

# Frontiersman

*Facing the truth, however great the cost.*

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## Cars of Many Colors

Sam Aurelius Milam III

If the people of the Earth had used constructively the resources that they've thus far squandered on death and destruction then, by now, all human society would be a paradise. — from the *Frontiersman*

April 2007

Before I get started, I'll digress briefly. It's unfortunate if this article offends people but, as my Aunt Eloise used to say, some people are so thin-skinned that you wonder what keeps them from bleeding to death. Maybe they shouldn't be so sensitive. So, I'm not going to falsify the historical use of certain terms. I'm going to use terms that were common at the time of the events mentioned herein, so that I can accurately describe those events. Some of that terminology has been discouraged or prohibited in the past, although some of it seems to be gaining a new acceptance lately, albeit with some strange rules of usage. For example, why can I say "your people" but not "you people"? Why can I say "people of color" but not "colored people"? I don't know, but it reminds me of that comment by my Aunt Eloise.

Getting on with the article, I recall that, on a family trip that we took in the 1950s, in southern Louisiana, we passed a garishly painted multi-colored car filled with black people. One of my aunts remarked that only "niggers" would paint a car like that. See the first paragraph. Anyway, my aunt made her candid comment and, from the innocence of my youth, I suggested that maybe they didn't have enough paint that was all the same color. It got quiet in our car for a few seconds and then somebody changed the subject.

For good or ill, my aunt's comment, and my reply, reflected an aspect of 1950s reality in southern Louisiana. Back then, when we saw something that was improvised out of scraps but that worked anyway, we usually attributed it to black people. We called such a thing a "nigger-rig". See the first paragraph. The term reflected the situations of black people at that time or, at least, our perceptions of their situations. At that time, even if there were some black people in the South who weren't poor, we perceived all of them as being poor. Thus, the term is, if nothing else, a record of our percep-

tions. It's also a reminder of some of our past attitudes and behaviors that maybe we ought not to forget. Eventually, the use of such terms became inadvisable. Black people would object. Preacher's wives would go pale. Our mothers would shake their fingers at us, glancing nervously over their shoulders. Our fathers would mutter and mumble. So, such terms tended to fall into disuse, at least in "polite company".

The loss of a word from the language, even a "bad" word, is a bad thing. People need to be able to describe reality, even unfortunate reality. Eliminating a term that describes an evil thing doesn't necessarily eliminate the evil thing. Worse yet, removing the term could make it easier for us to pretend that the evil thing doesn't exist, and maybe never did.

Poor people, blacks among them, continued to improvise. Other people, no longer able to describe such things as nigger-rigs, tried to find a substitute term. I recall the term *afro engineering*. It didn't last. I think that it was too obviously a play on the original term and, therefore, more of a bad joke than a good substitute. I also remember *black magic*. Like *afro engineering*, it didn't last. Maybe the magicians were offended. *Wiktionary* lists *jury-rig* as a synonym for *nigger-rig*. I don't know why *jury* and *nigger* would be regarded as synonyms, or if the black people or the jury members would be more offended.

If we lack a term for something that's a cobbled together mess but that still works, then maybe the entire concept will disappear from our awareness. Remember, however, that in his novel *1984*, Orwell warned us, by way of the *Ministry of Truth* and its *Newspeak Dictionary*, that we need to preserve our powers of description. This is as good an example as any. If we're prohibited from using the term, and if there isn't a good substitute, then how are we going to describe the thing, or even to recognize it for what it is, when we see it?

In spite of decades of such turmoil over words, it doesn't seem to me that much has changed in terms of attitudes. Back then, somebody could be despised because he was black, homosexual, Jewish, or whatever. Today, somebody can be despised because he's racist, homophobic, anti-Semitic, or whatever. The prejudice is the same. The kinds of people who were bigots back then haven't become →

enlightened. They're as bigoted now as they ever were. The kinds of people who were victims back then haven't become enlightened. They've become empowered, and are now bigots themselves. Back then, groups of bigots oppressed groups of victims. Now, different groups of bigots oppress one another. Is that progress? I don't think so. As one of my old college friends said, as he was being drafted out of college during the insanity of the Vietnam war, "All is madness." And so it remains today.

