a five- or six-week course. Most times agencies want me to execute their spe- *continued next page*

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Coaching skills are at least equally important to shooting skills for a firearms instructor, but are much more frequently neglected or under appreciated.

cific and unique curriculum adhering to their tactics and SOPs. But other than my training program at 3010pistol.com, I exclusively train government shooters. This has provided me an interesting opportunity for detailed study of different tactics, and different schools of thought. This has also given me the opportunity to work with instructors from all U.S. special operations communities, and a range of other specialists, and pick their brains.

This experience has created several categories of shooters and instructors in my mind. I see untrained, basic, intermediate and advanced shooters. I subdivide "advanced" shooters into top ten percent and top one percent shooters. A Max Michel, and a Frank Garcia are examples of what I consider top one percent shooters that I have had the privilege of training with. They have expended major blocks of time over the course of their lives to full time training, they were shrewd with the methods they used, they constantly sought to improve them, and they were tested and ranked in a competitive arena. If you think of all the shooters in America, we are blessed with many millions of gun owners. Many were "self-trained" or trained by a family member who may have been well intended, but may also have been limited in either their own shooting ability or their ability to coach. We have many more than a million living current and former soldiers and Marines who received mediocre firearms training that often-permitted sloppiness so long as minimum safety standards and qualification scores were met (and we have many airmen and sailors who have received negligible firearms training).

Law enforcement agencies are similar. Some departments and agencies tightly control training in the hands of leadership who do not have the insights of personal highly skilled shooting experience. Some display antipathy for officers and agents who see room for improvement and discourage outside training and competition. Recruits from highly sought demographics are, too often, "assisted" in passing basic firearms qualifications rather than being forced to put in the time and effort necessary to legitimately meet standards with the real assistance of a skilled coach.

To my perspective, the top 10 percent of shooters is represented by at least the top half of all shooters participating in most of your local matches. Patrol officers and agents that pursue outside training and even occasionally compete are often 10 percenters. I suspect that by empirical standards, most gun owners that have attended a shooting school and most police officers are 10 percenters, but I categorize a little more stringently. Many SWAT personnel are top 10 percenters and many military special operations personnel who have attended some of DODs higher quality specialized shooting packages are top 10 percenters to my perspective.

No matter how you cut it, the top 10 percent is an attainable goal for anyone willing to put in some daily dry fire time (with skilled coaching) and a willingness to shoot a couple of matches, regardless of what their professional training includes. Ten percenters who continually strive for better are on the path to one percent, even when sufficiently self-aware to recognize whether the speed



Good coaching requires much more attentiveness to the shooter than to the target.

of their progress will get them there or not.

The second part of the equation of shooting skills is coaching. Coaching skills are at least equally important to shooting skills for a firearms instructor, but are much more frequently neglected or under appreciated. Putting it another way, the best shooting skills I learned came from modeling great shooters. The best firearms instruction skills I have learned came from modeling Dr. Milton Erickson and Dr. Richard Bandler.

Not too long ago, I was the lead instructor on a crash course on terrorism and personal security for DOD personnel. One of the assistant instructors was a highly skilled shooter who had years of experience serving in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit and had a great deal of competition experience. I gave him 13 students and one hour to execute the best Glock 19 live fire training iteration possible with minimal limitations or guidance (they already had an hour of dry fire with him). He spoke for fifty minutes. When I signaled him, he had 10 minutes left they had not yet fired a round. He conveyed valid and useful information and he could demonstrate a high level of shooting proficiency, but on that day and at that time, he did not demonstrate great coaching. To my perspective, it is easy to overload people prior to giving them the opportunity to practice and internalize a skill. I like to ask people to do a very small number of things

with a great deal of specificity and then give them the opportunity to do them, and do them cleanly, before I ask anything more of them.

When I train a group, their firearms package is often a consolidated block of time (e.g., an hour, a day, etc.). Even when I have a group for multiple weeks and their firearms package totals 10 days, for example, agencies typically schedule 10 consolidated days of firearms training. This is unfortunate.

Before I train anyone with firearms, they have to demonstrate that they can recall and apply safety rules. Most agencies use something similar to: "Treat all firearms as if they are loaded, never point a weapon at anything you are not willing to destroy, keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you are ready to fire, keep your weapon on safe until you are ready to fire, and be sure of your target, its' foreground and background."

What we do next depends on the amount of time I have them. In many cases, we spend the bulk of our time attempting to condition in cleaner habits than the sloppiness and inconsistency they were previously told was "good" up to this point.

We start with dry fire when possible. There is not a lot of point to throwing bullets down range before movements and processes are clean. We also start out moving slowly. I want to see perfectly efficient movement, perfectly

sequenced, without any wasted motion before I want to see any speed.

Dry and live, I will typically discuss sight alignment, sight picture and smooth, efficient trigger use and then fire a small number of rounds focused on only that. In an ideal world, we would not move on to a new subject until this was executed 100 percent cleanly, 100 percent of the time, but no matter what, I don't introduce anything new until they have had the chance to hear this, then do this. Then we discuss grip and shoot some more focused on sights, trigger, *and* grip perfection. Then we discuss stance and shoot with a stance we agree on, retaining every previous subject.

We then discuss presenting the pistol from position three to four (high center chest pointed at the target to full presentation) and efficient use of the trigger through this movement. We then do this. Again, the ideal is to only add more after this is executed 100 percent cleanly 100 percent of the time.

Next, I demo and talk through presenting and shooting from position one (shooting hand already gripping the pistol in the holster perfectly and non-firing hand already in position at their chest ready to marry up to the firing hand). We then do it.

Finally, we will start with hands relaxed and down and move through a full, clean draw stroke to shot and follow through. Each piece is discussed and demonstrated in small

chunks and they are asked to perform each task prioritizing the smallest possible number of conscious tasks. We do not add any demands until the previous skills are internalized. I follow a similar process for each other skill. Combat reloads, immediate action, etc. are all broken down similarly. I find this to be the most direct route from unconscious incompetence to conscious incompetence to conscious competence and finally to unconscious competence.

I do not randomly pick a sub-skill “chunk” to start with. I evaluate the student, the overall training objective, the resources and environment, and myself to prioritize which chunk will be most appropriate to start with and what logical sequence is likely to deliver the best results.

This is not the norm. Firearms training is commonly consolidated. If you are going to receive 16 hours of pistol training in a multi-hundred or thousand-hour course, it will commonly be scheduled with the sixteen hours delivered in two eight-hour training days. We can generally deliver significantly superior results providing one hour of training over 16 days rather than 16 hours of training in two days. The mind gets many more iterations of integration (thinking of other things, sleep-

ing, etc. then returning/resetting to carry out the skill in question over 16 days). Dividends are paid for mastering sub-skills before adding any additional tasks. In some ways it is like isolating a muscle during a workout and it is related to the idea of learning to walk before you run.

When I train firearms instructors for the U.S. government, I am sensitive to the fact that they are often constrained by a canned syllabus. I am aware that they are often given a schedule that they must conform to. When you give a day of firearms instruction, you can either talk for a few hours and shoot for a few hours, or you can talk for a period of minutes, practice a skill, talk for a few minutes and practice the skill with an added complication, talk for a few more minutes, then practice that cumulative skill with an additional complication and so on. One technique produces a much cleaner shooter than the other one does.

If you are untrained, basic training with a local NRA instructor can get you up to speed on understanding and applying safety rules and handling a firearm. If you are already at that level then there are good, multi day courses offered in many states throughout the country (all instructors are not the same, however,

so exercise due diligence). With one of those behind you, some precise daily dry fire, and a couple of competitions under your belt, you will likely be in the top 10% and then it is up to you when it makes sense to seek out 1%ers to shoot with and how aggressively you want to move forward.

Coaching and instructing are separate skills from shooting that boil down to being equally attentive to the student as you are to the subject matter. These depend on your ability to communicate with a student, not the way that is “best” to communicate, but the way that is most effective to communicate with *them* (each individually), in *that* place, on *that* day. This is not what they say they like the best, it is what gets them the best results. I will close with a personal story: My Dad was a fighter pilot, a commercial pilot, and a flight instructor. He taught my mom to fly a Cessna. My parents divorced long ago. ✓

BIO

Chris Grabam is the former commander of a military anti-terrorism unit and serves as editor of Tactics and Preparedness. Visit his books and training products at www.ChrisGrabamAuthor.com.

