

Dear Class,

We're the "Security Group". As you all know by now, it has been our purpose to research and speculate on the subject of "security". At first it was difficult for us to determine our definition and audience but then we looked around and realized that America is our audience and in fact, the globe. Everywhere we look, there is evidence that the world isn't at ease. Surveillance cameras, rescue phones, helicopters, and panic buttons envelope us in as miniscule areas as our classroom. Color-coded warnings seize control over our sanities and we are being lead into blind wars of terror and greed in a vain attempt to revenge our loss. Right now, we feel that society has lost touch with security and is seeking it in too many directions.

Our aim is to narrow the focus and demonstrate how security is like Maslow's hierarchy of needs pyramid, except the "Security Needs" pyramid begins with personal security as the primary need to be met, followed by society, then government. The focus we are emphasizing therefore is "personal". Both America and the rest of the world need to "chill out" and regain their sense of what's truly important in life. Then and only then can society and government become an effective means of security that we can wear like hats in our everyday lives.

Hats? Yes, hats. And we should be the ones wearing the hats...



Not the other way around.



Once the "Security Needs Pyramid" is understood, one can see that the road to recovery should begin on a personal level and work it's way up through society and then government. We can't heal a corrupt government using shattered people and broken societies. Building a solid foundation means building solid people.

Please explore and enjoy our three-tiered “security pyramid”.

Sincerely,

The “Security Group”- Allie, Meghan, and Melissa

So what I think we could aim for in the way of human civilization and culture would be a system in which we are all highly aware of our existing interconnection and unity with the whole domain of nature, and therefore do not have to go to all sorts of wild extremes to find that union.

-Alan Watts

What is



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One word took three people into three different directions...

Note from Allie:

Is security a delusion? It may be. By seeking knowledge from the dictionary I came across an interesting point; the definition of security is ever changing, depending on a persons mood and state of being. People in poverty may view security in something as simple as a loaf of bread. Most Americans, after 9/11, will most likely find themselves associating security with issues in Homeland Security. With these thoughts in mind, I don't feel I could possibly define security in a sentence. Somebody in this country will disagree with my views, making it a moot point. However, that is exactly what we are here to do. Security is the idea that one's self can discover refuge and/or comfort within someone or something. There is no one thing or person that possesses security, nor can any one person define what security means to him or her because it is ever changing. Today I find security within my career and my family. I visualize security as a nest egg, as well as a net to catch me if I ever shall fall. Although, this definition could easily change tomorrow by any combination of events. The person sitting next to me presumably has a completely different opinion as to what security is to them. Meghan and Melissa both found themselves with completely different meanings to the word. So how many other opinions could there be?

Note from Meghan:

The majority of the human race needs to feel secure in order to be relaxed or make serious or even daily decisions. I would like to explore Allie's point. Feeling secure is not the same as being secure. The Amish murders should provide enough proof of that. What about the absence of a security threat? Are we then secure? Is it possible to only experience the state of mind of secureness when safety is questionable? Or perhaps it is the other way around?

Note from Melissa:

We all put on the hat of security at one time or another and just as quickly we throw it in a heap of dirty laundry. The term, "a false sense of security" is redundant and meaningless because what kind of security does a cap provide? We wear it on our heads, but what is it protecting? That's right! Our heads! Security keeps our heads sane and without it there would be chaos. Different hats are provided for us throughout our lives, sometimes given by our loved ones, pets, or government and sometimes we create them ourselves. It doesn't matter if it's really there or if it even exists but as long as we believe we're wearing it, we'll be ok. Finding the word, "security", in a dictionary doesn't mean, "There it is, so it must be real". What it does mean, however, is that we have a word to describe the feeling we need to get through the day and sleep through the night.

After relentlessly pondering the meaning of security we decided to section the word into three parts and make our own "pyramid of security" type of thing similar to Maslow's hierarchy of needs. The primary layer is personal security because fundamentally we need to take care of ourselves and our own families before anything else. After that is "social security" which consists of the able members of our community working together to ensure each other's security (police, school boards, hospitals). Finally, at the top of the pyramid is the Government, which not only oversees everything else but it also wouldn't exist if our personal and social security needs weren't met. The only reason we have a government is because people and society have agreed to live under a security blanket (or if we're talking hats then in this case, a sombrero). It's kind of funny in a way that the smallest portion of our pyramid is at the top of the food chain (which is why our pyramid is upside down).

Who needs



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We can't simply define an [audience that has no boundaries](#). Instead, we must explore the power of the word security and why it is so crucial to survival. Humanity needs a sense of [security](#). It doesn't matter where you come from or how much money you make, everyone is interested in the security of themselves and their [loved ones](#). Whether or not there is such a thing is obvious each day, but that does not change the need for survival. I think it is better said that [everyone craves the sense of security in their daily lives](#). Whether you are boarding a flight or crossing the street, humans need to know they are secure to function. Unfortunately there are [some that were not born with this sense](#). We take this feeling for granted, but a [reminder](#) can be very awakening to the human spirit. Today security brings along with it an uneasy feeling that may not have had as close a connection before the 9/11 attacks. I find it hard to disassociate the word security with terrorism. It is such a closely related topic when dealing with more news of violence every day. When I tried tagging related words, without fail, it turned up with a government related link every time. I think it is equally important to note that online security was also a direct hit every time. Our world is overwhelmed with technology advances and homeland security that there is hardly room left for any other [conscious thought](#).

When it comes to security, the question isn't so much "who is our audience?" but rather, "who isn't?" Very few would disagree that we all need security in our lives and as our definitional argument suggests, the feeling of security is more important than security itself (since life can't ever truly be secure). Our intent isn't to push security on people (since they already welcome it) but rather to emphasize the importance of feeling secure on our everyday lives.

So, who is our audience? Our audience is American. Our audience is skeptical. And most importantly, our audience is afraid. Given the fickleness and uncertainty of life, many Americans live in constant fear and therefore are not really living at all. Our aim is to persuade this audience to accept life for what it is and live everyday like it could be their last. This is an audience that constantly questions security and what our country is doing to protect them. We intend to show them that we should be protecting our loved ones and ourselves by keeping healthy and satisfied.

Overall, the importance of our argument is that if we don't feel secure then we aren't secure because in reality security is only a feeling. However, it is a feeling that we NEED and we should do everything in our power to provide comfort and the strength to live; this is the security we need to survive.

Which brings us to "The Security Hierarchy" pyramid.

The "Security Hierarchy" consists of these three segments:

Government



Society



Personal



The following pages will explore each of these categories in depth. Beginning with the primary layer and most important level of our pyramid, personal.

Security is getting PERSONAL...

Do you eat?
Do you sleep?
Do you breathe?

