

BP Oil Spill, Self Government and States' Rights

by James Ronald Kennedy

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The BP Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico threatens unimaginable damage to not only the coast of Southern Gulf States, but also threatens to destroy a way of life enjoyed by generations of people living on Louisiana's Gulf Coast. In an effort to protect the people of Louisiana, the state encouraged local people to begin efforts to capture the oil before it could invade Louisiana's wetlands. In response certain energetic locals devised a system of sixteen barges and began using them to vacuum up the oil. As the State's governor noted "These barges work." The day after the successful deployment of these barges the Federal government, via the Coast Guard, "ordered" the locals to shut down their operation! It seems that the barges had not been properly inspected to make sure there were enough life vests on board. The governor correctly noted that he had no authority to overrule the Coast Guard—unfortunately, under the current system of Federal supremacy, the governor's assessment is correct. The greater problem is that neither this governor nor any other politician is willing to admit that the current system of Federal supremacy is unconstitutional and then offer a solution—a way to nullify Federal tyranny.

Local self-government was an integral part of America's original, constitutionally limited Republic of Republics. Thanks to the likes of Hamilton, Lincoln, and FDR, that day no longer exists. Today we live in the era of Federal supremacy—the ruling elite in Washington, D.C. have assigned "we the people" to the role of dutiful supplicants before

our masters in Washington, D.C. The ruling elite in Washington, D.C ultimately controls all social, economic, and political issues both great and small.

BP's oil spill is not the first time the State of Louisiana has had a "run-in" with arrogant Federal supremacists. During the flooding that resulted in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, officials called for local boat owners to come and help assist in the rescue efforts. Numerous citizens were trapped in their flooded homes and in danger of drowning. Fellow citizens (aka the unorganized militia) came to the aid of their neighbors. But again Federal supremacists, this time under the authority of FEMA, stepped in and halted the rescue efforts because the Federal bureaucrats could not verify that the boats had appropriate permits, licenses, and insurance.

The insanity of Federal supremacy does not stop in Louisiana—it is evident throughout the country. Today, for example, the supreme Federal government is attempting to prevent the State of Arizona from defending itself against invasion! Even though Article I, Section 10 [3] of the Constitution acknowledges the right of a State to engage in War if it is being, or is in imminent danger of being, invaded! But as we all should know by now, in the era of Federal supremacy, the U.S. Constitution is meaningless as an instrument to defend rights reserved to "we the people" of the once sovereign state.

The time has come for Americans to admit that the current system of Federal supremacy is unconstitutional, illegitimate, and unworthy of the devotion of those who love liberty. "We the people" will never reclaim liberty until "we the people" of the

Sovereign States reclaim the right to be the final judge as to the limits of Federal powers.

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