GEAR REVIEW



KARGU

Kargu is a series of loitering munitions (suicide drones) currently advertising semi-autonomous or manual flight. The Kargu-2 is 15 pounds, can fly 90 miles per hour and can remain airborne for 30 minutes to deliver its’ warhead. It supports three different warheads: high-explosive fragmentation, thermobaric, and shaped charge. Each one weighs about three pounds and can be set for impact or airburst detonation. The manufacturer reports working on “swarming intelligence” so 20 can act autonomously, learn, decide and act as a swarm. Drones similar to these will likely annihilate tank formations, artillery batteries and infantry battalions the next time they mass for a major engagement. These are relatively low-cost weapons for nations and non-state actors to attack military and non-military targets. In the future they will likely be controlled by artificial intelligence. www.stm.com.tr/en

As a young boy, Emil Muller began to see the rise in anti-Semitism among his classmates.

He lost friends who became bitter foes after they joined the Hitler Youth where they were indoctrinated to hate Jews and blame them for the problems of the nation. Both of his parents came from large families and had been raised to help those in need, so they usually had one or more other relatives liv-

ing with them throughout his early life. In 1932, a law was passed that forbade the association of Jews with gentiles. His parents found it harder and harder to make a living and some of their relatives began immigrating to other countries as they saw the threat of National Socialism (Nazism) for what it was. Emil's mother believed that it would

blow over and she said that the German people were too cultured to harm children and old people.

Muller stated: "Hitler eliminated anyone who might one day oppose him; he wanted no competition, and his jealousy knew no bounds. He detested Jesus because he was born a Jew, he hated the church

LUCK OR DESTINY

WRITTEN BY **EMIL MULLER** | SUMMARY BY **JOHN STEVENSON**



German soldiers parade past the Royal Palace in Brussels, 1940.



**Hitler Youth,
indoctrinated to hate.**

because of its enormous influence on the people. Henceforth, he would be the 'Aryan messiah.'

On October 28, 1938 the Muller family were awakened by police at 5 a.m. Emil and his father were given two minutes to be dressed and downstairs. They were marched off with hundreds of other people, loaded onto trucks and driven to a warehouse in the outskirts of Berlin. From there, the Jews were loaded onto a waiting cargo train.

When the train arrived, it was after midnight and they were marched into a pitch-

black forest. The prisoners realized that the guards were no longer beside them, but only behind the line as the procession was marched across the no-man's land between Germany and Poland. They were caught between certain death behind them in Germany and several confused but well-armed Polish border guards in front of them.

Caught in between the proverbial rock and hard place they decided to stand still as they waited for dawn. After sunrise, Polish soldiers arrived to guide the new refugees to a holding facility. Over 6,000 Jewish

refugees were crowded into the space. The prisoners were neglected and left without food or drinking water nor a way to escape the harsh cold for several days until trucks loaded with bread arrived at the facility.

The supplies had been provided by the Jewish-Polish community and the trucks returned day after day providing the life-saving food. The Jews were allowed to go into the town to buy food and other necessities with the warning that the town was surrounded and there would be harsh punishment if they tried to escape.

One day, a man offered Emil and his father his kitchen floor to sleep on, for a small fee. They agreed and slept on the man's floor, next to the stove and were warm for the first time in many nights. They were able to send a cable to Emil's mother back in Berlin to let her know that they were alive. She, in turn, sent them some money to buy necessities.

They met a Jewish citizen of Poland who offered to help them escape from the town. He gave them instructions to come to a house that he showed them that evening after dark. If there was a horse-drawn hay wagon sitting in front of the house, talk to the driver, he was the man to smuggle them out.

Emil was glad to have his father with him. His father had fought in the German army for almost five years during the First World War. His experience and calmness in the face of danger and adversity were essential in their time together in Poland.

When night fell, they went to the waiting wagon. Emil sat on the front seat of the wagon and was told to pretend to be the driver's son while his father and another man hid under the hay in the back of the wagon. It wasn't long before they were approached by two Polish guards who started to question them as they poked into the pile of hay with their bayonets. Fortunately, the smuggler had a bottle of liquor that he offered to them as a distraction. It worked and they were allowed to pass on.

They traveled to the town of Groszwich where it had been arranged for them to meet another Jewish family who could offer them further assistance. The Rosenbergs set them up with a man who offered a long-distance taxi service and gave them the name of an aunt who lived in Kalisz which was generally in the direction that they wanted to go.

They made it to Kalisz where the aunt gave them lodgings for the night. Early the next morning the Mullers and their compan-



Civilians flee Belgium as British soldiers walk past.

Emil was trapped in Belgium behind German lines. He looked Aryan and German was his native tongue, and he used these advantages to gather information for British intelligence.

ion took a bus to Łódź where Adler (the companion) had some family that they could all stay with.

Emil and his father stayed for a short while, then parted from Adler with mixed emotions. The two Mullers boarded a bus to Krakow to find some distant relatives and some old friends from Emil's father's army days. When they arrived in Krakow, Emil and his father had just enough money to purchase two bowls of soup before they settled down to sleep on the front step of a building.

Emil remembered that he had met a girl from Krakow while on holiday in the resort town of Kryniza. Taking a chance, he went to her house and was welcomed in with open arms. Emil was allowed to stay with her and her parents in a wealthy section of the city while his father stayed with friends around town.

Emil's mother cabled instructions to send Emil to stay with two of her cousins in the town of Nowy Sącz. Emil was placed on a bus to his relatives and his father remained in Krakow since there was only enough money to buy Emil's ticket.

About two hours into his journey to Nowy Sącz, the bus broke down and the driver announced that everyone was on their own. The passengers

drifted off into the night one by one.

Emil determined to follow the final passenger even though he was too shy to ask for help. Eventually the man led him to a train station where a train stood ready to depart. Not having any money Emil hid on the rear platform of the train's last car. After a rather cold ride, the train arrived in the town of Brzesc. This happened to be the town in which his mother was born. His father had recently mentioned off-handedly that her cousin still lived there. Emil jumped off the train and set out for the town and tracked down his mother's cousin who took him in, fed him and bought him a train ticket to Nowy Sącz the next day.

Emil arrived in Nowy Sącz and was able to locate his relative's home. He was welcomed in and given a place to stay. He was able to remain with his family in town for several months during which time he received a letter from his mother. She told him that she had been able to leave Nazi Germany and move to Brussels where she was living with her brother and father. She was trying to gather money together to pay for Emil's transportation and travel documents to Belgium.

Eventually Emil was notified in a letter from his father in Krakow that the prepa-

rations had been made and that he needed to come to Krakow immediately. Emil had spent six months in Poland and as he reflected on his time there, he was torn between anger at the injustice that had forced him from his home, persecuted him and his family and forced their separation, and gratitude, appreciation and love for his large network of friends and family.

Upon arrival in Krakow, Emil's father gave him a fake Polish passport and student visa for Belgium. On the morning of April 20, 1939, Emil's train for Brussels departed. He had to leave his father in Krakow once again as there was only enough money to get him out.

The train travelled through Germany and into Belgium without incident and, the false papers withstood the scrutiny of the German immigration officers, the SS and the Belgian gendarmes.

Emil was reunited with his mother and several other relatives in Brussels where they lived comfortably for the next year.

Everything changed on May 10, 1940 when the Nazis attacked Belgium. As the bombing of Brussels began, Emil and his family opted to catch a train towards France in hopes of being able to cross the border. They were not alone in their idea to flee via train.

The main station in Brussels was filled to capacity with people trying to get to France. In the confusion and crush of the crowd, Emil and his five family members boarded a train but discovered too late that it was headed north towards the Belgian coast.

When they arrived in the town of LaPanne on the northern coast of Belgium, they encountered thousands of people attempting to cross into France. The entire mass of people were having to wait in order to have their documents inspected by the border guards. When they reached the front of the line they were told that they were not welcome in France because they were Jews.

Unable to get into France, Emil and his family returned to LaPanne. It wasn't long before the war found them. The Germans overran LaPanne. Emil and his family were trapped in Belgium behind German lines. With no way forward, Emil and his family returned to Brussels where they had an apartment and a business.

The Germans prioritized consolidating their gains over persecuting Jews for a while. They hid in plain sight. They established a business selling furs to German soldiers who were in Brussels for rest and recuperation.

