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wisely and punishes those who abuse them. Those without property must depend on others for survival, and those who depend on the state must serve the state. Therefore, private property is a human right, essential for prosperity, justice, and freedom.

#### **MONEY WITHOUT COERCION**

I believe in freedom to accept or reject any currency, or other forms of money, based entirely upon my personal judgment of its value, because a monopoly over the issuance of money and the power to force others to accept it leads to corruption, inflation, and legalized plunder.

#### **EQUALITY UNDER LAW**

I believe that all citizens should be equal under law, regardless of their national origin, race, religion, gender, education, economic status, life style, or political opinion. Likewise, no class should be given preferential treatment, regardless of the merit or popularity of its cause. To favor one class over another is not equality under law.

#### **PROPER ROLE OF THE STATE**

I believe that the proper role of the state is negative, not positive; defensive, not aggressive. It is to protect, not to provide; for if the state is granted the power to provide for some, it must also be able to take from others, and that always leads to legalized plunder and loss of freedom. If the state is powerful enough to give us everything we want, it also will be powerful enough to take from us everything we have. Therefore, the proper function of the state is to protect the lives, liberty, and property of its citizens, nothing more. That state is best which governs least.

**Supporting information for the *Creed* at  
[www.freedomforceinternational.org/pdf/futurecalling1.pdf](http://www.freedomforceinternational.org/pdf/futurecalling1.pdf)**

**General information about Freedom Force at  
[www.freedomforceinternational.org](http://www.freedomforceinternational.org)**

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## The Creed of Freedom

Introduction by G. Edward Griffin,  
Founder of Freedom Force International

**There is nothing more common in history** than for oppressed people to rise up against their masters and, at great cost in treasure and blood, throw off the old regime only to discover that they have replaced it with one that is just as bad or worse. That is because it is easy to know what we dislike about a political system but not so easy to agree on what would be better. For most of history, it has been the habit of the oppressed to focus on personalities rather than principles. They have thought that the problem was with the people who rule, not with the system that sustains them. So, one despot was merely replaced by another in hopes that, somehow, the new one would be more wise and benevolent.

Even if new rulers have good intentions, they may be corrupted by the temptations of power; and, in those rare cases where they are not, they eventually are replaced by others who are not as self-restrained. As long as the system allows it, it is just a matter of time before new despots rise to power.

To prevent that from happening, it is necessary to focus on the system, not personalities. However, to do that, it is just as important to know what we are for as it is to know what we are against.

**Even today, with so much talk about freedom,** who can define what that means? For some, it merely means not being in jail. Who can define the essence of liberty? Who can look you in the eye and say: "This I believe, and I believe it for this reason and this reason and this reason, also." The world is dying for something to believe in, a statement of principles that leaves no room for misunderstanding; a creed that everyone of good faith toward their fellow human beings can accept with clarity of mind and strength of resolve. There is an old saying that if you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything. *The Creed of Freedom* that you are about to read is the rock-solid ground that will allow us to stand firm against all the political nostrums of our day, and those in the future as well.

The *Creed* expresses the core ideology that binds all members of Freedom Force International together. It is not like the platform of a political party that typically is a position statement on a long list of specific issues and which changes from year to year to accommodate the shifting winds of popular opinion. Instead, it is a statement of broad principles that do not change over time and that are not focused on specific issues at all. If these principles are followed, then most of the vexing political and social issues of the day can be quickly resolved in confidence that the resulting action will be consistent with justice and freedom.

When you read the *Creed*, be aware that it is a summary of a longer dissertation. It cannot be fully appreciated until after reading the explanations, definitions, and arguments to support it. At the end of the *Creed*, there is a link that takes you to the more complete explanation.

## ***THE CREED OF FREEDOM***

### **INTRINSIC NATURE OF RIGHTS**

I believe that only individuals have rights, not the collective group; that these rights are intrinsic to each individual, not granted by the state; for if the state has the power to grant them, it also has the power to deny them, and that is incompatible with personal liberty.

I believe that a just state derives its power solely from its citizens. Therefore, the state must never presume to do anything beyond what individual citizens also have the right to do. Otherwise, the state is a power unto itself and becomes the master instead of the servant of society.

### **SUPREMACY OF THE INDIVIDUAL**

I believe that one of the greatest threats to freedom is to allow any group, no matter its numeric superiority, to deny the rights of the minority; and that one of the primary functions of a just state is to protect each individual from the greed and passion of the majority.

### **FREEDOM OF CHOICE**

I believe that desirable social and economic objectives are better achieved by voluntary action than by coercion of law. I believe that social tranquility and brotherhood are better achieved by tolerance, persuasion, and the power of good example than by coercion of law. I believe that those in need are better served by charity, which is the giving of one's own money, than by welfare, which is the giving of other people's money through coercion of law.

### **PROPERTY RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS**

I believe that the human instinct for private property is a positive force because it provides an incentive for production, which is necessary for the material support of mankind. It justly rewards those who use resources