Around the world, conversations and debates abound concerning the current state and the future prospects of human civilization. I believe that very few people, if anybody at all, actually understand the concept of civilization. A human civilization would consist of people who lived their lives according to the high ideals that are often professed in human societies but that are seldom if ever actually followed in those societies. Such people would not need to be protected from one another. They would be-

have honorably, with courtesy, humility, and integrity. They'd never brutalize, humiliate, or enslave one another.

Throughout the history of our species, there have been countless human societies but, so far as I'm aware, there has never yet been a human civilization. As Roger Zelazney noted in his novel *Lord of Light*, "The personal strengths and weaknesses of a leader are no true indication of the merits of his cause." Similarly, the strengths and weaknesses of our dreamers are no true indication of the merits of the dream. I'm not an exception. There are things and people that I don't like. That's probably true for everybody. Prejudice might even have some unrecognized purpose in our species, I don't know, but it appears to be pervasive. Maybe the best that we can do is to try to be courteous, try to minimize the harm that we do, and try to imagine the dream of a better world.



### Imagine the Dream

<http://frontiersman.org.uk/Videos/Videos.html#Imagine>

### Letters to the Editor

Hey Sam,

... And it's only a matter of time before they start taking a DNA cheek swab from every baby born in an American hospital and the DNA will be put into a big government database and when that baby grows up and commits a serious violent rape/murder and leaves its DNA behind the cops can quickly identify and arrest it! But it's also just a matter of time before everyone in America will be required to submit their DNA sample or else they won't be given a driver's license or a Social Security card! And Sam I don't know if you know that it's against the law to walk down the street without you having a photo ID to prove who you are! And if you don't have any, they'll arrest you and take you to jail until you can prove who your are....

—H. L., a prisoner

### An Excerpt From Wikipedia

There is no legal requirement that American residents must carry their licenses when not operating a vehicle. However, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Hiibel v. Sixth Judicial District Court of Nevada* that states are permitted to require people to truthfully state their name when a police officer asks them, and more than half of the states (as well as the District of Columbia) have enacted some variant of stop and identify statutes requiring compliance with such police inquiries.... In some states, such as California, failure to produce an identification document upon citation for *any*

### Population Studies

<http://frontiersman.org.uk/Population/Curve.html>

traffic infraction (such as riding a bicycle on the wrong side of a street) is sufficient justification for full custodial arrest....

—Address Shown Below

*Whether or not carrying ID is mandatory, I'm confident that the nazi thugs who patrol the streets can do whatever they want to do. If they happen to be storm trumppers, then it seems that ID is irrelevant. You might just disappear anyway.*

*You know that you're living in a police state when you can be arrested for riding a bicycle on the wrong side of the street. I suppose that they'll seize the bicycle under the civil assets forfeiture legislation.*

—editor

Dear Sam:

I was born in the U.S.A., in the early nineteen fifties. Like most "baby boomers" of that era, I was brainwashed to believe that capitalism was the best economic system ever invented. In the late nineteen sixties, influential authors such as Ayn Rand and Milton Friedman promoted the idea that, if a capitalist economy seemed to have problems, those problems were always caused by government interference in the operation of the "free market". To somewhat oversimplify, I was taught that everyone either producing, selling, or buying in a free market would work to maximize their personal wealth, and that would result in a →

maximally wealthy society for all. By using laws to force people to behave in ways that they would not freely choose to behave, governments prevented the maximal production of wealth.

By the early nineteen sixties, economists who favored unrestricted capitalism had come up with a “recipe” of economic policies that, if fully implemented, would supposedly create a capitalist utopia.

This recipe was nicknamed “Neo-Liberalism”. (This nickname is highly controversial among economists and political scientists, because they claim that it is not appropriate, however, popular opinion does not always follow the opinion of “experts”.)

The following are the main points of Neo-Liberalism.

1. Taxes should be minimized or eliminated.
2. Regulation of business should be minimized or eliminated.
3. Government spending on social welfare should be minimized or eliminated.
4. Government’s only justified functions are to protect the country’s borders, and to provide law and order within the borders.
5. Governments should follow policies that make international trade easier, such as reducing tariffs, and stabilizing the currency.