Your body is like a machine, designed with your security in mind. We all function on a day-to-day basis and perform the necessary duties to keep on operating. The matters of the world at large can seem vastly insignificant if one's body and mind maintenance is left unattended. Therefore, personal security serves as the base for the "security hierarchy pyramid". The primary need when it comes to security is to survive, and no one person can rely on his or her society or government to keep them alive or sane. The need for personal security **MUST** be met before an individual can effectively wear the "security hats" of government and society.

So if the personal portion of our pyramid is the most fundamental then why is it also the smallest? Of course, this is the question we have been addressing throughout this project and the answer is to show our audience ways to take security back into their own hands and turn the pyramid right side up, once and for all. For the personal portion of our pyramid, we chose to create a subject index for the reader to address and apply to his or her personal life. By using a "wiki", we were able to make our index editable so others can add input and suggestions that will help us with our quest to create healthy and "secure" American citizens. Below is a sampling of this index, please note that due to problems inferred while transferring our web presence to a PDF format, we are unable to provide the complete index.

Security Subject Index:

Security Subjects

Age

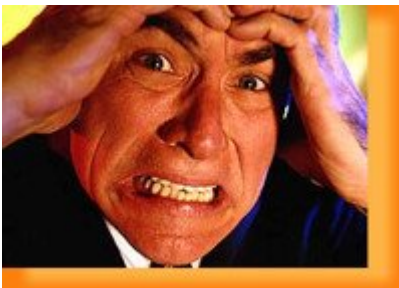
Age is an important issue in regards to personal security. Do we become more or less secure with age? There is no definite answer to that question but one thing we can say about age is that people become increasingly CONCERNED with security as they get older. Babies and children don't need to worry about their personal security because someone already does it for them. Most teens are not concerned with their security because they feel invincible (and they often find out the hard way that they're not). Perhaps, adults and old folks take security so seriously because they have so much to live for (families, responsibilities, relationships), however, they also have less time to live. Here is a short and simple security + age association breakdown.



Birth- Infant= Not at all concerned with security but have a basic survival instinct and need for comfort (which is met through human interaction). Overall, at ease as long as those basic needs are met.



Childhood- Teens= Living life to the fullest; seeking fun, not security. Still reliant on parents to keep them secure.



Adulthood- Grandpahood= Cautious, careful, predictable, STRESSED. Not living life so much as worrying about it.

Question: Why is it that the older and closer to death we get, the more fearful we become? Mature adults will constantly tell youths to follow their example but it seems as though we could learn more from the child-like attitude of living life to the fullest, even if it means living without our security hats from time to time.

American

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Americans have become increasingly concerned with the state of our national security. War and terror have since become synonymous. As the horrors and unsatisfying results of our retaliation make their mark on American history, we can only hope that as a people we will learn from these mistakes and look forward to a democracy of healing. As we know, healing begins on a personal level.

Beauty

To some (many) people, being beautiful or attractive is an important part of their personal security. To achieve this, one should think of the old phrase, "Beauty is in the eye of the beholder". He or she should consider what is beautiful to them and set realistic goals. A girl that looks like Roseanne Barr isn't ever going to look like Halle Berry. If Roseanne lived her life in a constant struggle to achieve a "Halle" look then she might never attain a satisfying level of personal security. Acceptance and self love is key to moving past the beauty roadblock and living a "secure" life.



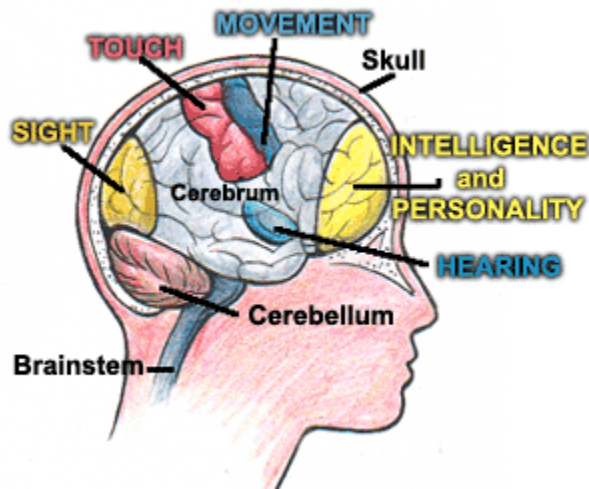
OR



It's all in the eye of the beholder.

Brain

Our brain is what makes us think, therefore our brain could possibly be the #1 inhibitor to being secure (since basically feeling secure = being secure). Of course there are many steps that can be taken in order to convince the brain that one is secure. The personal security index is a good place to start. One could work his or way down the list to find where he or she is lacking and look for ways to improve. Remember, security is a state of mind (that we wear on our heads).



Breeding

People breed in order to continue the human race. However, not all people need to breed. It certainly isn't necessary for a person to breed in order to achieve personal security but those who do take on an enormous responsibility and it becomes absolutely necessary for them to attain personal security in order to teach their offspring to do the same. A parent who ignores his or her own level of personal security will be far less effective at raising a confident and secure child. Parents should never forget about their selves after having kids.

Care

This song says it all when it comes to care and it's relationship to personal security:

"Get Together"

Love is but a song we sing
And fear's the way we die
You can make the mountains ring
Or make the angels cry
Though the bird is on the wing
And you may not know why

Come on people now
Smile on your brother
Everybody get together
Try to love one another right now

Some may come and some may go
And we will surely pass
When the one that left us here
Returns for us at last
We are but a moment's sunlight
Fading in the grass

If you hear the song we sing,
You will understand
You hold the key to love and fear
In your trembling hand
Just one key unlocks them both, you know
It's there at your command

Right now
Right now

- WILSON PHILLIPS

Caution

Reaching personal security doesn't mean completely abandoning reason. While one shouldn't live in constant fear, he or she should still approach life with caution and common sense. Our innate instincts should be a guide in daily life but one enters very dangerous territory when he or she starts to look for things to be cautious about. If you're looking for it, you'll find it but maybe you should ask yourself, "who wants it?" The more you have to be cautious about, the larger the "security hat" you'll need to wear and eventually it becomes a weight and burden opposed to a protection. Deal with struggles at hand which directly affect you and yours before moving on to problems of the world.

Who really wants to wear this?



Children

Children are SO important to teaching personal security because they embody every ideal which needs to be achieved in order to reach personal security. Children have the most life ahead of them yet worry the least about it. When adults get caught up in life, they should look to the carefree attitude of a child as inspiration and try to escape the pressures of an artificial world. By taking a closer look at what is TRULY important in life (as children do), one can finally find comfort in the hat of personal security.

