

The John Birch Society

Author: [Wendy](#)

Date: May 17, 2024



Pastor Matthew Trewella

Matt Trewella serves as Pastor of Mercy Seat Christian Church, located near Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He graduated with honors from Valley Forge Christian College in Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science in Theology. He married Clara Tolnai in 1981, and they have 11 children and 35 grandchildren, including one great-grandchild. He has lectured at hundreds of Christian and political gatherings, and has been a guest on hundreds of radio and television shows. He has also been invited to speak to eleven state legislatures and multiple sheriffs, attorneys general, lieutenant governors, and governors.

He is the author of [*The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates: A Proper Resistance to Tyranny and a Repudiation of Unlimited Obedience to Civil Government*](#). This is the first book written on the lesser magistrate doctrine in over 300 years. It has sold over 140,000 copies as of January 2024.

He published the first-ever English translation of the *Magdeburg Confession* (1550), which first formalized the doctrine of the lesser magistrates.

Pastor Trewella founded Missionaries to the Preborn, the first Christian mission in America to target the preborn child as its people group. Since its foundation in 1990, six of the eight abortion clinics in Milwaukee have closed,

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and abortion in Wisconsin has dropped by over 60 percent.

He created the Tell the Truth Tours and Campus Town Tours, where large photographs of preborn babies — both developing in the womb and murdered by abortionists — are displayed.

He is the architect of the Tollway Oasis Rescue in which pro-lifers chained themselves to abortionist Aleksander Jakubowski's Mercedes Benz when he stopped at the highway oasis on his way to Milwaukee on Interstate 94. Pastor Trewhella has spent 15 months in American jails for non-violently interposing at abortion clinics on behalf of preborn babies.

