

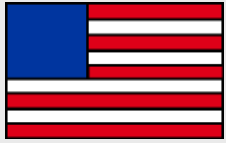
INTRODUCTION TO

TNN



THE NEIGHBORHOODS NETWORK

PART 1 – THE PROBLEM



SESSION CONTENTS

TNN

PART 1 - THE PROBLEM

1. What is Democracy?
2. The American Democratic System.
3. What Happened?

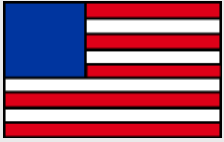
PART 2 - THE SOLUTION

1. The Solution: Organize!
2. A Network of Neighborhoods.
3. TNN is that Network.



WHAT IS DEMOCRACY? TNN



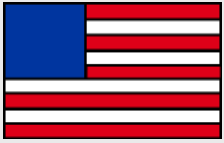


WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?

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Democracy means much more than:

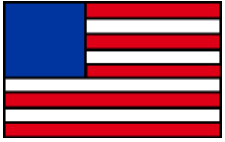
1. **electing leaders** to rule
 2. **pluralism**
 3. right to **petition**
 4. **consent** (submission) of the governed
- Many tyrannies have these characteristics.



WHAT IS DEMOCRACY? TNN

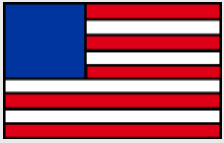
The word **democracy** means what its Greek roots say:

- “**demos**” the people” and
- “**cracy**” rule by
- – that is “rule by the people.”



AMERICAN DEMOCRACY TNN





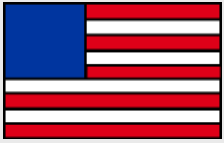
JEFFERSON'S LETTER

TNN

Not all people, even in America, want democracy.

Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to Henry Lee,
August 10, 1824 said this:

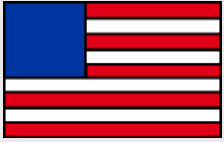
“Men by their constitutions are **naturally divided into two parties**:



JEFFERSON'S LETTER

TNN

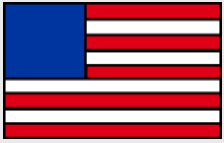
1. **Those who fear and distrust the people**, and wish to draw all powers from them into the hands of the higher classes.
2. **Those who identify themselves with the people**, have confidence in them, cherish and consider them as the most honest and safe, although not the most wise, depository of the public interests.



JEFFERSON'S LETTER

TNN

In every country these parties exist, and in every one where they are free to think, speak, and write, they will declare themselves.

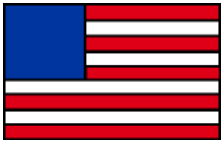


JEFFERSON'S LETTER

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Call them, therefore, liberals and serviles, Jacobins and ultras, whigs and tories, republicans and federalists, aristocrats and democrats, or by whatever name you please, they are the same parties still, and pursue the same object.

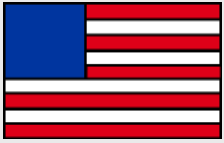
The last appellation of **aristocrats** and **democrats** is the true one expressing the essence of all.”



THE AMERICAN SYSTEM

TNN



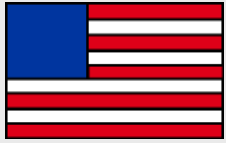


THE AMERICAN SYSTEM TNN

The Founding Fathers intended that **power be held by the people.**

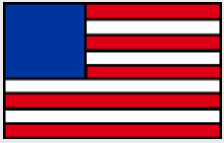
The American system was designed so that the **citizenry determines policy** – generally what is to be done and how.

