

***Excerpt from Chapter 4, Mending the Flag:***

To begin the required repairs to our democracy here in Canada, we must identify the problems impeding our ability to move forward as a country. Of course, we also have to care about the damage caused by those problems to begin with. That is why I took great effort to reveal to you, through much research, how all of us, from all walks of life, are being adversely impacted in our day-to-day lives by ineffectual government. This is happening regardless of the figurehead and party in charge. How could it be any different, considering so many leaders have repeatedly failed to identify the problems leading to each government's poor results to begin with? So what are the issues preventing our democracy from working effectively to produce the positive outcomes we Canadians rightly expect? It all boils down to three key problems:

- 1) Poorly designed organizational structures within government;
- 2) Wrongly motivated individuals (highly correlated with the first point); and
- 3) Ineffective oversight of all levels of government (unaccountability).

The problems are really quite simple. They only seem complex because they are buried beneath the façade of government, much like the plumbing system so vital to make our taps run is buried behind the walls or underground. The seriousness of these three problems, especially when they act in combination with one another, will become much more evident in the next three chapters. For now, when you stop and really think about it, these three key problems not only impact Canadians from all walks of life, but reflect a greater malaise

affecting people around the world. They have significantly contributed, if not led, to war, famine, impoverishment, and disparities among citizens and among nations. In all likelihood, these key problems also reflect the seething, albeit heretofore ill-defined, anger undulating beneath the social fabric of modern democracies.

***Excerpt from Chapter 8, Mending the Flag:***

Tocqueville opined that “in democratic countries the science of association is the mother science; the progress of all the others depends on the progress of that one.”<sup>i</sup> We need to get the blueprints right in restructuring democracies internationally. For it is then, based on the realistic expectations of their success, that we can turn toward solving those problems that seem so impossible to solve: environmental and wildlife degradation; war; famine; poverty; disease; etc. Is it so hard to imagine? That nations blame others less and focus more on that which is responsible for most problems and wastefulness to begin with—improperly designed government with legislatures making wrong-minded decisions. It almost seems sinful. If individual countries with largely well-intended citizens can reconstitute their governments such that they make better risk-based decisions with positive outcomes, why can we not redesign our international organizations to do the same thing? Listen to your heart. You know the right thing to do. Never mind the modern-day scribes, the professors, Prime Ministers and Presidents. They have got it all wrong.

---

<sup>i</sup> Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*, 492.