In 1973, Chile was the first nation to adopt this plan. Due to various local conditions, it was impossible to implement Neo-liberalism in a complete, pure way, but significant changes were made to the Chilean system.

In the late 1970s, Margaret Thatcher spearheaded a project to implement the Neo-Liberal plan in Great Britain.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan was elected to the presidency of the United States, and with the help of strong public opinion, he was able to move the U.S.A. in a Neo Liberal direction. In the 1980s and 1990s, many countries in different parts of the world adopted parts of the Neo Liberal agenda as public policy.

More than fifty years have passed since Neo-liberalism became the orthodox economic ideology in capitalist countries. It’s time to ask — what happened? Were Neo-Liberalism’s promises kept?

Chile’s economic progress underwent a deep examination and analysis in the late 1980s,

about fifteen years after the push to deregulate began. Analysts found that the reductions in regulations and taxes had significantly helped trade and investments, so in general, the rich became richer. The effects on the middle class were less beneficial. Some members of the middle class gained wealth, but others stagnated, and others lost wealth. During the time period under consideration, more than sixty percent of Chile’s population were classified as workers or as impoverished. The increases in wealth that accrued to the majority were statistically insignificant. Essentially, the poor stayed poor.

I cannot claim to have studied the world’s economies in depth. From what I have read and investigated, the effects of Neo-Liberalism seem to be similar everywhere. The rich get richer and the poor stay poor. Why do you think this is? The theory seems so plausible.

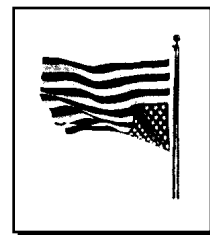
—Sir Donald the Elusive

- *I can suggest a better “recipe” for so-called Neo-Liberalism: make everything voluntary.*
- *Political science is a contradiction in terms.*
- *When I was young, my father told me that never in my entire life had I ever experienced a peacetime economy. The United States, he said, had been continuously in a state of emergency, one emergency or another, for my entire lifetime.*
- *Every so-called deregulation scheme that I’ve ever seen was actually a reregulation scheme. Nothing was ever actually deregulated. Things were only regulated differently.*
- *When I was young, my father told me that if you took all of the money in the world and divided it equally among all of the people in the world then, in ten years, all of the people who have it now would have it again. True? False? It suggests to me that the style of the economy is irrelevant. The distribution of wealth and poverty is determined not by the style of the economy but by human greed and human cunning, which can ruin any economy. Furthermore, all presently existing economic systems, no matter how benevolent or how malicious, are currently being overwhelmed by overpopulation and overproduction. The debate about economic systems appears to have become irrelevant. Survival is now the issue.*

—editor

### References and Additional Reading

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Nation in Distress

A world is supported by four things:  
The learning of the wise, the justice of  
the great, the prayers of the righteous  
and the valor of the brave. But all  
these are as nothing without a ruler  
who knows the art of ruling.

—from *Dune*, 1965  
by Frank Herbert

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—editor

### Websites

<http://frontiersman.org.uk/>  
<http://moonlight-flea-market.com/>  
<http://pharos.org.uk/>  
<http://sam-aurelius-milam-iii.org.uk/>  
<http://sovereign-library.org.uk/>

### The United States in 1900

Statements Not Verified. Original Source Unknown.  
Forwarded by W. F., of Idaho Falls, Idaho.

- Plutonium, insulin, and antibiotics hadn't yet been discovered. Scotch tape, crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't yet been invented.
- Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all

available over the counter at corner drugstores. According to one pharmacist, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and the bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."

- Drive-by shootings, in which teenage boys galloped down the street on horses and started randomly shooting at houses, carriages, or anything else that caught their fancy, were an on-going problem in Denver and in other cities in the west.
- Most women washed their hair only once a month and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo. ∞

### Signs That You're a Hillbilly

Original Source Unknown. Forwarded by Don G.

- You named your dog after Slim Whitman.
- You have a very special baseball cap, just for formal occasions. ∞

### Frontiersman

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—Sam Aurelius Milam III, editor

Thyme weights awe gnome Anne.