

Personal Secession & the Role of Entrepreneurship

Kent Misegades, Mises Club Carolinas

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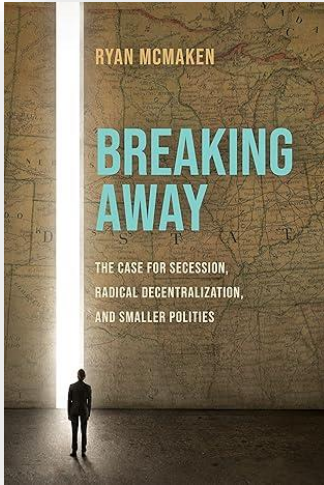
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*“The main thrust of my thinking is: what **private mechanisms**, or perhaps state/local government mechanisms, are available to protect hapless dollar holders against a precipitous loss in value?”* Jeff Deist, August 2024

Some References



Breaking Away: The Case for Secession, Radical Decentralization, and Smaller Politics

Ryan McMaken, Mises Institute, 2022.

Secession Begins at Home

Mises Daily, 1/30/2015, Adapted from a talk presented by Jeff Deist at the Houston Mises Circle, January 24, 2015.

Colonialism, Self-Determination, and Secession

Ryan McMaken, Mises University, 2024.

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Personal Secession: Distancing one's person, family, or business from government intervention. Examples: **Mennonites & Miseseans**.

How to Secede Personally - 1

Education: Teach your children outside of government schools and government colleges. Do not use government-backed loans, scholarships, etc. as they always come with strings attached.

Career Preparation: Young adults should choose a career by age 16. Many options outside college are available today for career preparation, best are apprenticeships. Attend the Fall Club Meetup to learn more about these.

Employment: Do not work for any government office or agency. Avoid work that is dependent on government contracts or close government oversight, including pseudo-government agencies such as monopolistic power utilities (eg Duke, CEO Lynn Good)
(KPM, Bechtel Power & Jimmy Carter)

How to Secede Personally - 2

Self-Employment: Offers the highest level of self-determination and immunity from government intervention. Can often be done at home and with trusted family members. Start small & be patient.

Residence: Rural communities with minimal governance and like-minded provide the best environment for those seeking maximum Liberty. Combine with home schooling, homesteading, and home businesses, self-defense, etc.

Dependencies: Become as self-sufficient as possible with regard to food, water, fuel, cash, firearms, and physical security at home. Resist being reliant on government in the event of a natural disaster, bank crisis, or the like. *(Jeff Deist)*

How to Secede Personally - 3

Secede from intellectual isolation. Talk to like-minded friends, family, and neighbors — whether physically or virtually — to spread liberty and cultivate relationships and alliances. The state prefers to have us atomized, without a strong family structure or social network. *(Jeff Deist)*

Secede from mainstream media, which promotes the state in a million different ways. Ditch cable, ditch CNN, ditch the major newspapers, and find your own sources of information in this internet age. Take advantage of a luxury previous generations did not enjoy. *(Jeff Deist)*

How to Secede Personally - 4

Secede from the US dollar by owning physical precious metals, by owning assets denominated in foreign currencies, and by owning assets abroad. *(Jeff Deist)*

Secede from the federal tax and regulatory regimes by organizing your business and personal affairs to be as tax efficient and unobtrusive as possible. *(Jeff Deist)*

Secede from the legal system, by legally protecting your assets from rapacious lawsuits and probate courts as much as possible. *(Jeff Deist)* For instance, favor agility over patents.

Secede from the state healthcare racket by taking control of your health and questioning medical orthodoxy. *(Jeff Deist)*