The **government**, composed of those elected by the people and representing the people, is then to **implement that policy.**



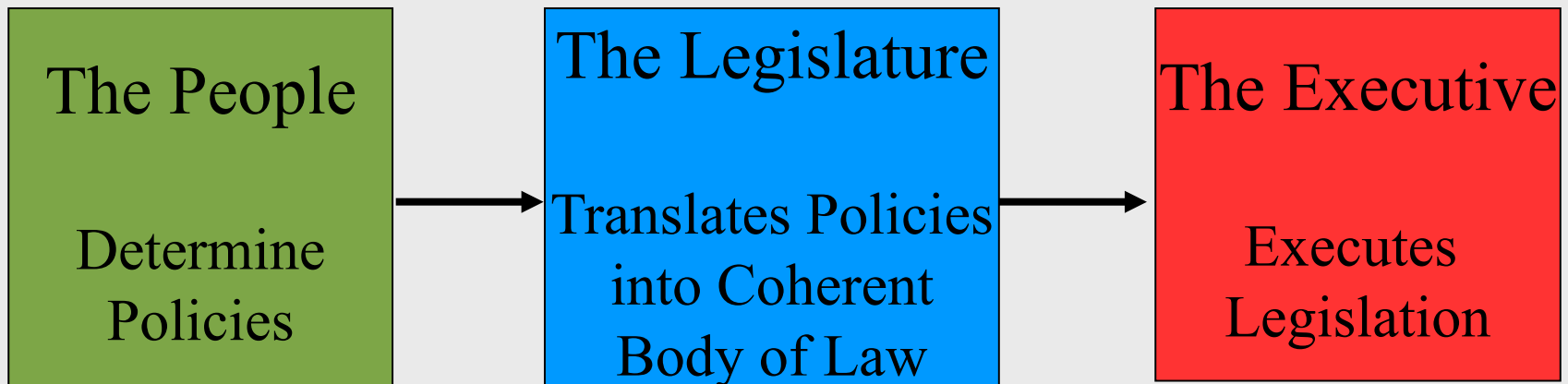
THE AMERICAN SYSTEM TNN

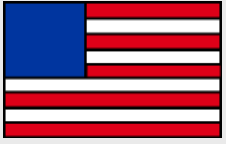
1. The **citizenry** determines policy – “what is to be done.”
2. The **legislatures** legislate that policy into coherent law.
3. The **executives** administer that legislation into reality.
4. The **Supreme Court** ensures compliance with the US Constitution.



HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO WORK TNN

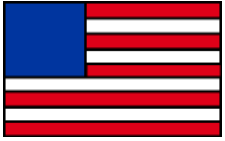
The following diagram shows the American System as it was **intended to be**:





THE AMERICAN SYSTEM TNN

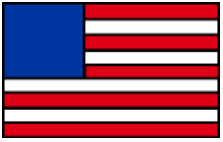
1. In America, the **politicians** are not to make policy.
2. They are merely **public servants**. Their duty is to legislate, then implement the “public will.”



WHAT HAPPENED?

TNN



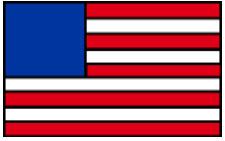


WHAT HAPPENED?

TNN



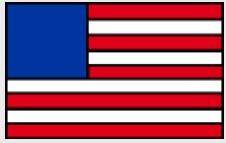
A REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY, FREE ENTERPRISE
and OPPORTUNITY, CIVIL and RELIGIOUS LIBERTIES



WHAT HAPPENED?

TNN



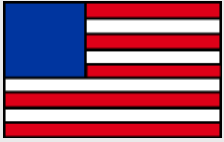


WHAT HAPPENED?

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The Founding Fathers did not and could not anticipate:

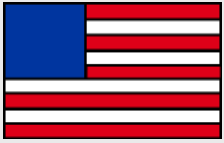
1. **Concentration** of wealth and power during Industrialization.
2. A centralized **Mass Media** based on Radio and TV.
3. The **loss of** genuine, intimate, everyday **community**.
4. The enthronement of **corporations** in the Gilded Age.



WHAT HAPPENED?