Cleanliness

It may be next to holiness but it is certainly next to personal security. Maintaining one's cleanliness via caring for themselves is necessary (for most people) to achieve secure status. Take showers, brush teeth, and wipe after using the toilet.

This guy has some work to do.



Culture

Culture is actually fundamental to both the personal and social levels of security. An individual can find comfort and meaning by examining his or her culture and understanding why it is what it is. Some cultures are based on greed, some forgiveness, some survival. A lot can be learned by comparing one culture to another and evaluating which ones provide personal security and which ones take it away.

Death

When will you die? Check the death clock.

Everyone dies.

Reaching personal security means living while you have the chance.

Debt

Just like security, we are affected by debt on three levels and it needs to be attended to in the same order, beginning with personal.

Personal Debt

Social Debt

Government Debt

Of course, each of these levels correlates with eachother (just like our security needs).

Depression

Depression is a result of an unhealthy brain. Reaching personal security means overcoming depression. There are many steps that can be taken to assist someone in this daunting task and while society may be a helpful resource, it is also important to seperate oneself from the world around him or her and focus on healing from within. When the internal struggle is won then a person battling depression can effectively use society and government as an aid as opposed to a burden. By no means does this mean that a person should try to fight depression alone but he or she should first look inside and to the ones they love before waiting for society or the government to tell them there is something wrong.

How to get help with depression

Divorce

People should think of divorce as a seperation of self from another individual. Because of implications brought on by society and government, divorce has become perhaps far more complicated than it should be.

Drugs

Drugs are an excellent example of how the three security levels affect eachother and why it is so important to address each level in order of their importance. Drugs are a security problem on every level.

Individually: People make the choice whether or not to use drugs. Therefore, the problem begins with an individual.

Socially: The level and tolerance of drug use within a society can adversely affect its safety and well-being. Society is often the cause of individual drug use (but the individual is the only one with enough power to stop it).

Government: The government provides false ways of dealing with the problem. Incarceration, illegalization, and very little rehabilitation.

The power of each individual is far more important than society or government when it comes to the war on drugs. Remember that personal security doesn't just mean self, it means that of you and those you love. Help should start from within this circle before making its way through society and government. There will always be drugs and no one can rely on abstract entities to prevent drugs from taking their lives (usually, it's these outside entities that introduce them).

Eating

We have to eat to live but that isn't why it's on this list. Eating can also be a deterrent to achieving personal security. Some people eat too much; which can lead to depression, anxiety, and insecurity. Both good eating and exercise can vastly improve one's personal level of security.

Education

Education is more important to some than it is to others. Sometimes ignorance is bliss and sometimes it's blindness. The government and society force education but we as individuals should take what we are made to learn with a grain of salt and seek knowledge more so than "education". Education is what we are taught and knowledge is what is gained.



Faith

In order for personal security to be achieved, one must have faith in his or her self. Religious faith can aide a person in doing so but the importance doesn't lie within the religion itself but only what it does for the individual. When this importance becomes blurred then threats to our personal, social, and global security can emerge. Religion has been the cause of war and persecution throughout time. On a personal security level, people need faith, not necessarily religion.

Holy War

Family

Featured Article

Relationships and Marriage

Love and Respect *in Action*

Love. Respect. These two little words carry one big punch. And they could transform your marriage. Read the article.

Timely topic:

Year End Giving

Related resource:

Love & Respect

Fear

Fear is a reaction to supposed threats on our personal security. Often, only a product of the imagination sparked by the reality that we will someday die. Society perpetuates the fear of death and government pretends to control the uncontrollable. In order for fear to not affect our ability to achieve personal security, we need to accept the reality of death instead of falling into a false hope of avoidance. Fear and anxiety are only a hindrance to our freedom to live.

Friends

Article:

The Importance of Friendship

"Peers and friends are not the same thing..."

Janet Shucksmith, Leo Hendry, John Love and Tony
Glendinning

Health

Although this is one arena where people will most likely have to rely on the help and wisdom of others at some point, it is up to the individual to take control of both their physical and mental health.

Concern for the security and well being of loved ones as well as ourselves creates stress which takes a toll on our health. A ripple effect magnifies stress as our health deteriorates, and a loss of control ensues. A lack of control requires us to place our security in the hands of the government, while anxiety from the unknown continues the cycle of increased stress and diminishing health.

If we look to nature's example of survival of the fittest, we find that those who take control, and thrive within their environment enjoy good health. We can therefore assert, due to the balance within nature, that one who takes positive control over his or her health, will thrive within their environment.

Happiness

Article: [Happiness](#)

“What Is the Key to Happiness?”

I have known such despair, you wouldn't think I could ever be happy, but I know great joy too.

I want to share some of what I've learned with you.

Michael David Crawford
Second draft - April 3, 2004

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Home

Home can be this:



or this:



or this:



More than likely, home won't ever be this:



Home is what you make it, so don't expect society or government to make it for you. If you take responsibility then society and government can help you have a home. If you don't take responsibility then the society and government could take your home away.

Identity

Identity is just identity, until society and government make it a problem. Only the individual can prevent his or her identity from being "lost" or stolen. One must remember, however, that what is being stolen isn't so much one's personal identity but rather the identity constructed by society and government. One's true identity belongs to the heart and mind of the individual. Therefore, the only way to preserve it is by staying true to one's self.

Income

Income isn't as important to personal security as one might think. Many people have found happiness, security, and an overall richness in life with very low incomes. Greed, selfishness, and the feeling of needing to compete with society is what makes income an issue for most people. People should focus on being content instead of trying to out do eachother.

Justice

One needs justice in order to have personal security. But remember that justice starts with you! One can not expect society and government to work for them unless they first work on themselves. Do the right thing. Fight for what you believe in, but don't expect others to fight for you. Work with society and government, not for it or against it. And most importantly, maintain justice in your personal life and with those closet to you if you want

Love

All You Need Is Love
The Beatles (Lennon/McCartney)

Love, love, love, love, love, love, love, love, love.
There's nothing you can do that can't be done.
Nothing you can sing that can't be sung.
Nothing you can say but you can learn how to play the game
It's easy.
There's nothing you can make that can't be made.
No one you can save that can't be saved.
Nothing you can do but you can learn how to be in time
It's easy.
All you need is love, all you need is love,
All you need is love, love, love is all you need.
Love, love, love, love, love, love, love, love, love.
All you need is love, all you need is love,
All you need is love, love, love is all you need.
There's nothing you can know that isn't known.
Nothing you can see that isn't shown.

Nowhere you can be that isn't where you're meant to be.
It's easy.
All you need is love, all you need is love,
All you need is love, love, love is all you need.
All you need is love (all together now)
All you need is love (everybody)
All you need is love, love, love is all you need.

