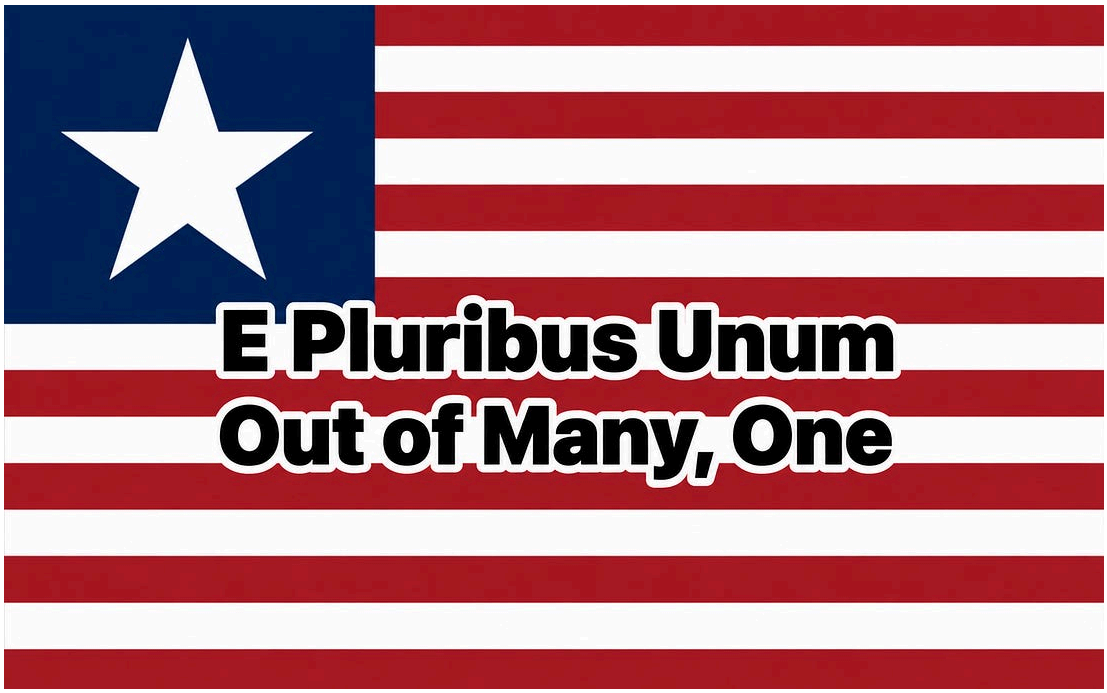
A Restorative Revolution

Fundamental Change Through Constitutional Means



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Americans usually associate the word *revolution* with overthrow: the destruction of an existing political order and its replacement with something new.

But there is another kind of revolution—one intended not to destroy a system, but to restore it.

The United States faces declining trust in its institutions, growing public frustration, persistent fiscal pressures, and increasing concern that major institutions of government no longer perform the functions they

were designed to perform. History tells us that prolonged institutional failure can eventually produce political upheaval.

It does not have to.

What America needs may instead be a **restorative revolution**—peaceful and constitutional, but no less revolutionary in its scope.

The objective would not be to overthrow the American constitutional system. Quite the opposite. It would be to restore its fundamental principles: separation of powers, congressional responsibility, limits on executive authority, fiscal discipline, accountable government, effective institutions, an independent system of justice, and ultimately the sovereignty of the people.

There is an American precedent for this kind of fundamental change.

The Constitution itself was revolutionary.

By 1787, the Framers had concluded that the government created under the Articles of Confederation was inadequate. They did not preserve a failing governmental structure merely because it already existed. They reconsidered the machinery of government itself.

The result was not a repudiation of the American experiment. It was an attempt to save it.

The Constitution profoundly altered the structure of the national government. It divided governmental power, created competing institutions, established checks and balances, and attempted to construct a government strong enough to function but constrained enough to remain a republic.

That same principle deserves consideration today.

Institutions should not be preserved unchanged merely because they are familiar. When the machinery of government no longer performs as intended, the answer should not be resignation, nor should it be destruction. The answer should be repair—and, where necessary, redesign through lawful democratic and constitutional processes.

The principle can be stated simply:

Radical change in order to restore first principles.

That is the essence of a restorative revolution.

Congress should legislate and control the public purse. The President should execute the laws rather than make them. An independent justice system should enforce the law without fear, favor, or personal loyalty. Courts should adjudicate rather than govern. States should exercise the authority properly belonging to them. And above all of these institutions should stand the ultimate sovereign in the American system: the people.

None of this requires abandoning the Constitution. It requires taking the Constitution seriously enough to recognize when the institutions operating under it have drifted from their intended roles.

And that distinction matters.

There is nothing inherently conservative about preserving a governmental practice simply because it has existed for decades. Nor is there anything inherently radical about changing a practice that has departed from the principles it was supposed to serve.

Sometimes preservation requires change.

That is why *restorative* matters every bit as much as *revolution*.

The argument for fundamental structural reform is not that the American constitutional experiment failed. It is that portions of the governmental machinery have gradually drifted away from the principles that experiment was designed to protect.

The task, therefore, is neither revolution in the traditional sense nor restoration in the nostalgic sense.

It is something different:

A restorative revolution—fundamental, peaceful, constitutional change intended not to replace the American republic, but to restore it

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