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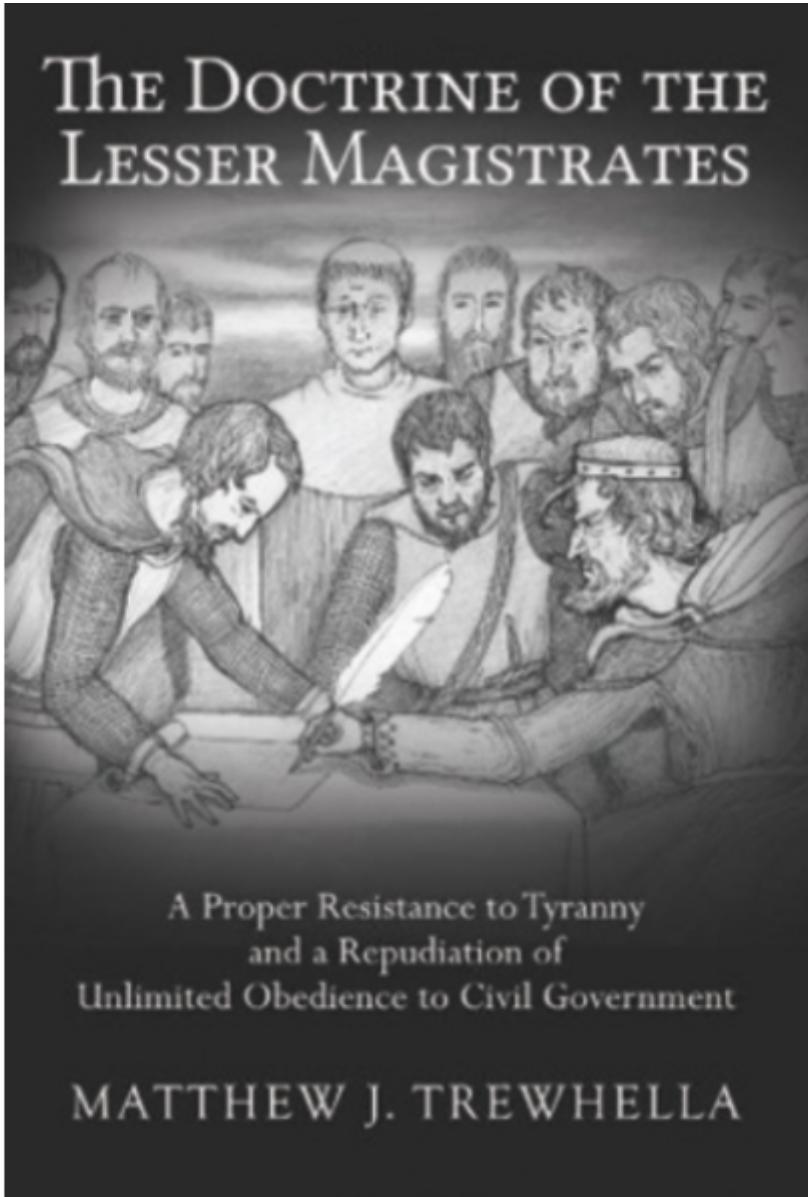
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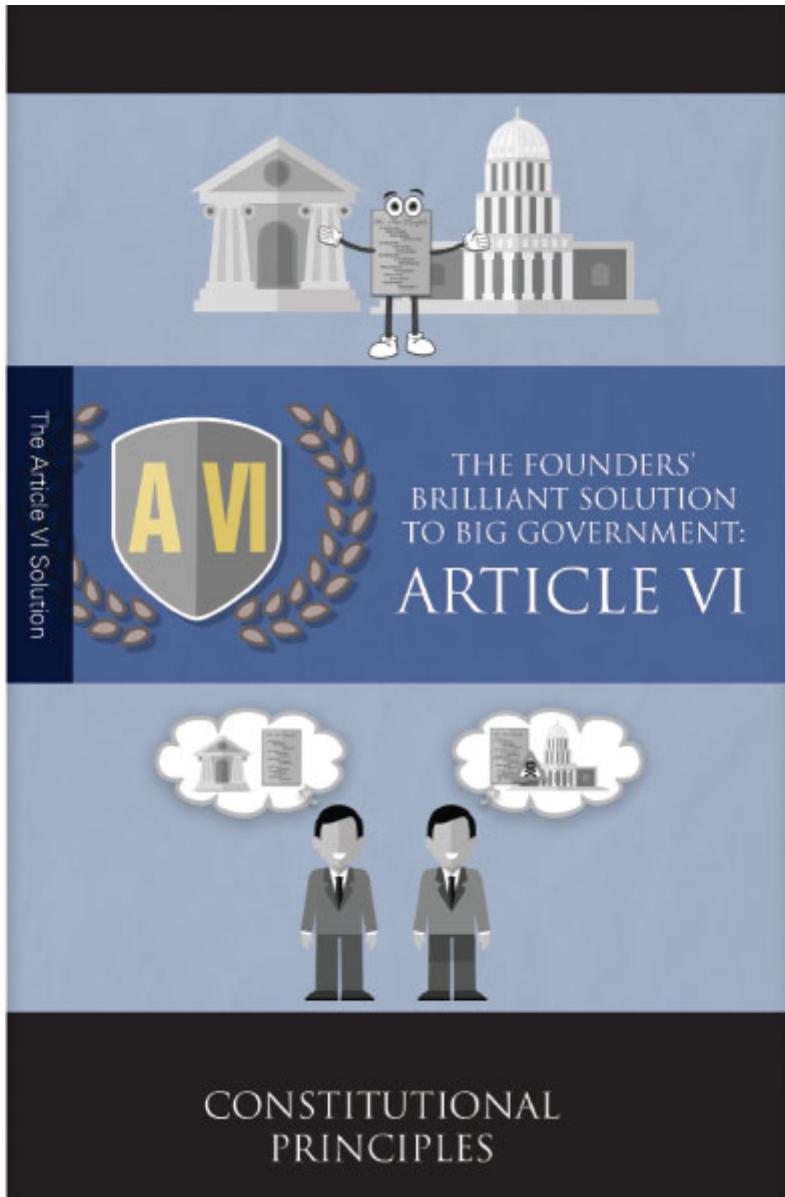


The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates

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The Founders' Brilliant Solution to Big Government: Article VI booklet

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Nullification: The Founders' Solution to Federal Overreach pamphlet

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Date: May 17, 2024



HISTORY
PAST AND PERSPECTIVE

SECESSION? WHY NOT NULLIFICATION?

America's federal system of government provides constitutional means to rein in unconstitutional federal overreach and secure liberty. Those means include nullification.



By Gary Benoit

The current showdown on the border between the Biden administration and the state of Texas seems to have caused much more heightened interest in the issue of secession than in nullification. It should be just the opposite.