Marriage

Marriage in itself can be some people's primary source of personal security. This isn't to say that marriage is necessary to achieving personal security. However, love to some degree is necessary and whether it comes in the form of marriage, family, freedom, or friendship- we need to love to live. (Not only ourselves but others)

It depends on what you as a person consider important to your own happiness. If family values top your list then marriage is more than likely a fundamental aspect of your personal security ratio. Things like divorce, therefore, may vastly affect your level of personal security.

Money

Article from Forbes.com: Money

Psychology
Money Won't Buy You Happiness
Matthew Herper, 09.21.04, 3:00 PM ET

NEW YORK - It's official: Money can't buy happiness.

Morals

MORALS

It is curious that physical courage should be so common in the world, and moral courage so rare.
- Mark Twain in Eruption

It's my opinion that every one I know has morals, though I wouldn't like to ask. I know I have. But I'd rather teach them than practice them any day. "Give them to others"--that's my motto.

- "Morals and Memory" speech

There are two kinds of Christian morals, one private and the other public. These two are so distinct, so unrelated, that they are no more akin to each other than are archangels and politicians. During three hundred and sixty-three days in the year the American citizen is true to his Christian private morals, and keeps undefiled the nation's character at its best and highest; then in the other two days of the year he leaves his Christian private morals at home and carries his Christian public morals to the tax office and the polls, and does the best he can to damage and undo his whole year's faithful and righteous work.

- Taxes and Morals speech

Morals consist of political morals, commercial morals, ecclesiastical morals, and morals.

- More Maxims of Mark, Johnson, 1927

We get our morals from books. I didn't get mine from books, but I know that morals do come from books- theoretically at least.

- Remarks at the opening of the Mark Twain Library

As by the fires of experience, so by commission of crime you learn real morals. Commit all crimes, familiarize yourself with all sins, take them in rotation (there are only two or three thousand of them), stick to it, commit two or three every day, and by and by you will be proof against them. When you are through you will be proof against all sins and morally perfect. You will be vaccinated against every possible commission of them. This is the only way.

- On Being Morally Perfect

The political and commercial morals of the United States are not merely food for laughter, they are an entire banquet.

- Mark Twain in Eruption

It has always been a peculiarity of the human race that it keeps two sets of morals in stock-the private and the real, and the public and the artificial.

- Mark Twain in Eruption

You can't keep a juvenile moral institution alive on two displays of its sash per year.

- Mark Twain's Autobiography

It is not best to use our morals weekdays, it gets them out of repair for Sunday.

- Notebook, 1898

A man should not be without morals; it is better to have bad morals than none at all.

- Mark Twain's Notebook

The most permanent lessons in morals are those which come, not of book teaching, but of experience.

- A Tramp Abroad

Morals are not the important thing--nor enlightenment--nor civilization. A man can do absolutely well without them, but he can't do without something to eat. The supremest thing is the need of the body, not of the mind and spirit.

- Mark Twain, a Biography

Religion

See [faith](#).

Space

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Jump to: [navigation](#), [search](#)

Personal space is the region surrounding each person, or that [area](#) which a person considers his domain or [territory](#). Often if entered by another being without this being desired, it makes them feel uncomfortable. The amount of [space](#) a being (person, plant, animal) needs falls into two categories, immediate individual physical space (determined by imagined boundaries), and the space an individual considers theirs to live in (often called [habitat](#)). These are dependent on many things, such as [growth](#) needs, [habits](#), [courtships](#), etc.

What distance is appropriate for a particular social situation depends on culture. It is also a matter of personal [preference](#). People may feel uncomfortable if the distance is too large (cold) or too small (intrusive). It may be due to the limited available space, different cultural standards, [physical intimacy](#), [interpersonal relationships](#), or some form of rudeness. Permission is often expected if the intrusion is unexpected. Many [customs](#) are centered around just this particular issue.

Personal space is highly variable. Those who live in a densely populated environment tend to have smaller personal space requirements. Thus a resident of [India](#) may have a smaller personal space than someone who is home on the [Mongolian steppe](#), both in regard to [home](#) and [self](#).

It can be determined on a [habitat](#) level by [profession](#), [livelihood](#), and [occupation](#).

It can also be heavily affected by a person's position in society, with the more affluent a person being the larger personal space they demand. See also [ethnic stereotype](#).

While it is highly variable and difficult to measure accurately the best estimates for personal physical space place it at about 24.5 inches (60 centimeters) on either side, 27.5 inches (70 centimeters) in front and 15.75 inches (40 centimeters) behind for an average westerner.

In certain circumstances people can accept having their personal space violated. For instance in romantic encounters the stress from allowing closer personal space distances can be reinterpreted into emotional fervour.

Another method of dealing with violated personal space, according to psychologist Robert Sommer, is dehumanization. He argues that, for instance on the subway, crowded people imagine those infiltrating their personal space as inanimate.

Attitudes of people regarding someone else entering their personal space may depend on the sex of both people. Some train cars are women-only, to allow women to avoid men entering their personal space, providing privacy, and safety from the possibility of being groped.

Safety

Humans use numerous types of safety nets. No one's safety can ever be assured. Going to war doesn't provide safety and neither does money or living underground. While there are things a person can do for a degree of protection, the fact of the matter is that life can't be controlled. Safety is certainly a concern on all three levels: personal, social, and government. But in regards to personal security, safety is more so a matter of acceptance. As individuals we have to accept our vulnerabilities and use our available resources to make life as safe as it can be; this means utilizing society and government as we see fit but it doesn't mean completely relying on them to keep us and our loved ones "safe". We should work together for the common good but not by jeopardizing another's sense of security.

Suicide

Suicide

349 people want to do this...

I want to kill myself — 3 days ago

I want to kill myself before my husband kills my son. I can't take it any more. My husband is going to kill us all. I had an affair with Rick Waltbillig from Cabela's and

ever since my family has PAID A BIG PRICE!!!!
I have been really sick. PLEASE SAVE MY SON

This type of entry is typed daily into the website, 43things.com

<http://www.43things.com/entries/view/1414874pe>

Time

Time is an idea, a concept, a vikalpa. A man made perception around which we have planned entire civilizations.

Regarding personal security, it is impertinent that we concentrate on what is happening here and now. On a personal level, it is important that we don't concern ourselves with a series of 'what ifs', but rather be alert and secure within the given moment that we exist.

Violence

See web link:

[Violence](#)

Zen

"The objective of Zen training is to bring about a state of affairs by which the individual feels no difference between himself, and the rest of the universe. It can be described either that the individual were all powerful like God, creating everything around him, or that the individual is powerless, and that everything just happens to him, but they are talking about the same thing, both views are correct! There is no past, and there's no problem!"