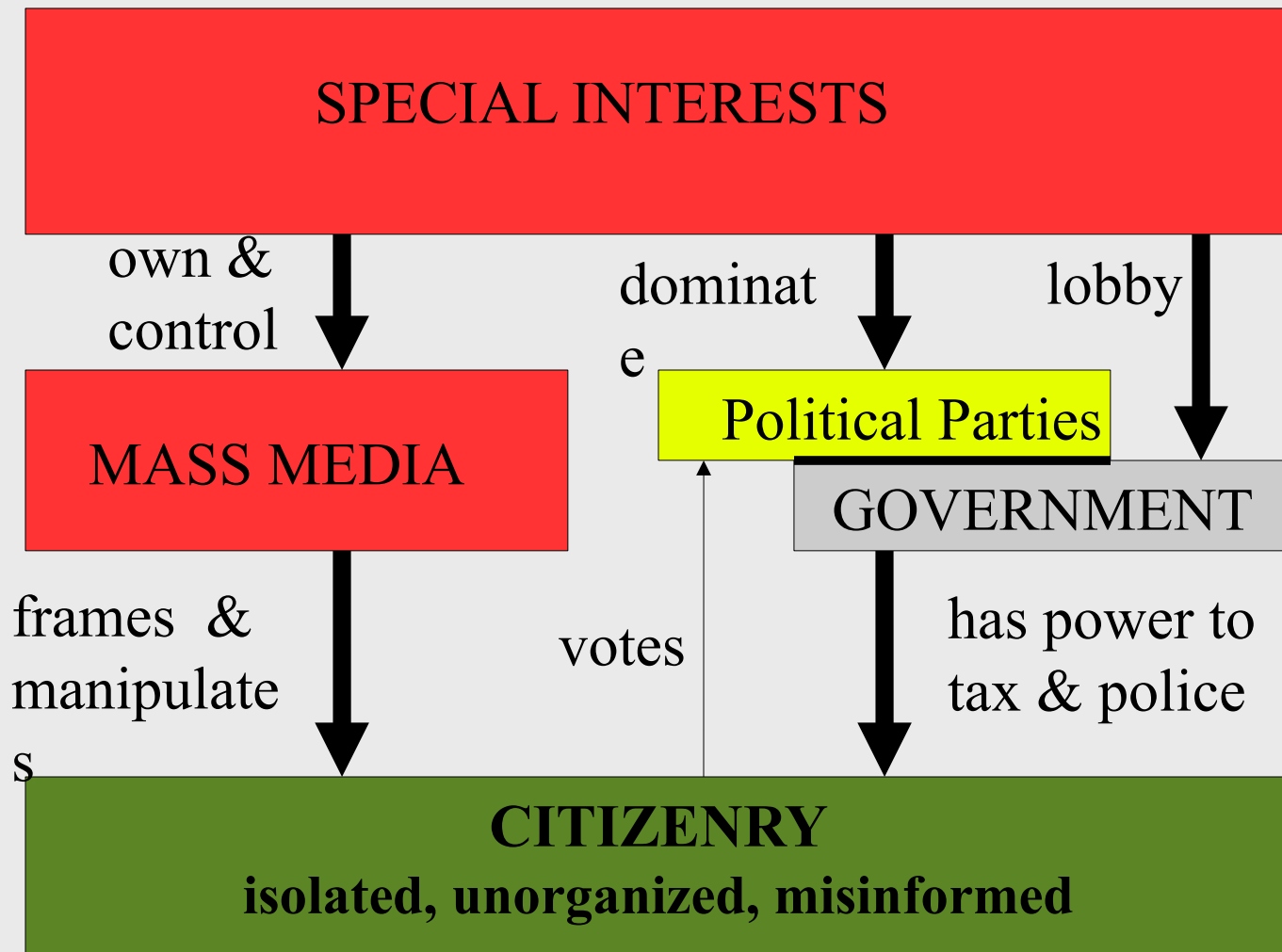
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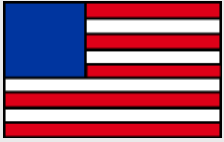
The unmanipulated **communities of people** that once shared information, formed the public will, and elected representatives to government from among their own – are **gone**.



WHAT HAPPENED?

TNN

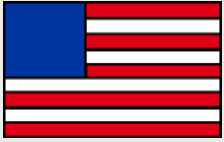




WHAT HAPPENED?