Texas is not engaging in a secessionist act by exercising its right to protect its border and its people. True enough, it is defying a U.S. Supreme Court order, but this order is not the law of the land. In fact, by defying the order to allow the feds to remove the razor wire at Eagle Pass, Texas is upholding the Constitution and putting into practice a principle known as nullification.

Secession and nullification are often conflated to mean essentially the same thing. Yet they are very different. In the context of the American system of government, secession occurs when one or

more states secede from the Union, and nullification occurs when one or more states refuse to abide by unconstitutional federal acts. Any state that secedes is no longer under the Constitution; any state that nullifies unconstitutional federal laws, orders, or rulings is upholding the Constitution.

Though both secession and nullification have been recommended by various voices in the freedom movement to rein in federal overreach, secession is by far the riskier of the two approaches, since it means leaving behind the Constitution that created our federal system of government to start anew, either as a single state or perhaps in a new compact with a handful of states.

But how, it is reasonable to ask, could a state be upholding the Constitution by defying the federal government via nullification? And how could nullification be employed by the states to stop federal overreach? To answer these questions,

it is important to understand the nature of the American system of government under the Constitution.

The American System

When the Founding Fathers drafted the Constitution, they did not create a unitary central government exercising supreme authority over the states. The states ratifying the Constitution did not become subservient to the new national government; they retained sovereignty, and may govern as they wish in accord with their own state constitutions except in a few specified areas. This is made abundantly clear in the U.S. Constitution's 10th Amendment, which states, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." Of course, the same principle applies to states that have joined the United States since the Constitution's adoption in 1789.

This novel principle of dividing governmental powers between the national government and state governments, as opposed to creating a unitary state, became known as *federalism*, and its advocates were called Federalists. During 1787 and 1788, when ratification of the Constitution was being debated, three Federalists — James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, and John Jay — wrote a series of 85 essays originally published in New York state newspapers under the pseudonym Publius arguing in favor of ratification. Collectively known as *The Federalist Papers* or *The Federalist*, these essays shed tremendous light on the intent of the Founders in creating the new federal government, including the principle of dividing governmental powers among the national government and the states.

Gary Benoit is editor-in-chief of The New American.

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Secession? Why Not Nullification? reprint

The John Birch Society

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HISTORY
PAST AND PERSPECTIVE

State Nullification: An Idea Deeply Embedded in American History

Nullification — whereby states nullify the effect on their citizens of unconstitutional U.S. laws — is regularly derided, but it was designed by the Founders for that very purpose.

United States Library of Congress



Always the plan: While state nullification of unconstitutional federal laws is generally thought to be an innovation only introduced in 1798 with the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions, James Madison — the “Father” of the Constitution — discussed the concept in *The Federalist Papers* a decade earlier. He suggested that states could interpose themselves between citizens and the federal government.

by Steve Byas

In today’s American history textbooks, nullification is treated as a fringe idea at best, and treasonous at worst. Yet not only did two of America’s greatest Founding Fathers (James Madison, the “Father” of the Constitution, and Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence) fully embrace the concept, but nullification was employed in the

Steve Byas is a college professor of history and government and the author of *History’s Greatest Liars*, a Challenge to Some of the Great Lies of History. He may be contacted at byas@jcu.edu.

Northern states to restrain the federal government, as well as in the South. A review of American history prior to the Civil War reveals that nullification was actually a common political tool. But because of the Civil War, the practice fell into disfavor, as pro-Union propaganda portrayed just about any effort to retard the centralization of government as somehow disloyal.

Nullification is the idea that, if the federal government extends its powers beyond those found in the Constitution, a state has both a right and a duty to resist such usurpations by declaring the law or other unconstitutional action of the federal government null and void. It is important to keep in mind that both federal and state officials — including the members of the federal and state legislatures as well as “all executive and judicial Officers” — are bound by oath to support the U.S. Constitution, under Article VI. State officials who accept unconstitutional federal usurpations within their state borders are neglecting their oath.

In practice the concept of nullification was employed in various ways, but always with the intention of insisting that the federal government follow the Constitution and of preserving the Union. It was *not* secession, but was intended to prevent an open split among the American states.