Alan Watts

"We have two eyes to see two sides of things, but there must be a third eye which will see everything at the same time and yet not see anything. That is to understand Zen."

D. T. Suzuki

"The fundamental delusion of humanity is to suppose that I am here and you are out there."

Yasutani Roshi

"The most important point is to accept yourself and stand on your two feet."
Shunryu Suzuki

"What does mysticism mean? It means the way to attain knowledge. It's close to philosophy, except in philosophy you go horizontally while in mysticism you go vertically."
Elie Wiesel

All of the significant battles are waged within the self.

“There is no security in life, only opportunity.”
- Mark Twain

After the personal needs of security are met then an individual can both contribute to and take advantage of the chunk of the pyramid we call: Social.

Security by and for the People

Society takes security and blends personal interests with national interests. All three levels of the pyramid intertwine, making personal security the cause and the result of national security. The middle ground happens at the end of one's nose and the start of another's (all the while a government, comprised of many blurry faces, watches over]. Socially speaking, security revolves around the protection of people from themselves, each other, and any other happenstance that comes along. When it rains, a body can buy an umbrella. If Jack Ass rear ends the car when the light turns red, the police and half of Largo's Fire Department will respond (not in kind, but with pencils and paperwork). Insurance men will take photos and reach for their calculators. The chance to be examined by a physician will be offered or even required. If a hacker makes a body's computer his own personal playground, there is help. Yes, a body has protection in society. But what happens when the body needs protection from society? That's when Uncle Sam comes to the rescue. Through laws, a body has rights. Violate a body's rights and government will intervene or not. In Utopia, security is not an issue-it merely happens. Here in America, the intertwining of the pyramid induces a struggle, constant and necessary.

View: [Security Camera](#)

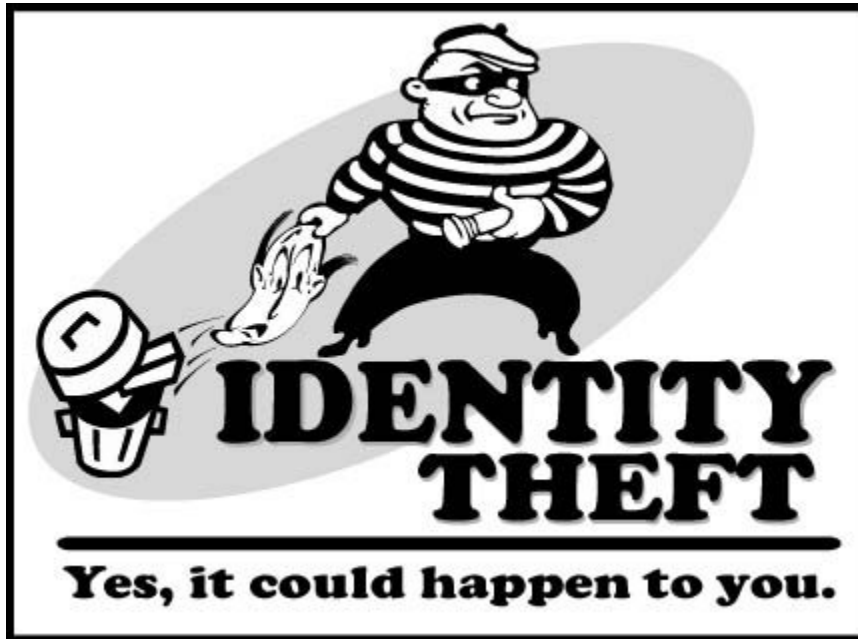
Read: [The Compromise of Rights In The Name of Security](#)

The compromise of rights in the name of security inhibits a free country at its most basic level. How are rights compromised? Well, the drums of war beat loudly and in time with the heartbeat of a (usually) violated people. Throw in a few orators with catchphrases (axis of evil, give me liberty or give me death, etc) and rights are easily shuffled and reinterpreted in the sacred annals of Congress.

On the other hand, rights can be compromised without a foreign enemy infiltrating a national interest. Lawmakers constantly press their agendas on the public. Lobbyists come to Washington and pursue their own interests. Ostensibly, the common man has representation in Congress. But does his representation truly have the common man's rights in mind?

View: [Insecure Road Rage](#)

Read: [When Personal Security Outweighs the Rights of Others](#)



We live in a world that is dominated by crime and war. At the base of the pyramid, a person is responsible for security. This may mean breaking a law or two and the loss of rights of another. If a person is not first secure himself, society and by extension, the government is at risk. Personal security is clearly the most important aspect of the pyramid.

View: [The Smiling Guard](#)

Read: [Ostriches We May Be](#)

Do Americans really need to worry about their security? We have two oceans that divide us from the rest of the world. We are the only super power. Can we be toppled?

Before September 11, 2001, the answers to those questions were easily found. In a world dominated by a globalization, and thus beholden to each other, our security seemed definite. Our guards smiled and welcomed visitors, all in the name of a market economy. The tragedy of September 2001 shattered the rose colored glasses of many Americans. We recognized a new enemy: the terrorist. How did we fail to recognize terrorism?

Simply put, we did not think it possible. America is the kind of nation that raises the largest army in the history of mankind in order to defeat Nazi Germany and then immediately sends all of her troops home within a year's time. America, born out of isolationism, flirts with turning her back on international issues all the time. Our circumstances, our longevity, and our strength grapple with an old fashioned mentality

that ceased to be sensible when World War II ended with the Cold War. Yet we continue to bury our heads in the sand. How do we do this?

Easily. Americans have plenty to distract them from reality. Thriving and aggressive capitalism dominates daily life. The world has never seemed so small, despite our lack of camaraderie with the Third World. There is always something to buy or someplace to go. This indicates the hold society can have over a person. With their own personal security settled, people can neglect to provide for the security of others by becoming ostriches. For instance, not all registered voters actually vote.

View: [Modern Day Bra Burners](#)

Read: [When the Government Encroaches](#)

Not all of us are ostriches. Many Americans actively seek to better their security and the security of others. The activist is the person unwilling to settle for the status quo. The activist wants change and takes action to secure that change. Unfortunately, the government is notoriously reticent when it comes to change.

View: [Hold It Right There](#)

Read: [A Nation of Disenfranchised](#)

"I wear the black for the poor and the beaten down,
Livin' in the hopeless, hungry side of town,
I wear it for the prisoner who has long paid for his crime,
But is there because he's a victim of the times."
-Johnny Cash

Convicted criminals go to prison. Drunks sweat it out overnight in jail. Wife beaters, murderers, rapists, and thieves are all a part of the justice system. In terms of security, society must be protected from its criminals. In terms of society, crime is a family matter. Prisons are expensive. Without a justice system, the security of society would be far more tenuous.