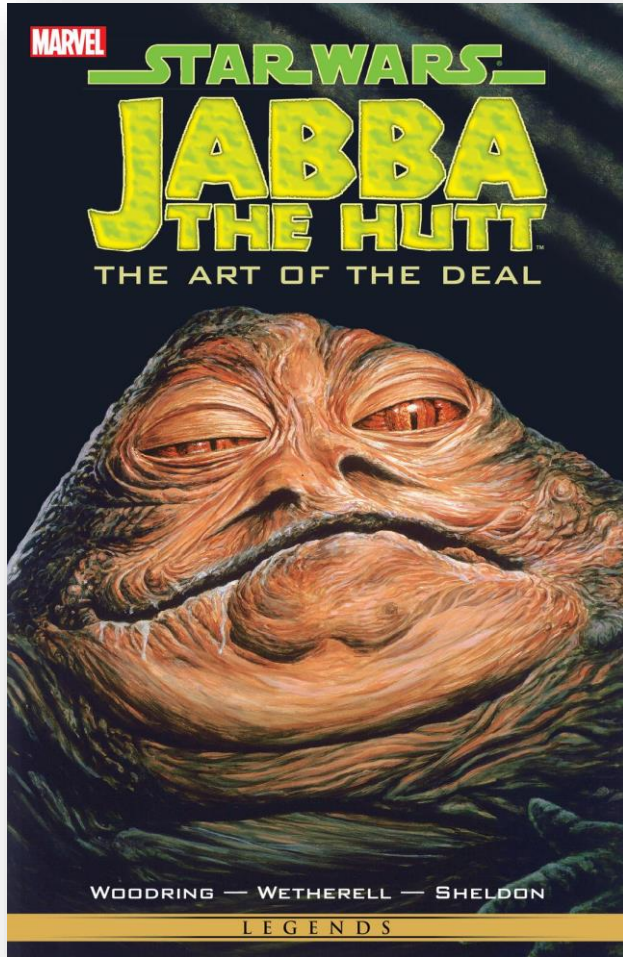
How to Secede Personally - 5

Strive to live and work debt-free. Government and institutional banking want/need dependent subjects. Debt is an easy mechanism to control our personal choices and our businesses. Live / work below your means. Save. Invest in yourself. Avoid credit cards & revolving accounts that add to your monthly overhead. **If you have no debt, credit scores are irrelevant.**

Homes: Rural land is cheap. Buy a fixer-upper and fix it up with sweat equity. Live in a used RV or trailer while you build a cabin or kit home. Pay in cash. Children need love and attention, not luxury.

Businesses: Buy a vacant building and turn it into a business office / shop. Start a business in your garage. When you run out of space, add on to the garage or move into the barn (how HP started). Buy used equipment & improve it yourself (how Aviator Brewery started). Pay in cash.

Starve the Beast!



- Avoid all activities that fuel government and its surrogates.
- Educate children outside its schools.
- Travel by car or private airplane.
- Avoid toll roads – US Highways are good.
- Visit private parks instead of state and national, eg Mt. Vernon & Red Hill, VA.
- Reject government subsidies, SBA, etc.
- Reject government “gifts”, eg stimulus \$.
- Live in rural areas with minimal government “services”.
- Ignore the Nanny State at all levels.

The Role of Entrepreneurship

- **Self-employment:** provides the greatest levels of self-determination and fulfillment, providing needed products and services that improve other peoples' lives.
- **Risks:** are largely imaginary. Take the first step, gather trusted advisors, and learn by doing. Fears will dissolve quickly.
- **Location:** Entrepreneurs have the greatest flexibility in choice of where they prefer to live, especially in this day of the Internet and acceptance of home-based businesses and virtual workforce networks. However, there is no substitute for personal contact with employees, suppliers, and customers.
- **When combined** with home or local private schooling, affords families a high quality of living and ideal nurturing of children, who can be brought into the family business at a very early age.

HARIBO & ULINE – Kenosha I-94

Two Private, Formerly Home-Based Businesses



How the Mennonites Do It

History: Originated in the Anabaptist movements of the early 1500s, named after Dutch cleric Menno Simons. The majority of the early Mennonite followers, rather than fighting, survived by fleeing to neighboring states where ruling families were tolerant of their beliefs, exhibiting their **personal secession**. The largest populations today are found in North, Central and South America.

Orthodoxy: varies from Swartzenruber Amish to those indiscernible from non-Mennonites.

Employment: most are self-employed or in Mennonite businesses. 1/3rd in agriculture and 2/3rd in manufacturing, retail, services.

Mennonite population: doubles every 17 years!

Two Mennonite Businesses



*Dynamic Aviation
Bridgewater, VA
Specialty Aviation
Services*



*Waldemar Design & Machine (WDM),
Spencer, TN Sheet Metal Rolling Equipment*



Meetup #10, Sugar Mountain, NC 8/9-11/24

Conclusions

- “Most of all, **secede from the mindset** that government is all-powerful or too formidable an opponent to be overcome.” (*Jeff Deist*)
- “When faced with an obstacle, **go around it**, under it, or over it, then run as fast as you can. Your opposition will give up in despair.” (*Bob Luddy*) (*E. Ray Moore*)
- The **Mises Club Carolinas** and the greater community of Liberty-loving Miseseans / Christians / Libertarians provides us all with an enormous support group willing to help each other to advance our lives, businesses, and neighborhoods.
- “**Liberty** is always freedom from the government.” (*Mises*)
Minimize its influence over your life and enjoy the **Blessings of Liberty and fulfillment of Self-Determination.**