

term instances of economic injustice. They must be judged, case by case, by the standard of equal rights for all.

Let's force these issues into the political dialog.

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make the real economy independent of the growth imperative mandated by money creation through interest bearing debt, thus enabling a stable, sustainable economy.

The creation of money through compound interest-bearing debt has created a giant financial economy that enslaves the tangible values of the globe's real economy. The debts created by the financiers will never be repaid. Writing them off properly would damage only the 1%.

We must recognize that as a medium of exchange, money is a commons; only as a store of value is money private property.

Finally, there is a need for an independent global currency.

Taxation should tap unearned income (rent on money and land, speculation), a green sales tax, and an income tax on only very high incomes and inheritances. The present huge public and private bureaucracies of lawyers, accountants, lobbyists, etc. needs to be re-employed in transparent public service bureaucracies distributed locally rather than behind closed doors in Wall Street and Washington, D.C.

Some sort of civil society entity needs to be created to rebuild multiple neglected infrastructures (including education and renewable energy) and remediate our environment; investments in our future that private capital is unwilling or unable to make. Only the government is capable of creating the required funding without raising taxes or adding to the interest burden that causes inflation. The jobs created will eliminate the tragedy of surplus people. Again, read Ellen Brown. A badly needed coherent national economic development policy would be spin-off of such an effort.

We must insist on universal single-payer health insurance.

A new bargaining table is needed to balance the requirements of a healthy environment with human needs, as well as to negotiate a more balanced income distribution within the population. Both of these issues should become the focus of our central political debate with basic input from local sources rather than being necessarily mandated by one-size-fits-all coercive national legislation. A generous definition of the commons insulated from private exploitation must be part of this dialog. The 21st century of a global reality of global warming and population increase outrunning resources must be the background for these debates.

Technological warfare has become an unaffordable luxury for the American corporate/military Empire. No other nation seeks to (or has the resources to) occupy North America. The United States must take the lead in phasing out weapons of mass destruction and robotic delivery systems. It must scale back its global presence.

Sadly, questions of social injustice raised by differences of ethnicity, gender, religion, and the like, will be resistant to permanent solutions. That does not mean that liberals should neglect to address them, particularly in civil rights cases or documentable long-

A NEW LIBERAL PROGRESSIVE AGENDA—11/2/11

I thank Benjamin B. Barber [“Toward a Fighting Liberalism,” Nov. 7] for calling for a bold new vision, but feel that a truly bold vision must address basic concepts and outmoded practices rather than getting caught up in their multifarious present manifestations.

The theme that unites the Occupy Wall Street movement, the fundamental need to replace plutocracy with democracy (both in our politics and our economic system) is a good beginning.

Barber is right to insist that “Liberals fight first for liberty.” I would add that liberals insist that liberty implies taking responsibility for one’s actions where conservatives see liberty as the freedom to exploit. The *liberal* holds that what is good for everybody ought to be considered good by me. The *conservative* holds that whatever is good for me ought to be considered good by everyone else.

Democracy best suits the liberal vision. Plutocracy best suits the conservative’s. The liberal’s fight against plutocracy must begin in attacks on the corporate media’s (including NPR) conservative framing and rhetoric. The electromagnetic spectrum and the Internet are a part of the commons and should be open to all equally. Government licensing should stipulate that media access should be free on an equal basis to all political candidates as individuals. Political ads, on the other hand, should be heavily taxed as commerce. Get money out of politics.

Liberalism must be re-defined in the context of 21st century realities. In democracies, scale matters. Today’s largely urban population of 300 million is a far cry from the 3 million largely rural subsistence farmers at the country’s birth. The Electoral College must be replaced with election by voter majority. A way must be found to make the Senate more responsive to urban voters and less responsive to over-represented corporate financed rural conservatism. Democracy needs to be reconfigured so that power flows up from the local community, not down from Washington, D.C.

Free speech originates from the free thought and feelings of individuals only—not corporations or any other organization. Spending money is not individual expression; it’s an exchange agreement with a counterparty, i.e. commerce. Given the present Supreme Court these clarifications of the intent of the Framers will have to be addressed with a Constitutional amendment.

Commercial entities (corporations and businesses) must be licensed and regulated by government. Their charters must add to their profitability mission, their responsibilities to their stakeholders: workers, customers, and the public.

Monetary reform is an urgent necessity. Money should be created with a 0% interest load as a public service by an independent government chartered agency of the civil society. Ellen Brown has shown several ways this can be done. Means should be employed to