View: [Airport Underroos](#)
Read: [Lamponing the Issue](#)

[The Onion](#)



The Onion consistently and effectively creates space for critical evaluation of the most surreal contours and indicators of "control society." What would a diagram charting the security of [civil liberty](#) itself look like? Perhaps a more subtle and supple model for representing this mesh would be a densely woven fabric.

Society takes security and blends personal interests with national interests. All three levels of the pyramid intertwine, making personal security both the cause and the result of national security

And then on top the pyramid we have “government”. Which, unfortunately, currently carries the most weight. This is what we hope to change.

Why does the government have control over OUR security?

It is impossible to disassociate the words security and government with the 9/11 attacks. Regardless of what we believe about 9/11, most Americans began to feel insecure that day. Our society expects our national borders to be impenetrable, but when something happens to that trust we become more aware of the flaws of our nation. As a result, the national focus has been on security for the past 5 years. The fundamentals of security can be broken into three segments: personal, social, and government. These three pieces all fit together, whether we like it or not. Any time there is a crisis we turn to each other for help and support. Any social concerns for one's personal well-being have to be presented to our government to take action. We find these connections everywhere we look for security. The lose of a job may seem to be a personal concern, but where will that person turn to for support? Some may turn to friends and family, but the first resource most people turn to for support is unemployment insurance. When there is a national disaster many people come together to offer their support, but our government is expected to make it right. We see more flaws in our system during these times because we expect so much from it. If our government doesn't follow protocol or doesn't respond fast enough for society, there is an uproar because nobody is ever prepared to take on personal responsibility. It is easier to point a finger at Big Brother, allowing our nation to take the blow for our own mistakes. The big picture here is that security will always be taken personally. It is up to each one of us to make the world a safer place.

Role of Government:

Homeland Security



One of the major concerns of people today is Homeland Security. The lives of millions are in the hands of our government officials (DHS), and they have

devised a plan of action...color coded and all. So why is it that so many Americans have come to ignore these color coded warnings? For many of us it's just a matter of lack of concern. DHS has cried wolf so many times that we fail to comprehend the importance of these threat levels. DHS provides us with many tools to break the color coded warnings, but they don't really know what is going to happen. They base their assumptions on the following: available intelligence, terrorist capability, terrorist intentions, and timescale. We can only trust that our borders are in fact safe, since there is no way for average Americans to protect themselves from an unlikely terrorist attack. There are resources for finding the latest threats and security issues, but these are really just hearsay. These days suspicious appearances can land you jail time, so basically our safety lies in the grip of assumptions. It all comes back on us, the citizens, to be prepared for the worst.

What are we dealing with here?

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22, 2006

(CBS/AP)



(CBS) The Skinny is Hillary Profita's take on the top news of the day and the best of the Internet.

Here's a shocker for you: The government is disorganized. I kid you not. The Washington Post has obtained a leaked copy of a report from a consulting group hired by the Department of Homeland Security that sought to "determine whether DHS was following federal contracting laws and internal policies." Well, the consultants "could not locate 33 of the 72 contract files it had selected for the review."

And the ones they did find? Those "often lacked basic documentation required under federal rules, such as evidence that the department negotiated the best prices for taxpayers."

The consultants wrote in their report: "The inability to locate files and inconsistent file organization puts the government at risk in ensuring the contractor is fulfilling its contractual obligations and the government is meeting its contract administration responsibilities." Oops.

In what might just be the most damning assessment of the situation possible, one expert who teaches at the University of Baltimore School of Law told the Post: "This strongly suggests that we're buying the wrong stuff, the wrong way, possibly from the wrong contractors, and failing to check before, during or after."

Fortunately, a DHS spokesperson has informed the Post that officials are following the consultants' recommendations on fixing the situation: "We've acted upon each one of their findings. It was an internal look. We are going to bring them in again to make sure we are following up," he said.

We can see from this article that there is a lot of hostility towards our government, and their ability to run this country. We have all misplaced files in our lives. Hell, I've saved papers on my computer, only to panic at the last minute when I couldn't remember what I saved it as. Luckily, the safety of an entire country isn't riding on my ability to organize documents. When the DHS can't even keep documents together do we still feel secure? This type of mistake may not seem so crucial to our daily lives, but in the larger scheme of things we have to feel secure by the people who are protecting us. In this case, it is the DHS whom we need this sense of security from. Unfortunately, with an article like this it is clear that the DHS doesn't have it all figured out, leaving the rest humanity feeling uneasy.

Wise Words

From Wisdom Quotes: Quotations to inspire and challenge - by Jone Johnson Lewis

Security Quotations

Alan Cohen:

It takes a lot of courage to release the familiar and seemingly secure, to embrace the new. But there is no real security in what is no longer meaningful. There is more security in the adventurous and exciting, for in movement there is life, and in change there is power.

Alfred North Whitehead:

It must be admitted that there is a degree of instability which is inconsistent with civilization. But, on the whole, the great ages have been unstable ones.

Benjamin Franklin:

They who would give up an essential liberty for temporary security, deserve neither liberty or security

Douglas MacArthur:

There is no security on this earth. Only opportunity.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt:

True individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence.

G Gaia:

The common dogma of fundamentalists is fear of modern knowledge, inability to cope with the fast change in a scientific-technological society, and the real breakdown in apparent moral order in recent years.... That is why hate is the major fuel, fear is the cement of the movement, and superstitious ignorance is the best defense against the dangerous new knowledge. ... When you bring up arguments that cast serious doubts on their cherished beliefs you are not simply making a rhetorical point, you are threatening their whole Universe and their immortality. That provokes anger and quite frequently violence. ... Unfortunately you cannot reason with them and you even risk violence in confronting them. Their numbers will decline only when society stabilizes, and adapts to modernity.

AOL Member

Germaine Greer:

Security is when everything is settled. When nothing can happen to you. Security is the denial of life.

H. L. Mencken:

I believe that liberty is the only genuinely valuable thing that men have invented, at least in the field of government, in a thousand years. I believe that it is better to be free than to be not free, even when the former is dangerous and the latter safe. I believe that the finest qualities of man can flourish only in free air – that progress made under the shadow of the policeman's club is false progress, and of no permanent value. I believe that any man who takes the liberty of another into his keeping is bound to become a tyrant, and that any man who yields up his liberty, in however slight the measure, is bound to become a slave.

H. L. Mencken:

The average man does not want to be free. He simply wants to be safe.

Helen Keller:

Security is mostly a superstition. It does not exist in nature, nor do the children of men as a whole experience it. Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure or nothing.

Henry G. Strauss:

I have every sympathy with the American who was so horrified by what he had read about the effects of smoking that he gave up reading.

Hodding Carter:

There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One is roots; the other, wings.