TNN

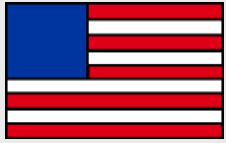
Now we are **isolated families and individuals** subject to manipulation by those proficient in using the media to advance their goals, their objectives, their policies.



WHAT HAPPENED?

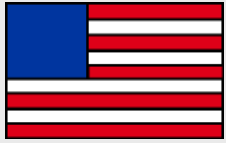
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IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN THAT!



ITS EVEN WORSE THAN THAT TNN

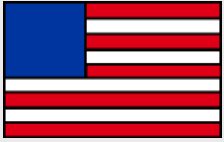
1. Ideologies, personalities and banal generalities **polarize us.**
2. We are **oblivious** to real, practical solutions.
3. We are **driven from one another**, not to our “common ground.”
4. We **act out of fear**, against ourselves, against our common interest.



ITS EVEN WORSE THAN THAT TNN

We've been “partitioned up” into mutually **hostile ideological camps** that cannot come together to find “common ground.”

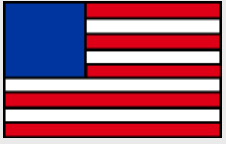
The Roman Empire used, and all colonial powers use, the same stratagem. It is otherwise known as: “**Divide and Conquer.**”



WHAT HAPPENED?

TNN

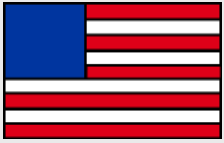
THE VIEW FROM THE POLITICIAN



VIEW FROM THE POLITICIAN TNN

Politicians are forced to be “two faced.”

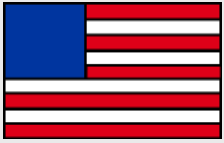
1. While “**on the job**” they must pursue the objectives of those who come to them on a day-to-day basis – or incur their wrath.
2. Yet they **pretend** to represent the public.



VIEW FROM THE POLITICIAN TNN

Each politician must work to ensure:

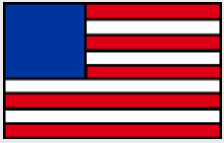
1. Good **publicity** over the mass media.
2. Campaign **contributions** for the next election.
3. **Peaceful relations** with other politicians.



VIEW FROM THE POLITICIAN TNN

Each must **keep the special interests from:**

1. Enticing rival politicians to run against him or her.
2. Using information about his or her private life against him or her.

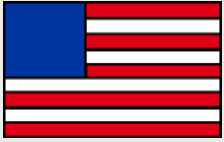


VIEW FROM THE POLITICIAN TNN

To do that, he or she must **serve** the special interests well.

Furthermore, each politician knows that the **mass media** will almost never inform the general public of his or her specific service to those interests.

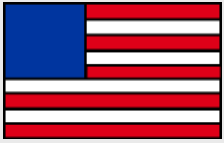
All in all, even an **angel**, if elected, would become corrupt and cynical.



WHAT HAPPENED?

TNN

THE VIEW FROM THE VOTER

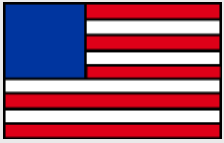


VIEW FROM THE VOTER

TNN

WHAT SHOULD BE:

- 1.The public develops a **mandate** for each public office (a list of legislative or administrative items to enact).
- 2.A candidate is **selected** and elected to pursue the mandate.
- 3.The public **monitors** the officials performance.
- 4.The public servant is **recalled** if he or she doesn't pursue the public will.

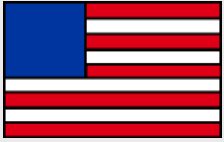


VIEW FROM THE VOTER

TNN

WHAT IS:

1. We want to vote on **issues**, but can only vote for personalities.
2. There's only a **weak link** between issues and candidates.
3. Politicians talk banal **generalities** to us, not specifics.
4. We **don't know** what the politicians are really doing.
5. We don't **choose** the candidates. Somebody else does.
6. Generally, we can't **recall** the public servants.



SESSION CONTENTS

TNN

END of PART 1