As they were getting established, Emil's cousin, Edwige, came for a visit. When she was alone with Emil, she confided in him that she had been recruited into a British intelligence network and she would like him to supply her with any information that he could gather from the German soldiers who frequented their fur shop. She would come and collect the information that he gathered each time she came to visit and pass it along to England.

Emil looked Aryan and German was his native tongue, so the German soldiers were comfortable around him and tended to speak freely. When asked why he wasn't in the army, he offered the explanation that he'd been rejected for health reasons.

Emil set about keeping a log of the German insignias from the soldier's uniforms as well as lists of license plate numbers from each military vehicle that he saw. All of Emil's information was handed over to Edwige on her twice weekly visits. She would then combine this information with that of other assets in her network and pass it on.


Life fell into a routine and went on this way until some old warning signs started to re-emerge. The newspapers began to be filled with derogatory articles blaming the

Jews for the food shortages and inflation in Belgium. Their movements became more restricted and Emil found himself unable to gather information for his cousin any longer.


The Germans had invaded Russia and Emil had sometimes used the excuse that his parents were Russian when he was questioned as to why he wasn't in the German army. He knew that made him an enemy subject to arrest at any moment.

He explained this to his mother, but she was unwilling to go with him because she had to care for her father who was too old to undertake such a journey. She then reiterated her belief that the National Socialists wouldn't harm women, children or old people.

Being neither a Belgian citizen, nor a legal resident, Emil had to travel with a white identification card stamped with a big red



After a few moments of silent contemplation, the officer looked at Emil and said, "You have fifteen seconds to disappear. Remember, I have never seen you in my life!" Emil ran from the room and just managed to board his train pulling out of the station.



"J". As his train arrived at the French border, a German colonel from the border police detained Emil and brought him to a small room where he ordered Emil to strip off his clothes and be searched. Maintaining his presence of mind, Emil complied but threw his wallet on the table in front of the German officer making sure that it was open to a photograph of his father in his army uniform.

As he had hoped, the officer asked him about the photo and Emil explained that his father had fought as a volunteer for the German army for four and a half years in the First World War. After a few moments of silent contemplation, the officer looked at

Emil and said, "You have fifteen seconds to disappear. Remember, I have never seen you in my life!" Emil ran from the room and just managed to board his train pulling out of the station.

Arriving safely at the town of Lille, Emil was welcomed by family. They provided advice about the safest way to complete his trip and helped him secure a new identification card in the name "Pierre Collin" from the town of Maubeuge.

Emil set out by train for Amiens where he then would need to cross the Somme River to get into France. He had identification papers, but he still lacked the documents needed to grant him permission to travel. As the train arrived in Amiens, Emil jumped off and made his way into town in search of the Somme and a way across.

He encountered a man that he felt might assist him. He explained his situation to the stranger who agreed to help him for a small fee. The man lent Emil a work outfit so that he appeared to be a laborer and he told him to come down to the Somme where he was part of a work crew. There, he blended in with the workers until he could be smuggled across the river without being noticed.

On the French side, Emil set off into the woods until he came to a cornfield where he spent the night. When dawn came the next morning, Emil navigated his way to the train station and bought himself a ticket to Paris. He struck up a conversation with a single woman who was traveling to Paris with her small daughter. Using the lady and child as cover he was able to remain unnoticed while he waited for his train.

Emil's uncle Arnold lived in Paris and, thanks to a letter from his mother, he was expected.

Arnold took him in and confided to Emil that he had already begun planning their escape to unoccupied France.

Arnold had paid a smuggler that they met up with in a small town in the south of France. They were combined with another group of Jews from Belgium, given false identification papers and led to the border between occupied and unoccupied France where they were to cross. Alex, their guide, told them to lie down and wait until he gave a signal at which time they were all to get up and sprint across the border until he told them to stop. The signal was given and they ran until Alex signaled that they should stop and walk normally. Shortly thereafter they

came to a train station where they and their guide boarded a train to Nice.

Once in Nice, they set about the task of trying to get a travel visa to anywhere but Europe. They were told about a Frenchman who had a Chinese stamp that could be altered to appear to be a visa for Siam. They visited the man and for a fee he stamped their passports. Emil stated, "Now, with our supposed Indo-Chinese visas, we were able, again for a price, to obtain genuine transit visas for Spain, Mexico, and Cuba."

The final hurdle that Emil needed to get over was permission from the National Socialists to leave the country. Emil was a male of military age so he had to get a doctor's note certifying that he was chronically ill and unfit for the army or slave labor.

The only doctor who was trusted by the Nazis to issue such an exemption was a collaborator who had a reputation for rejecting medical excuses from every young man who came to him. The refugee community came up with a suggestion for Emil to try in order to fool the doctor. They suggested that he first go visit a doctor who was sympathetic and have him take chest x-rays which he then altered to make it look as if Emil had an enlarged heart. The doctor then wrote a report describing the symptoms of someone with a severe enlarged heart condition. Emil would then schedule an appointment with the Nazi doctor. Prior to the appointment Emil ran around Nice for two hours in the sun. He then was told to sprint up the two flights of stairs to the doctor's office so that he would be red-faced, perspiring heavily, and out of breath. He then was to tell the doctor that he was in this state of distress due to climbing the stairs, provide the falsified x-rays and doctor's report and hope that the Nazi doctor would believe that he was suffering from a serious heart condition and recommend that he be granted permission to leave the country.

Emil followed the instructions and the plan worked. He was granted permission from the Nazis to exit France and he and his fellow refugees were allowed to board a train for Barcelona, Spain. Once in Barcelona, Emil and his uncle Arnold began searching for a ship to carry them to Mexico, Cuba or anywhere else. What they found was a company founded by two men who had purchased an old cargo ship and had it converted to a passenger ship. For the exorbitant fee of \$550 per third class ticket, Emil's uncle

Arnold purchased them tickets to Cuba.

Emil and his uncle lived in Barcelona along with many other Jewish refugees waiting for a way out of Europe for several weeks while the ship was made ready. Departure day finally arrived and the passengers were allowed to board the ship where they discovered that instead of individual cabins, their accommodations were "an ocean of two-story beds made of two by fours and straw mattresses."

Despite the disappointment of their accommodations, all of the passengers were overcome with relief that they were leaving Europe. However, they also realized with sadness that they might never see friends and family again. The ship traveled as far as the Straits of Gibraltar where they were boarded by British soldiers. The soldiers asked the Jewish refugees if they had been able to save any diamonds. Several people responded that they had and even produced the stones to show them off.

The soldiers confiscated them. Those who had been naive enough to show their diamonds were provided with receipts while most of the people quickly dispersed. Six weeks later, the ship arrived in Havana.

Since Emil and his uncle did not have the proper immigration documents, they were placed in a detention facility in a rural area outside of Havana called Tiscornia. The facility was crowded, but comfortable and they were well cared for. After one week in Tiscornia, Arnold was able to pay \$150 to a governmental official for his freedom. Before leaving, he promised Emil that he would get him out also.

Another two weeks passed before Arnold was able to arrange Emil's release. They went directly to Havana and started working out a plan by which they could make a living. As non-residents they were not legally allowed to get a job, but they could start their own business.

After some failures Arnold decided to open a jewelry factory and Emil manufactured and sold silver fox coats. Both were finding it difficult, so Emil proposed a solution to their problems and a way to repay his uncle's kind act of funding his escape from Europe. Emil would give his business to his uncle and come to work for him for a year at no salary. Emil had some skill at making jewelry and turned out to be skilled at designing it as well. The business prospered and so did Emil and his uncle.

At last, the war ended and Emil was informed by a relative that his mother had been arrested by the Gestapo in July of 1943 and sent to Auschwitz where she had been killed. Her normalcy bias had proven fatal.

Emil's father had escaped Nazi occupied Poland into the Soviet occupied section. When he encountered the Soviet army, they asked him if he wanted to join the communist party. He declined and they sent him to the Siberian town of Omsk as punishment. At the end of the war, he was released and found his way to Paris and then to Cuba where he was reunited with his son after eight years of separation.

Emil brought his father to live with him and opened a new appliance business. They settled into a routine and prospered until his father died of a heart attack in 1958. The next year, Fidel Castro came to power and Emil began to recognize a pattern.