James F. Bymes:

Too many people are thinking of security instead of opportunity. They seem to be more afraid of life than death

James Russell Lowell:

He who is firmly seated in authority soon learns to think security, and not progress, the highest lesson of statecraft.

John Steinbeck:

I have named the destroyers of nations: comfort, plenty, and security - out of which grow a bored and slothful cynicism, in which rebellion against the world as it is, and myself as I am, are submerged in listless self-satisfaction.

Laurence J. Peter:

A rut is a grave with the ends knocked out.

Marian Wright Edelman:

The challenge of social justice is to evoke a sense of community that we need to make our nation a better place, just as we make it a safer place.

Martin Luther King, Jr.:

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Peter Block:

As long as we wish for safety, we will have difficulty pursuing what matters.

The Answer to How Is Yes

Peter F. Drucker:

Society, community, family are all conserving institutions. They try to maintain stability, and to prevent, or at least to slow down, change. But the organization of the post-capitalist society of organizations is a destabilizer. Because its function is to put

knowledge to work -- on tools, processes, and products; on work; on knowledge itself -- it must be organized for constant change.

Ralph Waldo Emerson:

Reform is affirmative, conservatism negative; conservatism goes for comfort, reform for truth.

The Conservative

Ralph Waldo Emerson:

People wish to be settled: only as far as they are unsettled is there any hope for them.

Samuel Adams:

If ye love wealth greater than liberty, the tranquility of servitude greater than the animating contest for freedom, go home from us in peace. We seek not your counsel, nor your arms. Crouch down and lick the hand that feeds you; and may posterity forget that ye were our countrymen.

Shel Silverstein:

The hens they all cackle, the roosters all beg,
But I will not hatch, I will not hatch.
For I hear all the talk of pollution and war
As the people all shout and the airplane roar,
So I'm staying in here where it's safe and it's warm,
And I WILL NOT HATCH!

Winston Churchill:

The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

Credits

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Making a Difference

Gandhi on The Non-violent State:

MANY HAVE shaken their heads as they have said, "But you can't teach nonviolence to the masses. It is only possible for individuals and that too in rare cases." That is, in my opinion, a gross self-deception. If mankind was not habitually nonviolent, it would have

been self-destroyed ages ago. But in the duel between forces of violence and nonviolence, the latter have always come out victorious in the end.

The truth is that we have not had patience enough to wait and apply ourselves wholeheartedly to the spread of nonviolence among the people as a means for political ends.

Political Power

To me political power is not an end but one of the means of enabling people to better their condition in every department of life. Political power means capacity to regulate national life through national representatives. If national life becomes so perfect as to become self-regulated, no representation become necessary. There is then a state of enlightened anarchy. In such a state everyone is his own ruler. He rules himself in such a manner that he is never a hindrance to his neighbour.

In the ideal State, therefore, there is no political power because there is no State. But the ideal is never fully realized in life. Hence the classical statement of Thoreau that Government is best which governs the least.

Capitalism and Trusteeship

It is my firm conviction that if the State suppressed capitalism by violence, it will be caught in the coils of violence itself, and fail to develop nonviolence at any time. The State represents violence in a concentrated and organized form. The individual has a soul, but as the State is a soulless machine, it can never be weaned from violence to which it owes its very existence. Hence I prefer the doctrine of trusteeship.

The fear is always there that the State may use too much violence against those who differ from it. I would be very happy, indeed, if the people concerned behaved as trustees; but if they fail, I believe we shall have to deprive them of their possessions through the State with the minimum exercise of violence.

That is why I said at the Round Table Conference that every vested interest must be subjected to scrutiny, and confiscation ordered where necessary--with or without compensation as the case demanded.

What I would personally prefer would be not centralization of power in the hands of the State, but an extension of the sense of trusteeship, as, in my opinion, the violence of private ownership is less injurious than the violence of the State. However, if it is unavoidable, I would support a minimum of State-ownership.

While admitting that man actually lives by habit, I hold that it is better for him to live by the exercise of will. I also believe that men are capable of developing their will to an extent that will reduce exploitation to a minimum.

I look upon an increase in the power of the State with the greatest fear because, although while apparently doing good by minimizing exploitation, it does the greatest harm to mankind by destroying individuality, which lies at the root of the progress.

We know of so many cases where men have adopted trusteeship, but non where the State has really lived for the poor.

Non-violent Swaraj

In Swaraj based on ahimsa, people need not know their rights, but it is necessary for them to know their duties. There is no duty but creates a corresponding right, and those only are true rights which flow from a due performance of one's duties. Hence rights of true citizenship accrue only to those who serve the State to which they belong. And they alone can do justice to the rights that accrue to them.

Everyone possesses the right to tell lies or resort to goondaism. But the exercise of such right is harmful both to the exerciser and society. But to him who observes truth and nonviolence comes prestige, and prestige brings rights. And people who obtain rights as a result of performance of duty, exercise them only for the service of society, never for themselves.

Swaraj of a people means the sum total of the Swaraj (self-rule) of individuals. And such Swaraj comes only from performance by individuals of their duty as citizens. In it no one thinks of his rights. They come, when they are needed, for better performance of duty.

Under Swaraj based on nonviolence nobody is anybody's enemy, everybody contributes his or her due quota to the common goal, all can read and write, and their knowledge keeps growing from day to day. Sickness and disease are reduced to the minimum. No one is a pauper and labour can always find employment. There is no place under such a government for gambling, drinking and immorality or for class hatred.

The rich will use their riches wisely and usefully, and not squander them in increasing their pomp and worldly pleasures. It should not happen that a handful of rich people should live in jeweled palaces and the millions in miserable hovels devoid of sunlight or ventilation.....

In non-violent Swaraj there can be no encroachment upon just rights; contrariwise no one can possess unjust rights. In a well-organized State, usurpation should be an impossibility and it should be unnecessary to resort to force for dispossessing a usurper.

Decentralization

I suggest that, if India is to evolve along non-violent lines, it will have to decentralize many things. Centralization cannot be sustained and defended without adequate force. Simple homes from which there is nothing to take away require no policing; the palaces of the rich must have strong guards to protect them against decoity. So must huge factories. Rurally organized India will run less risk of foreign invasion than urbanized India well equipped with military, naval and air forces.

Centralization as a system is inconsistent with non-violent structure of society.

Modern State

It is not possible for a modern State based on force non-violently to resist forces of disorder, whether external or internal. A man cannot serve God and Mammon, nor be 'temperate and furious' at the same time. It is claimed that a State can be based on nonviolence, i.e., it can offer nonviolent resistance against a world combination based on armed force. Such a State was Ashoka's. The example can be repeated. But the case does not become weak even if it be shown that Ashoka's State was not based on nonviolence. It has to be examined on its merits.....