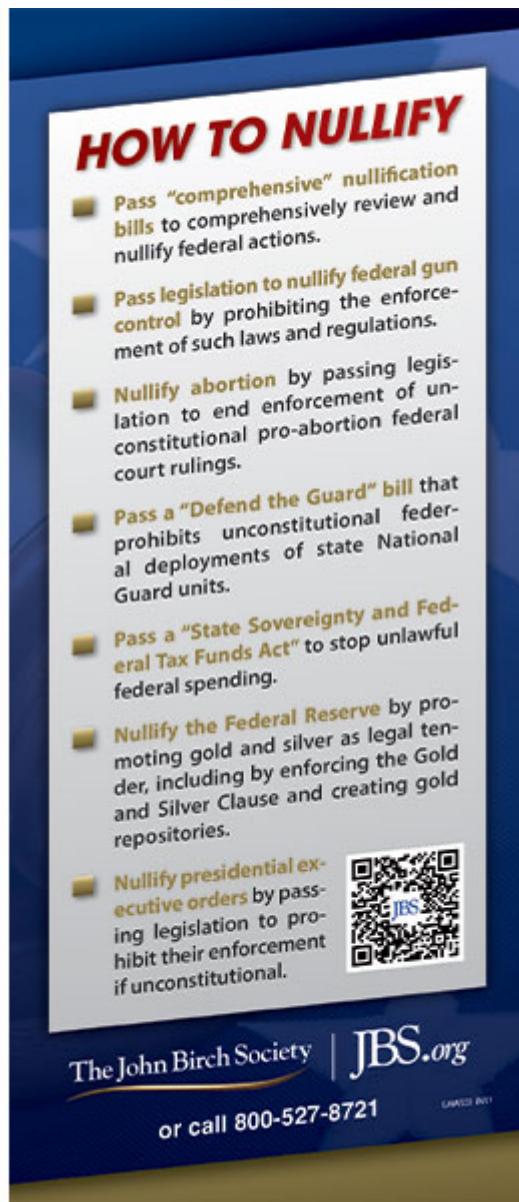
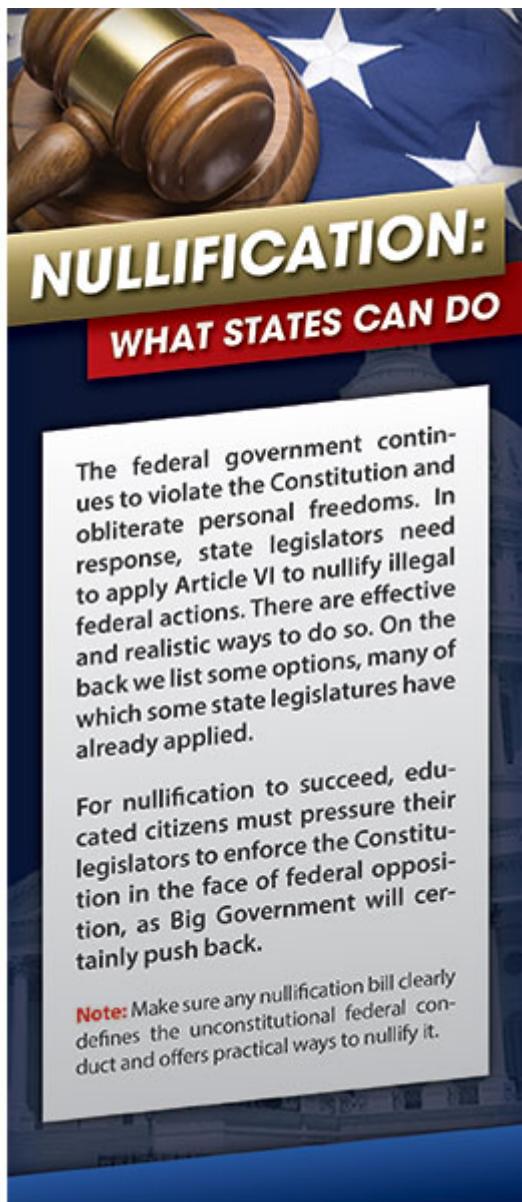
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NULLIFICATION: What States Can Do slim jim

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Faith FAMILY FREEDOM

PASTORS CALL FOR MODERN-DAY “BLACK ROBED REGIMENT”

By Annalisa Peck

“If today’s church does not stand as our founding generation stood, we will not only lose our republic, but our liberties as well.”

— Pastor Dan Fisher, founder of
“Bringing Back the Black Robed Regiment”

Wake up, church, wake up! America is in decline, and the people are fighting for what is true and for what is right. Shepherds, it’s time to take responsibility and protect your flocks, as few have entered the battle to “fan the flames” of true revival and change.