He recounted: "When [Castro] took to making long, impassioned speeches to the masses that were crazy about him, a chill started to work its way down my spine as I was reminded of Hitler's tactics of empty promises and propaganda ... Soon, Castro was telling his people that they did not need to repay money owed to capitalists. Then, the years of hard work went up in smoke."

Emil left Cuba for good on April 20, 1960, leaving his family behind temporarily until he was able to secure their exit visas through a third country several months later. He traveled to New York where another uncle had an apartment that he could live in until he got established.

Emil prospered in the United States and lived out the rest of his life in peace and security in the land of opportunity.

Emil Muller's story provides valuable personal lessons against complacency and normalcy bias and for the value of human relationships. His family's experience represents a microcosm of history's cyclical competitions between the yearning of humankind for freedom, the scheming of tyrants for power, and the witting and unwitting personalities that push the pendulum back and forth. Much can be learned from *Luck or Destiny*. ✓

BIO

John Stevenson is a former police officer, U.S. Border Patrol agent and Federal Air Marshal.



EATING ANTS

BY ALY MOORE

When I tell people I eat bugs, I often get responses like, “Oh, I remember doing that when I was a kid!”

One friend recalled a memory of the ants she taste-tested being so lemony and spicy that she thought the ants were biting her back. You don't have to be a kid to eat ants though. Whether you are foraging for survival or simply expanding your range of personal limitations with a fun, novel experience, ants are both deliciously citrusy and packed with nutrition.

There are more than 12,000 species of ant (family: *Formicidae*; class: Invertebrate), found almost everywhere on the planet. The only regions without large ant populations

are Antarctica, Greenland, Iceland and some islands. Most ants are black, brown or red in color, with bodies segmented into three parts – the head, thorax, and gaster. They are most closely related to bees and wasps, which also have a narrow waist that segments their body.

Ants are omnivorous – they will eat anything. The ant's diet varies between species, but most eat leaves, seeds, other small insects, the milk of aphids, nectar and honeydew. They carry food back to their nest and can carry more than 10 times their own weight.

When a new queen founds a colony, she

feeds the first larvae her extra eggs, which contain only nutrients. The queen herself must sometimes eat her own eggs to survive until the first worker ants become adults. Worker ants have two stomachs. The largest is a “community stomach” where the ant stores the food it eats in liquid form until it returns to the nest to share. The ant also has a crop or “individual,” stomach. When the ant itself needs food, it will transfer part of its community stomach food to the crop to digest.

Not all ants are safe to eat, but most of those you are likely to encounter, either in





Black garden ants (Polyrhachins) have a zesty, citrus taste. Their almost lemongrass-like flavor has a peppery pop to it, with an after-texture like edible charcoal or blackberry seeds.



the wild or in your home, are edible varieties.

Unless purchased from a source that grows ants specifically for human consumption, care should be taken to ensure that the ants being eaten are free from harmful microbes or pesticides. Using verified Field Guides is strongly recommended before foraging for anything. A general rule of thumb is to avoid insects which are brightly colored, furry or have a strong smell. These features can be signals to predators that the bugs contain poisons or have stingers.

Avoid eating wild insects that are already dead, especially if you are going to eat them raw. You will want to know what killed them. If they were killed by disease or pesticides, you will want to steer clear. Although many insects are edible, if you are allergic to shrimp, shellfish, dust or chocolate, exercise caution, as you may also be allergic to bugs.

Ants can be ordered online in a variety of forms. You can order ants of different species: in powdered form, whole, dried, as ant eggs, as ant larvae, or even just queen ants. Ants have long been valued for their nutritional, medicinal, and delicious properties.

The Paris Medical Gazette 1904 edition wrote, "Hymenoptera supply bees and ants. In Ceylon, we eat the bees. In Africa, ants are eaten cooked with butter. In Brazil, they are prepared with a resin sauce. Finally, in Siam, ant eggs are highly sought after for human consumption. Formic acid, which these insects are impregnated with, communicates to foods in which the ant has a pleasant flavor?"

Chinese medicine has used ants, "the hardest working creatures" for centuries as adaptogens to improve the energy and vitality of those who consume them. Ants are also considered aphrodisiacs, thought to improve endurance. In Thailand, weaver ants are a prized delicacy, but are quite uncommon because they are hard to collect. They are a popular crunchy ingredient in stir fries and other dishes. Some areas of India, like Bastar, make a chutney dip with ground ants. In South America, they sell chocolate-covered ants.

ANT EGGS

Ant eggs, or *escamoles*, are sometimes compared to caviar. Their flavor can be described as nutty with a grassy, soil-y flavor, perhaps

imparted by the ants' diet of herbs and grass. Ant eggs are known to have a creamy, wonderfully soft texture similar to butter. You can find *escamoles* in Mexico, where the queen larvae of *Liometopum apiculatum* (*Dolichoderinae*) are found at altitude in semi-arid areas under agave.

ANT LARVAE

Larvae have nitrogen-fixing firmicutes symbiote bacteria, which can explain their high protein content, while adults have mostly proteobacteria. Larvae are delicious in a different way, as they don't have the sour taste that develops as the ant matures. You can find them in clusters in ant nests, either at the top or close to the center of the colony, and under rocks by the edge of the nest.

BLACK ANTS

Black garden ants (*Polyrhachins*) have a zesty, citrus taste. Their almost lemongrass-like flavor has a peppery pop to it, with an after-texture like edible charcoal or blackberry seeds.







The lemon zest comes from formic acid—



Polyrhachis vicina



Caviar of the bug world

-  High in Vitamins B1, B2, B12, D, E
-  Approx. 42 - 67% protein
-  Approx. 10% fat (mostly omega-6)
-  Carbohydrates from chitin
-  Highest amount of natural Zinc
-  High in K, CA, P, Mg, Fe, Mn, Zn

the acid produced naturally by ants. Chemically, it is a simple carboxylic acid. This creates a zesty, citrus-like taste in ants. They are best described as having a peppery, zesty citrus flavor. Their texture reminds some as roe, and I often affectionately refer to them as the caviar of the bug world.

Polyrhachis dives and *P. vicina*, black ants from China, are used for their various nutritious properties. Powders are about 60% protein, 10% fat (mostly polyunsaturated, including oleic acid), 3% vitamin E, and many mineral salts like K, Ca, P, Mg, Fe, Mn, and Zn.

Black ants, like many insects, are rich in protein and good fats, calcium, iron, and zinc. Black ants contain up to 67% protein (~42 - 67%) with low fat (~10%). The fat that the black ant does contain is predominantly (~68%) omega-6. Black ants contain the highest amount of natural zinc (which is essential for the circulatory system, sexual functions, and immune system). Other notable minerals are calcium, magnesium, and chromium.

HONEYPOT ANTS

Honey pot ants have abdomens swollen with a nectar-like substance that is used to feed other ants. This "living larder" was dug up from the ground and eaten raw by aboriginal peoples in Australia. Honey pot ants have repletes that accumulate aphid honeydew in their gastro; at least 34 species are enjoyed in Australia, Mexico, and North America.

LEAFCUTTER ANTS

Atta, known as *Hormigas Culonas* (big-

butted ants) in Spanish, have a bacon-pistachio fusion taste. They are usually eaten toasted and are commonly found in Colombia.

LEMON ANTS

These are typically found in the Amazon jungle. They taste, not surprisingly, like lemon.

WEAVER ANTS

Dried weaver ants (*Oecophylles*, spiny ants) are mild in flavor. They are light and crunchy in texture and make for a great salad topping. Weaver ants only have a slightly sour, lemony taste and have

been described as vaguely salty, similar to corn nuts. They are light like peanut skin or dried tea.

There are two species: *Oecophylla smaragdina* in Asia and Australia and *Oecophylla longinoda* in Africa. These ants use their larvae to weave a nest of leaves.

The edible value and biological effects have been studied: the brood is rich in sugars, rich in amino acids (18, especially tryptophan, threonine, methionine, and leucine), vitamins, minerals, low in fat (oleic acid and acid especially palmitic). Antioxidant, antiarthritic and antimicrobial effects have been verified (Oranut et al. 2010; Vidhu and Evans 2015, Chakravorty et al 2016 who are also studying Termites *Odontotermes*).

Ants only contain small amounts of carbohydrates, mostly from chitin (the exoskeleton). They do not contain cholesterol (insects do not synthesize this compound). Black ants also contain high amounts of an insect hormone called Ecdysterone. It is structurally similar to androgens (like testosterone) and is being tested as a safer alternative to anabolic steroids.

