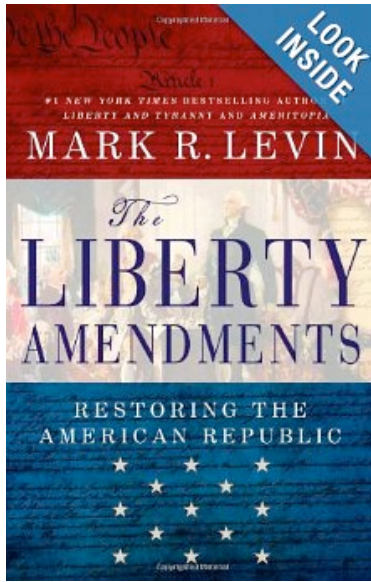


Mark Levin: A Patriotic Voice from the Constitutional Convention

The Liberty Amendments- Restoring the American Republic

By Mark Levin

A book review by Barry A. Schlech, Ph.D., Burleson, Texas
September 2, 2013



America has had a long line of patriots who stepped up at the right moment in our nation's history to protect and defend her. The conservative radio personality and constitutional attorney, Mark Levin, is one such patriot. His latest, simple, 257-page book, *The Liberty Amendments – Restoring the American Republic*¹ has become an instant classic and is rich in history and creative solutions for our nation's problems. Having read his previous books, *Men in Black*², *Liberty and Tyranny*³, and *Ameritopia*⁴, I am not surprised that the *Liberty Amendments* is Mark Levin's next patriotic chapter in providing workable constitutional solutions for our nation's woes.

On June 1, 1789, the 1st law enacted by the new U.S. Congress defined the oath of office for new government officials, i.e., “*I...solemnly swear or affirm...that I will support the Constitution of the United States*”. In this simply worded act and statement, the new U.S. Constitution clearly became the keystone of our new nation.

The whirling sound you are hearing is the Founding Fathers spinning in their graves. *Houston, we have a problem. The inmates are in charge of the asylum.* It is clear that U.S. officials have not taken their oaths very seriously for decades. Yes, our nation is spiraling out of constitutional control. In the *Liberty Amendments*, Mr. Levin clearly lays out the problem with our huge, over-reaching and over-bearing federal government:

“What was to be a relatively innocuous federal government, operating from a defined enumeration of specific grants of power, has become an ever-present and unaccountable force. It is the nations’ largest creditor, debtor, lender, employer, consumer, contractor, grantor, property owner, tenant, insurer, health-care provider, and pension guarantor.”

As President Reagan said, “*Government is not the solution, government is the problem*”. Levin looks to the U.S. Constitution as our way out of this mess and for a way back to the nation's founding principles. Article V provides two routes to amend the U.S. Constitution. One route has been used for all 27 current amendments; the other never used. Levin encourages us to begin using the latter method of a “*convention of states to amend the Constitution*” and get our country back on track:

“The state convention process is a product of the Constitutional Convention, envisioned for exactly this moment...”

Although seemingly controversial in today's time, the 11 Constitutional Amendments proposed by Mr. Levin are not revolutionary. He would admit that. They are ways to re-enforce the original design of the Founding Fathers of a small, controlled Federal Government at the liberty of the states. It has always impressed me how truly grand ideas can be so simply stated... no 2000 page documents needed

here... less than 500 words each to help return our country back to its original design. Each is fully supported and defended with Mark's discussions, arguments and references to the thinking of our original patriots.

As a tea party conservative, I recognize these principles and goals in Mark's proposed Amendments... reduced bureaucracy, term limits, fiscal responsibility, lower taxes, returning power to the states, private property rights, and photo IDs for voting. Each one is a tenet of most tea party groups in America today. We salute Mr. Levin for his leadership, his patriotism, his passion and his scholarship. The Liberty Amendments can be considered the 2013 version of the *Federalist Papers* because Mr. Levin clearly understands the original intent of the words in the U.S. Constitution. Mark Levin would have been very comfortable drinking a brew and having a crumpet with the likes of Madison, Mason, Hamilton, Jefferson, and even Locke and de Tocqueville discussing liberty and tyranny. Levin might be an anachronism, but he is a current, powerful voice today for freedom and defender of our constitutional republic.

Although I am optimistic about the process, I caution that these Amendments, if ratified, would be enforced by the same flawed officials we have today. Only through choosing better, pro-constitution representatives who take their oath seriously will these new amendments have defenders and be honored. But simply electing better representatives will not solve our long-term problem. The states must regain their supremacy over the federal government and this can be done by ratifying new Amendments like the ones Mark Levin proposes.

Levin is not naïve and expects a pushback from the naysayers who fear "runaway conventions". He counters that we already have a runaway country that has unlinked itself from the principles in the U.S. Constitution via the three separate branches of our Republic -- each guilty in their own way for constitutional drift.

"If the Framers were alarmed that states calling for a 'Convention for proposing Amendments' could undo the entire undertaking of the Constitutional Convention, then why did they craft, adopt and endorse the language? [in Article V]"

I am sure that I and millions of other readers of Mark's book are on board to use the convention of states and such Liberty Amendments to help restore our wonderful American Republic. Groups like *Citizens for Self-Governance* [www.selfgovern.com] have already jumped on board and laid out a plan for such Article V conventions for proposing amendments. As Mark says:

"Time is of the essence. Let us get started today!"

Let's roll. Where do we sign up and where do we start?

¹Levin, M. 2013. *The Liberty Amendments- Restoring the American Republic*. Mark R. Levin and Threshold Editions, New York

²Levin, M. 2005. *Men in Black- How the Supreme Court is Destroying America*. Mark R. Levin and Regnery Publishing, Inc., Washington, DC

³Levin, M. 2009. *Liberty and Tyranny- A Conservative Manifesto*. Mark R. Levin and Threshold Editions, New York

⁴Levin, M. 2012. *Ameritopia- The Unmaking of America*. Mark R. Levin and Threshold Editions, New York