So say Paul Blair and Dan Fisher, co-pastors of Fairview Baptist Church in Edmond, Oklahoma, reminding us that “so goes the pulpit, so goes the church. Everything hinges on the church. The answers are never coming from Washington, D.C. The answers will come from the state and local levels.”

The dynamic duo has served in Christian ministry for decades, yet many people will know them not by their sermons but from their esteemed positions in public service and major-league sports.

Blair, the son of an Edmond, Oklahoma, preacher, was a rising NFL star who played for the Oklahoma State Cowboys and then the Chicago Bears. At age 26, he became “various with God” upon reflection of his Christian life, which, up until that point, he felt he was living in name only. On a winter’s evening in February 1989, he fell on his knees and prayed, and ever since God has moved in his heart and he has “truly been a new creation in Jesus Christ.”

Fisher, a former two-term Oklahoma state legislator, delivered his first sermon as a teen and was a full-time pastor by age 23. In 2008, he founded what has become the renowned “Bringing Back the Black Robed Regiment” production, which traces the underreported story of the “Patriot Pastors” of the 18th century who preached the bib-

lical principles of liberty and government from the pulpits and led the men of their congregations to defend those principles on the battlefields of the American War for Independence.

Together, Blair and Fisher form a powerful team driven by the nation’s history and filled with abundant hope for her future. Their depth of understanding of America’s past has helped them develop a ministry that engages all areas of society rather than compartmentalizing the Christian faith into separate areas of the “secular” and the “sacred.”

In Defense of Liberty and Truth

In an interview with *The New American*, Blair explained that unlike the courageous “Patriot Pastors” of the American Revolution, who led the Colonists in breaking free from the stranglehold of Britain’s King George III to gain America her independence, many of today’s pastors are negligent in providing evangelism, discipleship, and protection for their people. Using their passion

Constituency: Pastors Paul Blair and Dan Fisher did not change a thing about the way they preached pre- or post-Covid, but were still vilified for speaking out.



*Annalisa Peck is a writer, editor, and librarian. She joins *The New American* after spending nearly a decade in New York publishing.*

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Pastors Call For Modern-Day “Black Robed Regiment” reprint

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GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS VS. CHRISTIANITY

Government indoctrination masquerading as "education" has deliberately waged war on biblical religion, and the fruits are devastating America and its children.

By Alex Newman

From chanting to the Aztec deities of cannibalism and human sacrifice in California to forcing children to denounce their "Christian privilege" in front of the class in North Carolina, government schools across America have become hotbeds of anti-Christian extremism. Highly controversial religious views and rituals from Hinduism, Islam, Buddhism, humanism, and even human-sacrificing paganism are now ubiquitous. Christianity, meanwhile, when it is mentioned at all, is denigrated and mocked. Welcome to America's 21st-century public schools,

Alex Newman is senior editor of *THE NEW AMERICAN*, author of the new book *Deep State: The Invisible Government Behind the Scenes, and an author with the late Sam Blomberg's *Crimes of the Educators**

where a full-on war against Christianity is the order of the day.

Despite the myth of religious "neutrality" and "secular" schooling perpetuated by the government-school establishment and its apologists, all education is fundamentally religious in nature. That is just as true in government schools across the United States as it is in Islamic madrasas of Pakistan. The only question is what religion and what worldview is being taught. Parents and even passers would be shocked to know the truth. But the facts are there for all to see, unless one chooses to look the other way.

Education in America for the first 250 years was mostly private and home-based, and it was thoroughly saturated with Christianity. In fact, the very first education act ever passed in North America, the 1647 Old Deluder Satan Act in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, warned that one chief project of Satan was to keep men from knowledge of the Scriptures. Families and churches were largely responsible for schooling in those days, and everything typically revolved around the Bible. That foundation led to the freest and most prosperous nation in human history — a "shining city on a hill" where biblical principles reigned.

Even though non-Christians and anti-Christians with communist leanings were primarily responsible for the government takeover of education in America beginning in the mid-1800s, there was a time when even government schools in America arguably could have been described as "Christian." Children in public schools nationwide prayed, read the Bible, learned the Ten Commandments, used books that were heavy on Scripture, and were generally educated by teachers in a biblical worldview. Those days are long gone, though, with the final nails in the coffin.

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Government Schools vs. Christianity reprint