Precise nutrition stats will vary based on a number of factors like ant species and diet. Even though ants pack a lot of nutrition for their size, they're still tiny— expect to collect around 400 ants before you have one gram.

Ants are a prime candidate for survival food because they are so common. While they may be small, they are also plentiful, and number in the thousands or millions (in su-

per-colonies) depending on the colony size. Ants can be found in most locations and are easy to harvest with simple tools. You can follow lines of ants back to their colony.

People who come across busy anthills might trust the ants are safe enough to give them a taste, keeping in mind the aforementioned safety notes. Remember that eating ants in the wild is different from eating ants in an urban environment (in cities, ants will often encounter poison, pollutants, and other toxic chemicals that cooking may not purge). Home ant-farming is another way to safely incorporate ants into your diet.

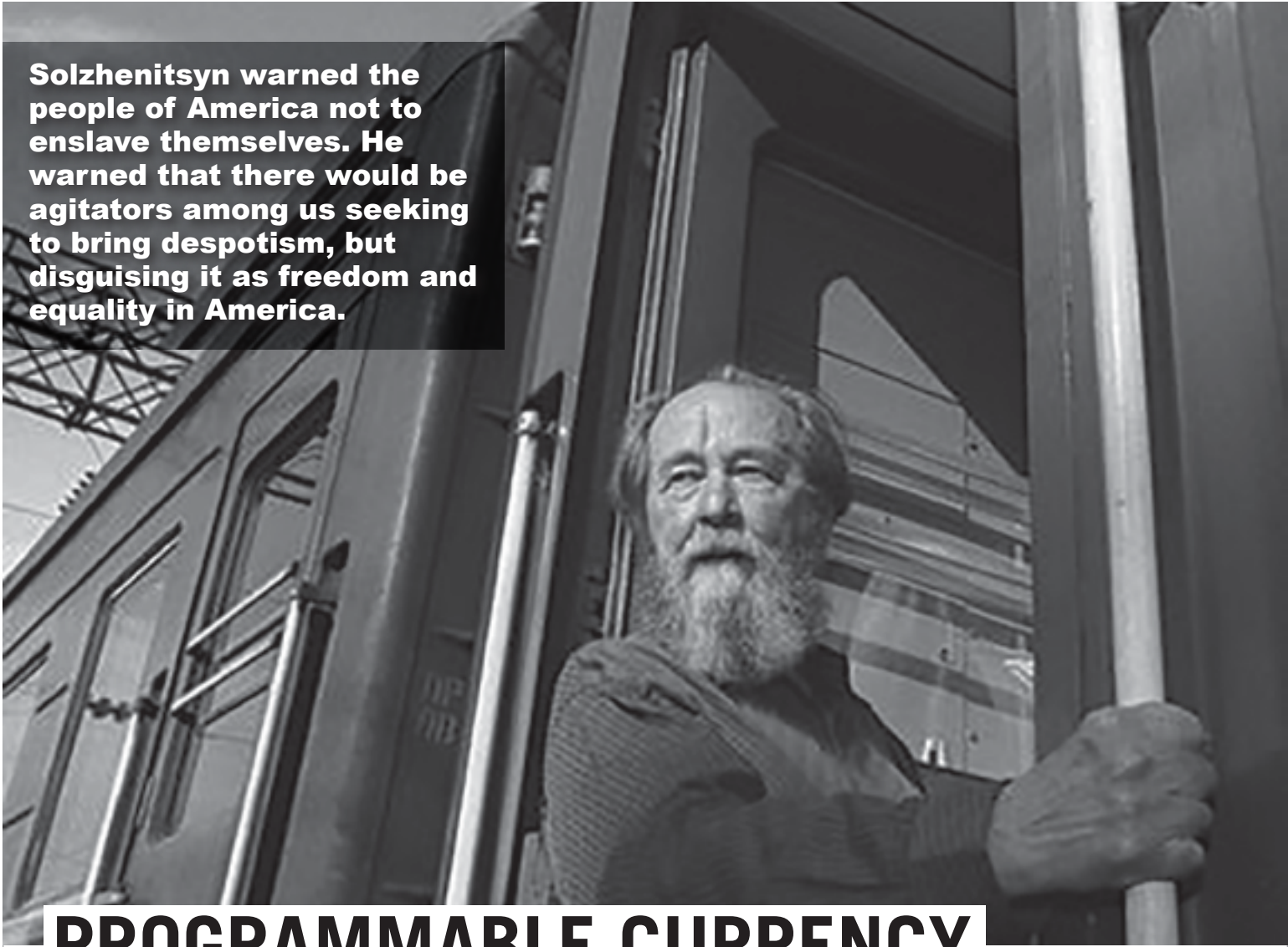
To harvest ants, just disturb the colony and have a means to collect them. You can put a stick on an anthill, wait for it to get covered with ants, and then shake it off into a container. If you put a lid on the container and suffocate them, they will secrete more acid. Roasting them right away will prevent this and kill them more quickly. A common, humane way to kill insects is by putting them in a chilled environment like a freezer. Digging into an ant colony will require more work, but can yield highly-nutritious ant larvae which will appear like little grains of rice.

Ants can be eaten cooked or raw. If you are going to eat the ants live and raw, you might sedate them by putting them in a bowl of cold water. Ants can be cooked in a wide variety of ways like other ingredients: they can be roasted, toasted, stir-fried, baked, tossed in salads, chocolate-covered or honey-buttered. Boiling the ants will help neutralize the vinegar taste from the formic acid.

I love the lemon-pepper kick to ants and use them to add zest to sushi, tacos, seafood and a variety of other dishes. There are fantastic survival stories of people who subsisted on these nutrient-dense treats out of necessity, but why not try the caviar of the bug world simply because you want to? ✓

BIO

Aly Moore (Bugible.com) studied public health at Yale and blogs about the 'insect industry'. Bugible's work includes: advocacy, education, event hosting (like bug & wine pairings), public speaking, strategic consulting, and working with companies and investors to direct funding toward regenerative technology. She is currently working at Chapul Farms (chapulfarms.com) to use insect technology to upcycle organic food waste into animal feed and biofertilizer.



Solzhenitsyn warned the people of America not to enslave themselves. He warned that there would be agitators among us seeking to bring despotism, but disguising it as freedom and equality in America.

PROGRAMMABLE CURRENCY A SURVIVAL PLAN

BY KEVIN FREEMAN

One of the truly great men of the 20th century was Soviet dissident and human rights advocate Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

He was an avid Marxist, but he criticized Joseph Stalin in a private letter and was sentenced to prison. He returned to his Christian roots and became one of the world's most famous writers. He authored *The Gulag Archipelago*, a classic, instrumental in removing the blight of communism from his beloved Russian homeland. It did so by exposing the hypocrisy and lies of communism, revealing its' evil, anti-justice reality.

On June 30th, 1975 Solzhenitsyn said: "I call upon America to be more careful with

its' trust, prevent those who are attempting to establish even finer legal shades of equality because of their distorted outlook, shortsightedness and self-interest from falsely using the struggle for peace and for social justice to lead you down a false road. They're trying to weaken you. They're trying to disarm your strong and magnificent country in the face of this fearful threat, one that has never been seen before in the history of the world."

America rose to the challenge in the 1980s and 90s, but now we are facing the same threat again, only repackaged. Solzhenitsyn

stated: "If we don't know our own history, we will simply have to endure all the same mistakes, sacrifices, and absurdities all over again." Solzhenitsyn warned the people of America not to enslave themselves. He warned that there would be agitators among us seeking to bring despotism, but disguising it as freedom and equality in America. We have a constitution that guarantees our liberties, but that does not mean unscrupulous radicals won't be able to sway the people with deception or coercion, or tempt them, into enslaving themselves. We see a propaganda war and we

The Chinese government introduced a digital version of their currency, the yuan. They see major benefits to this experiment: a tangible challenge to the U.S. dollar, global ubiquity, and a way to control how Chinese citizens spend their money.



PIXABAY - MOERSOHY, THE DIGITAL ARTIST

also see the universal implementation of contemporary technologies for convenience and entertainment. Both are converging to create the very despotism that Solzhenitsyn warned us about. John Locke stated: “despotic power is absolute arbitrary power of one person to take the life and property of another against their will.” Locke wrote that a century before the American Revolution and it is still true today, but nobody could have envisioned all the ways technology could make despotism even easier.

Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies have been popular because they are mostly anonymous. It is a place to put your money and nobody really knows that it is yours. The governments of the world are working on taxing it now. Every time you do a transaction, it could be considered a capital gain or loss and thus subject to taxation. Governments are wary of Bitcoin. China has cracked down recently on Bitcoin and this dropped the price from \$60,000 for one Bitcoin to around \$30,000 in response. Some people believe that the main reason for any crackdown is to stop competition with government money. Presently, China is developing a cryptocurrency and the Federal Reserve is pushing for a digitized currency as well. Now

that sounds good. It would be convenient. It's modern. It's sophisticated.

It is important to note, however, that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) wants to use their new digital yuan in the Belt and Road initiative, and they have made clear that they want to displace the U.S. dollar at some point. That's part of it. Another part of it is they want the tracking capability of this currency and the data capture. They are looking for even more control, this time using money. What if a government sanctioned a currency, but they only allowed you to use it in certain ways? Imagine a new cryptocurrency in China and they say: “OK, it's your money, but you can only use it in this location, but not outside of 10 miles from your home. You can't use it that way.” They can control you and keep you at home. It would be a new form of lockdown.

What if they said you can only use it to buy certain foods because you are obese and you need to eat the “healthy” foods they want to promote. Do you think I'm exaggerating? Do you remember Mike Bloomberg's plan as mayor to say, “you can only have x amount of soda, you can't have y” That is clearly the level of control pursued. If they control a cryptocurrency and you have that money,

you can only use it the way that they approve.

What if they say you can only buy an electric car, not a gasoline-powered car? What if they say, “This retailer here, we don't like what they do, so you can't buy from that retailer, but you can buy from this one.” The level of control is astounding. What if they say we are going to put expiration dates on your money to force you to spend it now or we are going to freeze it so you can't spend it? Government controlled “programmable currency” would represent nearly unlimited power. Imagine what would happen if they could tax you at will by simply making certain money disappear or move it to another account.

Remember the golden rule? He who has the gold makes the rules. But in this case, he who controls the currency makes the rules. We are witness to a war on cash and it is accelerating. Here is an example from a friend: “I work in Beijing, same as working in New York. I go to work, they pay me. I go out for drinks with my friends.” That was true until one day on his way to dinner he happened to jaywalk. He just walked across the street like he had done in New York a hundred times. A surveillance camera took a picture of him. They sent it to him on his phone. They took

a fine straight out of his account. That's the level of control we're talking about.

According to an April 24th 2021 article from the American Institute for Economic Research, the CPC introduced a digital version of its' currency, the yuan, for use in four Chinese cities. The CPC sees two major benefits to this experiment: a tangible challenge to the U.S. dollar, global ubiquity, and a way to control how Chinese citizens spend their money.

The digital yuan can be manipulated and monitored in a number of ways. It is programmable. According to The Wall Street Journal, Beijing has tested expiration dates to encourage users to spend it quickly for times when the economy needs a jump start.

This sounds like a despotic government's dream come true and a citizen's worst nightmare. Bureaucrats can finally exterminate all traces of freedom in the marketplace. They can "reward" good behavior, punish "bad", tax at will, create money at will, replace and redistribute currency and wipe out the black market.

During gold confiscation in this country in the 1930s they said you could no longer hold gold. According to an article on "Weaponized Money" by Peter Earle, "A state determining a populace is insufficiently supportive of a military campaign may decide that hardships are not being sufficiently shared a sudden unannounced attack on bank balances resulting in immediate loss of purchasing power could be imposed to align your interests.

Could a failure to consume certain goods, say "green friendly" versus higher quality, trigger a government decreed disciplinary lopping off an offender's bank balances in the

same way that a former president allegedly used the Internal Revenue Service to harass political opponents?"

A digital currency can be used to enslave. Not only can they reward or punish behavior, they can also punish those saying the "wrong" thing versus saying the "right" thing. President Trump was "de-platformed" on social media to prevent him from communicating ideas that censors did not want people to consider. With digital currency, authoritarians can literally take your money away in addition to taking your voice away.

Remember, Solzhenitsyn was sent to the gulag for things that he wrote in a private letter. In this case there is no expensive incarceration. You just shut down the people's money to punish them in addition to depriving them of communication technologies.

We require ID for almost everything (except voting for some curious reason). With programmable currency, you wouldn't be able to buy or sell until you prove that money in your account is yours with an ID. Unfortunately, this may not be an experiment for much longer. Officials with the Federal Reserve are engaging in research to build and test a digital dollar.

This does not have to be inevitable. We have to work together and weaponize our money before it is turned against us. Programmable currency will likely start as a government freebie in a near future round of "stimulus." You might get your tax refund that way. So many people will be enticed to open an account.

How do you fight back? Get a financial advisor and start to weaponize your money

for liberty, not oppression. We must all hang together or we may hang separately. You are going to need a financial advisor for what is coming, whether inflation, taxation or digital currency. It is going to get complex and challenging and a good financial advisor can help you weaponize your money before it is weaponized against you.

There are three things you can do with your money. Spend it, give it or invest it. If it is just you fighting back, you have already lost. I spent time in Washington, D.C., and spoke with multiple members of congress and senators. They would ask me: how many people do you represent and how much money? It shouldn't matter. If one person with a single dollar has the right solution and the truth, they should listen. Individual liberty should matter. But that is not the case. That's why we started the NSIC Institute.

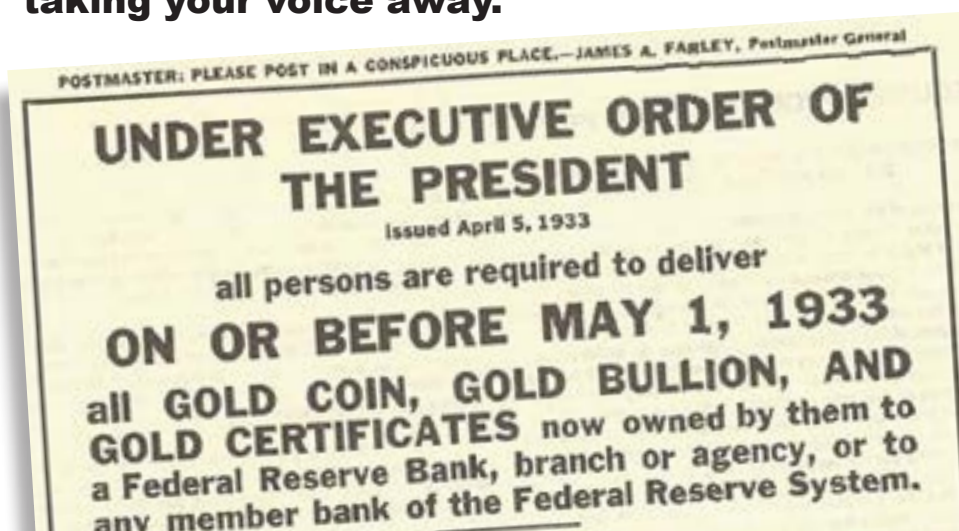
Our goal is to train 10,000 financial advisors with \$1 trillion of capital. That will be millions of investors who vote. That will get their attention. We train financial advisors to help people protect themselves. You should not be financially supporting those who are seeking to harm you or destroy your liberty. Studies show that investors want like-minded advisors and there are at least seventy-four plus million Trump voters. That's a lot of money represented there.

We need 10,000 advisors. That's why we're launching the Economic War Room training at Liberty University. Together, we can explore a new idea, something that we have been working on since 2009 that may be a better form of money. It might eliminate these risks and it might even address the threat of inflation. Imagine a currency that has inflation protection built-in, backed by a government, but also backed by gold. And no, it's not the Chinese digital yuan (although they're claiming they're going to back it by gold).

The digital yuan is the Chinese Communist Party, and it seems clear they want to use it to destroy American economic power. What if the Constitution allowed for our new currency as an alternative? According to my pocket U.S. Constitution, Article One, Section Ten says: "No state shall coin money or make anything but gold and silver coins, a tender in payment of debts."

I worked with the state of Utah and I helped the fiscal risk commission and they passed the 2011 Utah Legal Tender Act. They gave me a one-ounce silver .999 pure silver coin that is legal tender in the state of Utah

With digital currency, authoritarians can literally take your money away in addition to taking your voice away.



in a nice plaque to thank me for my work.