There can be no non-violence offered by the militarily strong. Thus, Russia in order to express non-violence has to discard all her power of doing violence. What is true is that if those, who were at one time strong in armed might, change their mind, they will be better able to demonstrate their nonviolence to the world and, therefore, also to their opponents.

Source: The Mind of Mahatma Gandhi

What can we LEARN from this...

Gandhi's philosophy on nonviolence has been a message that the world still can't seem to grasp. What we, as a nation and as a world, need to understand is that one cannot dispell violence with more violence, just as you cannot dispell darkness with more darkness. To put out the darkness, there must be light. After hearing Gandhi's grandson's speach at USF, I really thought about what Gandhi was trying to tell us all. Our natural response to any act of violence is either vengeance, retaliation, or justice, which usually falls under a form of punishment. All this is doing is continuing the cycle of violence. A heated topic in America is whether or not this war, or any war for that matter, is necessary.

Unfortunatley, we live in a society built on generations of war. America is not the first nation built from a stem of violence, but we can be one of the first to change our future.

"I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man (woman) whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him (her). Will he (she) gain anything by it? Will it restore him (her) to a control over his (her) own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj (freedom) for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and your self melt away."

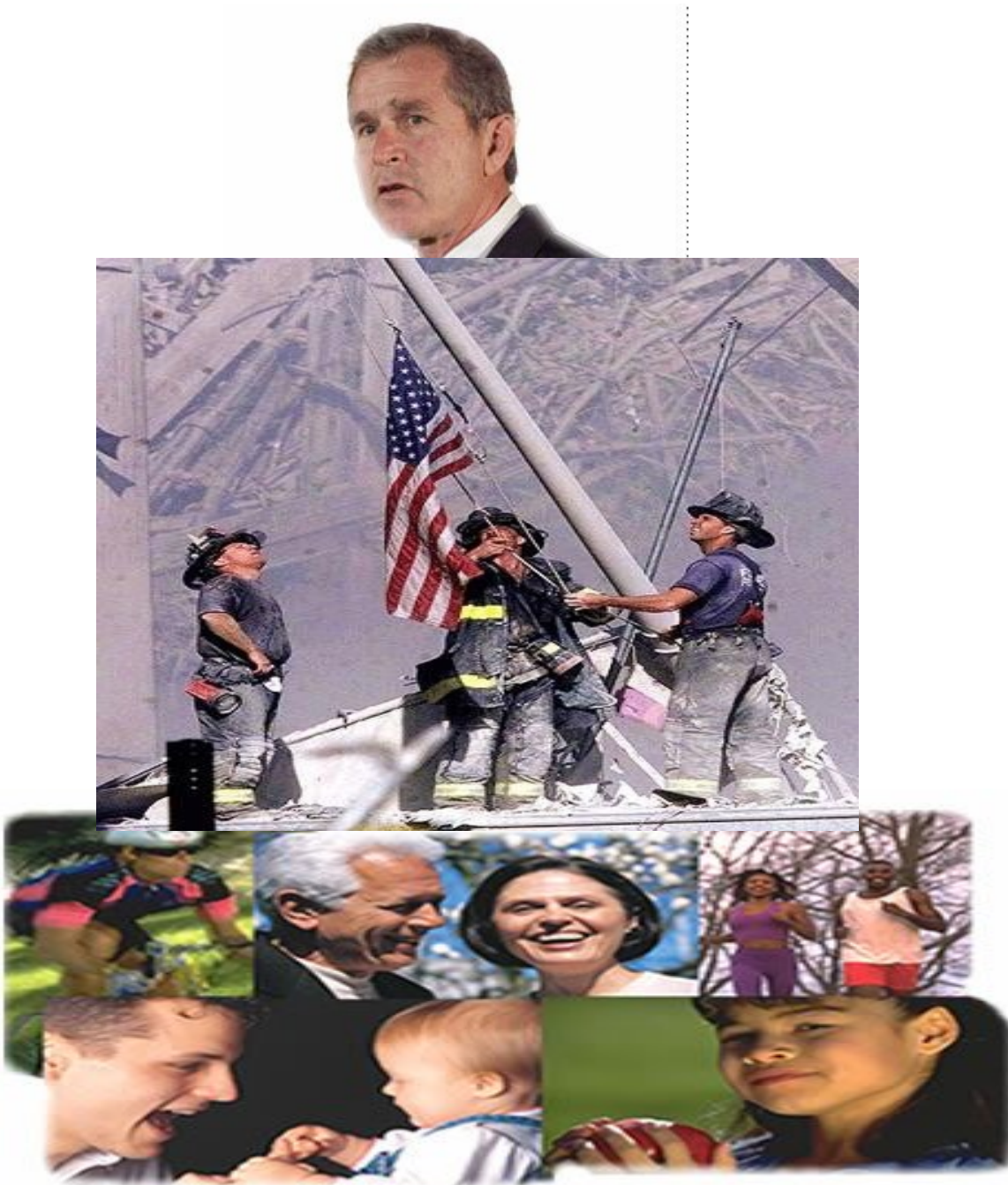
- One of the last notes left behind by Gandhi in 1948, expressing his deepest social thought.

Source: Mahatma Gandhi [Last Phase, Vol. II (1958), P. 65].

Finale

In closing, we would like to say that whether or not we care to admit it, we spend a majority of our day taking precautions. We brush our teeth, we shut off appliances, we lock the door behind us, we take that extra second to look left, right, and left again at the stop signs...but what do we do for each other? Do we take the extra time to help our neighbors feel secure? Do we glance next door to make sure the elderly couple is doing O.K. today? Why not? Most people will argue that they just don't have enough time for that. We live in a society where time is a commodity, never pondering the idea that we may be moving too fast and missing out on the small things that make life meaningful. Before we know it, life will have passed before us and we will no longer feel secure in this fast paced environment. How can we possibly feel secure in this society when we are constantly being rushed? My entire life I have been scolded not to rush through an activity and to take my time to do something right the first time. Most people would agree on this behavior, so why don't we feel the same way about our government? There are many people complaining that we are still in Iraq. The expectations for this war were set too high to be reached. We as a nation expected the U.S. troops to walk into Iraq and clean things up within a blink of an eye because We are a super power. How can we possibly be finished with the mission we set out to do when it took hundreds of years to get America where it is today? Everything worth setting out to do takes time, whether that be love or war. I don't think it matters what stance you take on the war in Iraq. We still need to be able to acknowledge that America is going in the wrong direction. The only way we are ever going to enjoy our quality of life and build a better nation is if we stop and smell the roses once and a while. Only then will America truly be a [super power](#).

Thank you for your help in achieving this:



-Security