What we're doing in Texas is the next step. We started the Texas Bullion Depository. It was conceived by my state representative, Giovanni Capriglione, and hinted at in my books, *Secret Weapon* and *Game Plan*. Here's the full plan: What if you could take your gold and silver and deposit in Texas or give us cash in U.S. dollar form? Use a Federal Reserve note and buy gold. Texas stores it for you. Then we create digital coins like bitcoin, but it's tied to your deposits. There would be no privacy violations. We would only track the amounts, and you could spend it using a prepaid debit card. A portion of your gold would be transferred from your account to the seller when you bought something, and all would be recorded on the blockchain. That solves most of the problems and the threat from China. My guess is that people around the world would trust Texas over the Communist Party. This would be good money, but we need one more thing.

We need an IRS letter that the federal government will not tax capital gains or losses as they do with actual gold and silver and the way they're taxing Bitcoin. Every time you do a Bitcoin transaction, you have a gain or loss and you have to pay tax on it and keep track of it. But should the IRS tax Constitutional currency issued by a sovereign state? There is no way they should be able to tax it! We either need the IRS to admit that or we need to take

it to the Supreme Court and force them to admit it. This would be constitutional money and other states would, no doubt, follow suit or they would just adopt the Texas approach.

This is more constitutional than Federal Reserve notes and money would flood in from around the world. It's infinitely divisible because you could have a fraction of an ounce of gold represented, and it would be more trusted than a digital yuan.

The CCP is claiming they are going to back the digital yuan with gold. Yet, there are reports of bars painted with gold paint that they are claiming are pure gold. Can you trust communist China? We also want to set a standard that the Federal Reserve would feel pressure to beat.

According to the Federal Reserve, there are three functions of money: It's a store of value. It's a unit of account, and it's a medium of exchange. I want to add a fourth: It should be reasonably stable. A programmable dollar would be at the mercy of the old adage: power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

We need for Texas to adopt this plan in full and then push the IRS for a ruling or initiate a lawsuit. Clearly, the founding fathers of our Constitutional Republic wanted states to have stable currencies. This meets the definition. Everything else needed is now either in place or available. We've got the bullion depository.

The technology exists. You can use blockchain. The Constitution provides for states to issue gold and silver coins. And people are clearly ready for a new monetary system that they can trust as an alternative to the U.S. dollar.

There is going to be political opposition. Lots of people make money from the current system, and some powerful interests are in position to benefit from a programmable dollar that is more similar to the digital yuan. But the will for change is strong and Bitcoin proves this. This may not be the only solution, but I think it is worth exploring. I mentioned this in my book, *Game Plan* published in 2014. You can find it on page two hundred and twenty-three.

I think the time to launch is now, but we need a political movement. This goes back to the question, "how much money and how many people do you represent?" The answer is that we have a large and growing audience, but we need you along with everyone you know to weaponize your money, and we need trained financial advisors. Ten thousand advisors trained represents a \$1 trillion in capital, and that is just the beginning. Not all advisors will agree, but do you want an advisor who doesn't agree with you? We are going to band together at the NSIC Institute - National Security Investment Consultant Institute. If your advisors are not willing to support you in this, find a new adviser. There are lots of advisors who are looking for new clients. And if you are an advisor, this may be your niche.

What we see as a marketplace our enemies view as a battlespace. Programmable money is a threat that even George Orwell could not have imagined. This may be the solution. Nominate your financial advisor at EconomicWarRoom.com/adviser. This training is offered by invitation only. Nominating your advisor is the first step. ✓

BIO

Kevin D. Freeman, CFA (www.EconomicWarRoom.com) is the host of *Economic War Room* (available on BlazeTV) and beads the *National Security Investment Consultant Institute* (www.NSIC.org). He is also the best-selling author of *Secret Weapon: How Economic Terrorism Brought Down the U.S. Stock Market and Why It can Happen Again* and *Game Plan: How to Protect Yourself from the Coming Cyber-Economic Attack*.

PIXARBY - TUMSUI

Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies have been popular because they are mostly anonymous. It is a place to put your money and nobody really knows that it is yours.





TACTICS OF OPPRESSION

CHINA 1950-PRESENT

BY FRANCIS DUFFY

“Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun”
~Mao Zedong (7 August 1927)

The Chinese civil war (now known as the Chinese Communist Revolution) was fought recurrently between 1927 and 1949 with the forces of the Republic of China battling the forces of the Chinese Communist Party. That civil war reportedly had two phases: Phase 1 between 1927 and 1937; and Phase 2 from 1937 to 1945. The civil war was put on hold with the invasion of China by Japan during World War II. The war resumed with the Japanese defeat and ended with the Chinese Communist Party forces defeating the Republic of China forces.

RISE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA

The People's Republic of China (PRC) was officially created following the 1949 civil war victory of the Communist Party of China

(CPC). The Provisional Measures on Firearms Control were published on June 27, 1951¹ shortly after the official creation of the PRC.

The Provisional Measures were used to locate and control the enormous supply of firearms within China at the end of the long period of civil war. These provisions authorized local police to take an inventory of firearms (akin to gun registration) in their areas and then issue permits to those who were authorized by the Communist Party to have a firearm.

The 1951 Provisional Measures were replaced in 1981 by the Measures on Firearms Control.² These new controls specifically focused on regulating hunting rifles and sport-shooting guns. Some citizens over the age of eighteen could own a maximum of two hunting rifles.

GUN CONFISCATION AND MASS ATROCITIES

Gun control in the early years of the CPC through the mid-20th Century correlated with mass atrocities on the part of the Chinese government against its' citizens. These atrocities were justified under the banner of the “Cultural Revolution” – a violent purge in which China was factionalized and citizens were turned against each other, using pretextual causes popular at the time, to create the upheaval necessary for the CPC to consolidate internal power in China between 1966-1976.

Mao Zedong, the Chairman of the CPC, was responsible for the great purge. The Revolution's goal was to preserve Chinese communism by eradicating capitalist and traditional influences from Chinese society. Zedong also wanted to ensure that his philosophy (known

as Maoism) became the dominant ideology for the Chinese Communist Party.

The tactic Mao used to motivate his revolutionary followers was to accuse rivals and critics in the Communist party, as well as in schools, factories, and government institutions, of the crime of undermining the Communist philosophy by working to reinstate capitalism. His followers, especially younger ones, formed the infamous Red Guards in response to his calls to action against his “enemies.” Previously obscure people were given the power to kill, torture, and imprison previously prominent, or simply middle class, individuals locally.

The Cultural Revolution resulted in a death toll estimated from hundreds of thousands to 20 million.³ The period known as the Red August of Beijing marked the beginning of massacres throughout mainland China. This included: the Guangxi Massacre, in which large scale cannibalism occurred;⁴ the Inner Mongolia incident; the Guangdong Massacre; the Yunnan Massacres; and the Hunan Massacres.⁵

Tens of millions of people were persecuted, including senior government officials who appeared to be inadequately zealous in their support of Zedong. Those targeted were subjected to public humiliation, imprisonment, torture, hard labor, seizure of property, and sometimes execution or harassment to the point of suicide. According to one observer:

“... intellectuals were considered the “Stinking Old Ninth” and were widely persecuted—notable scholars and scientists such as Lao She, Fu Lei, Yao Tongbin, and Zhao Jiuzhang were killed or committed suicide. Schools and universities were closed with the college entrance exams cancelled. Over 10 million urban intellectual youths were sent to the countryside in the Down to the Countryside Movement.”⁶

AFTER THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION

The Chinese Communist government continued its strict gun control policies after the Cultural Revolution through its Ministry of Public Security (MPS) by enacting the 1981 Firearms-Control Law. The Firearms-Control Law prohibits private possession of firearms in China except under extremely restricted conditions. The number of groups and individuals permitted to possess guns was significantly tightened. An earlier provision allowing citizens over eighteen years of age



During the Cultural Revolution, tens of millions were persecuted, publicly humiliated, tortured or killed.

to possess two hunting rifles was abolished and permits were only issued to hunters and herdsmen in areas prescribed by provincial governors. These restricted permits were subject to pre-approval and the firearms, by statute, could not be brought out of these hunting or pastoral areas.

By statute, firearms were divided into three categories according to the purposes of their use: military-use, official-use, and civilian use.

The Chinese military and armed police continued to have access to the firearms they needed to perform their duties for the CCP. These firearms are regulated by the Ministry of Public Security, State Council, and the Central Military Commission.

Firearms for official use are for law enforcement officials, guards, bodyguards, and scientific research institutions as long as these institutions can satisfy officials that firearms access is necessary and beneficial to them.

In 1998, the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) published the *Measures for Equipment of Firearms for Official Use*. These measures were published as a set of rules to strictly control access to firearms. For all uses, access to firearms was not automatic and required review and approval by the MPS or its provincial counterparts.

Firearms for Civilian Use. The Ministry of Public Security created three categories of “work units” in which civil-

ian use of firearms may be permitted:

“Sports Units”: These work units were for people specifically engaged in shooting sports and for-profit shooting ranges approved by provincial government authorities.

“Hunting Grounds”: These are areas specifically designated for hunting with the approval of provincial government authorities.

“Wildlife protection, breeding, and research institutions”: Firearms are approved for these units if they can demonstrate a need for them that satisfies CPC authorities.

There are strict rules for the daily management of firearms by individuals and groups. People authorized to have firearms have a legal responsibility to store and use their firearms safely, they are selected by the CPC, and they must undergo firearms training. Those who are able to get a permit to carry a firearm may not carry in prohibited areas. If a firearm should be lost or stolen, CPC authorities must be notified immediately.

People authorized to have a firearm may not transport firearms in China without approval. Those who wish to travel with a firearm must apply for a “transportation permit.” The application requires people to report the types and numbers of the firearms to be transported, along with information about how they will be transported (car, truck, etc.), and the routes that will be followed. Local police must be notified if any overnight stop



The Revolution brought about the destruction of old customs, ideas, and capitalist ties, and included book burnings.

is required. Guns and ammunition must be transported separately. Permits can, of course, be declined or obstructed by failing to process them.

CONCLUSION

Gun control in China, since the 1950s, has precipitated numerous atrocities claiming the lives of millions of people; all in the name of preserving and protecting the Communist regime and its philosophy. The elements of the Chinese gun control effort described above represent a tiny fraction of existing Chinese gun laws. An armed population deters tyrannical rulers as an obstacle that must be overcome before a number of nefarious actions can be taken against them. The Chinese Communist Revolution's "Cultural Revolution" also demonstrates how easily tactics of oppression can enslave an unarmed population. Today, citizens of the People's Republic of China are subject to electronic surveillance by their own government 24 hours a day, citizens are incentivized to inform against each other, freedom of speech does not exist, the CPC controls individual travel, and political opponents are banned from government and punished harshly.

Students of history will consider the example China presents when considering H.R. Bill 127⁷ a bill submitted to the U.S. House of Representatives by Sheila Jackson Lee of

Texas. Her bill would:

- Create a national firearm registry
- Set a minimum gun ownership age at 21
- Require licensing and psychological evaluations at the individual's cost
- Require psychological evaluations of other members of the licensee's household, current and former spouses, relatives and associates.
- Make it a crime to possess a firearm or ammunition without the new license or sell one to someone who doesn't have the license.
- Require gun owners to pay for insurance
- Ban ammunition of .50 caliber or greater, except for law enforcement and a limited range of security personnel.
- Give the U.S. attorney general jurisdiction over licensing through the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.
- Require a government-run firearms training course
- Require registration of firearms identifying all weapons, where they are stored in the home, and that would be made public
- Prohibit the display of an antique firearm in one's home without a federal firearms license
- Require a special license for "military-style weapons"
- Prohibit anyone who has ever been hospitalized due to mental illness, drug

or alcohol abuse, homicidal or suicidal thoughts or a brain disease from obtaining a firearms license.

There are various fines and jail sentences mandated for different sections of the bill; for example:

"Whoever knowingly violates section 922(bb) (4) shall be fined not less than \$75,000 and not more than \$100,000, imprisoned not less than 15 years and not more than 25 years, or both, except that if the transferee of the firearm possess [sic] or uses the firearm during or in relation to a crime, an unintentional shooting, or suicide, the transferor shall be fined not less than \$100,000 and not more than \$150,000, imprisoned not less than 25 years and not more than 40 years, or both."⁸

H.R. 127 is merely one measure proposed. The distance between mandated gun registration and confiscation is narrow and the potential for official abuse, overreach or error is large. History has provided many examples of how quickly that gap closes and the horrific consequences likely to follow whether intended or not. American gun owners, and those who value liberty, must develop political strategies and tactics to prevent the erosion or circumvention of our Second Amendment rights. ✓

BIO

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ENDNOTES

- 1 Qiangzhi Guanli & Zanzing Banfa [Provisional Measures on Firearms Control] (approved for publication by Zhengwu Yuan, June 27, 1951) in Gongan Fagui Huibian [Collection of Public Security Laws and Regulations] 228–31 (1980).
- 2 Zhonghua Renmin, Gongheguo Qiangzhi, & Guanli Banfa [The PRC Measures on Firearm Control] (approved by the State Council, Jan. 5, 1981, put into effect by the Ministry of Public Security, Apr. 25, 1981).
- 3 Pye, Lucian W. (1986). "Reassessing the Cultural Revolution". *The China Quarterly*. 108 (108): 597–612. doi:10.1017/S0305741000037085. ISSN 0305-7410. JSTOR 653530.
- 4 Kristof, Nicholas D. (January 6, 1993). "A Tale of Red Guards and Cannibals". *The New York Times*. ISSN 0362-4331. Retrieved January 22, 2020.
- 5 Cultural Revolution. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_Revolution#cite_note--1-1
- 6 *Ibid.*, p. 1
- 7 H.R. 127 submitted by Sheila Jackson Lee. H.R.127 - 117th Congress (2021-2022): Sabika Sheikh Firearm Licensing and Registration Act | Congress.gov | Library of Congress
- 8 *Ibid.*

PROFILES OF COURAGE

Whether your highest priority is supporting and tracking the Forensic Audits of the 2020 election presently underway in the most problematic jurisdictions, getting to the bottom of the COVID-19 (Wuhan Virus) misrepresentations, preventing implementation of the authoritarian vaccine passport and programmable dollar plans, or simply navigating the contemporary wilderness of deception and censorship for your own family, it is inspiring to see how selfless human beings can be. This account is the Medal of Honor citation for Thomas Payne.



THOMAS PAYNE

Sergeant First Class Thomas P. Payne distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity, above and beyond the call of duty, on October 22, 2015, during a daring nighttime hostage rescue in Kirkuk Province, Iraq, in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. Sergeant Payne led a combined assault team charged with clearing one of two buildings known to house the hostages. With speed, audacity, and courage, he led his team as they quickly cleared the assigned building, liberating 38 hostages. Upon hearing a request for additional assaulters to assist with clearing the other building, Sergeant Payne, on his own initiative, left his secured position, exposing himself to enemy fire as he bounded across the compound to the other building from which entrenched enemy forces were engaging his comrades. Sergeant Payne climbed a ladder to the building's roof, which was par-

tially engulfed in flames, and engaged enemy fighters below with grenades and small arms fire. He then moved back to ground level to engage the enemy forces through a breach hole in the west side of the building. Knowing time was running out for the hostages trapped inside the burning building, Sergeant Payne moved to the main entrance, where heavy enemy fire had thwarted previous attempts to enter. He knowingly risked his own life by bravely entering the building under intense enemy fire, enduring smoke, heat, and flames to identify the armored door imprisoning the hostages. Upon exiting, Sergeant Payne exchanged his rifle for bolt cutters, and again entered the building, ignoring the enemy rounds impacting the walls around him as he cut the locks on a complex locking mechanism. His courageous actions motivated the coalition assault team members to enter the breach and assist with cutting

the locks. After exiting to catch his breath, he reentered the building to make the final lock cuts, freeing 37 hostages. Sergeant Payne then facilitated the evacuation of the hostages, even though ordered to evacuate the collapsing building himself, which was now structurally unsound due to the fire. Sergeant Payne then reentered the burning building one last time to ensure everyone had been evacuated. He consciously exposed himself to enemy automatic gunfire each time he entered the building. His extraordinary heroism and selfless actions were key to liberating 75 hostages during a contested rescue mission that resulted in 20 enemies killed in action. Sergeant First Class Payne's gallantry under fire and uncommon valor are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the United States Special Operations Command, and the United States Army. ✓