

The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag. The stars are a golden-brown color, and the stripes are a deep red and a light tan. The flag appears to be waving or draped, creating a sense of movement and texture.

FIGHT
THE
GOOD
FIGHT

J I M J O R D A N

Friend,

Congressman Jim Jordan graduated from Leadership Institute training and went on to do great things as Chair of the House Freedom Caucus. He's a true conservative hero.

In May 2019, Congressman Jordan visited the Leadership Institute to share his thoughts on the state of our country and the pressing threats facing conservatives.

I recently thought back to Congressman Jordan's words, in light of the left's increasing assaults on freedom. His talk resonates even more strongly today.

So I asked my staff to put together this eBook based on Congressman Jordan's speech and the experiences he shared.

I hope you find it as inspiring as I did, and that you'll share it with other conservatives.

Cordially,

Morton C. Blackwell
President, Leadership Institute

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT

Congressman Jim Jordan

I learned a long time ago, you can't accomplish anything of significance, anything of meaning, unless you're willing to get off the sidelines and get in the game and do the hard work and the sacrifice and the discipline and dedication that's always required to accomplish anything of meaning or significance.

When you do that, when you get off the sideline and actually step into the fight, you're taking a risk.



The biggest risk is that you're going to be attacked. And certainly as a conservative, you're going to be attacked by the press. I tell my colleagues in the House Freedom Caucus, “If the press isn't saying something bad about you, you're not doing anything any good.” So understand, that's the way it works.

I often share a line from Cal Thomas, the syndicated columnist. He had a great line when talking about normal people like all of us and the elite national media, like the Washington Post and the New York Times. Cal Thomas says,

"I get up every morning. I read my Bible and the New York Times, so I can see what each side's up to."



There's a lot of truth to that.

Understand that from the start. If you come from a conservative perspective and you're fighting for the things that make America the best country ever, you're going to be attacked. I want to thank you for doing that.

When I say the left is crazy, it is true. They have completely lost it. They want the marginal tax rate to 70%, 90%. They want to get rid of all private sector healthcare. You can look at the life issue, what we've seen happen in certain states.

Think about just the immigration law. I mean, think about just those four statements. You got Earl Blumenauer who says, "Abolish ICE." You had the candidate for the Democrat party when they ran in 2016, Secretary Clinton say she believes in a borderless hemisphere. You have the Speaker of the House who said, "Walls are immoral." And then of course, you had Stacy Abrams say that she's okay with non-citizens voting. I mean, those are some of the most radical positions I've ever seen.

139 Democrats on the House floor voted to let 16-year-olds vote. Now, I always think the best follow-up to that is think back to when you were 16, right? I mean, what they want to do in election law, they want taxpayers to finance all elections.

Such a deal! You get to use your tax dollars to help keep the people in the swamp, who created the swamp in the first place. Wow. Such a bargain, right?

They have the most radical positions I've ever seen. And that is why it's so important that we continue to step forward and fight for the things that make our country so special.

The reason I think the left is so crazy is they don't start from the same premise we do. They really don't. And I think this is important to understand.

I believe that we live in the greatest nation in history. The left doesn't start there. They think America is just one of the 190 some countries on the planet. They don't view America in the same way that we do. And when you start from the wrong premise, that leads to all kinds of problems.

When you boil it all down,
freedom is under attack right now in this country.



I'll give you a couple of examples.

Let's start first with this social media, big tech world.

Last summer I learned a term I didn't know. Last summer our staff told me Twitter is shadow banning you and a couple of our colleagues. It basically made it more difficult for people who were on Twitter to access your account and see whatever you might be saying. It turned out that there are 435 members

of the House. There are obviously, 100 members of the Senate, so 535. Four, only four members of Congress -- Gates, Meadows, Nunez, and Jordan -- were being shadow banned by Twitter.

Of course, Jack Dorsey, the CEO of Twitter, when he was asked about it, he said, "Well, this was just a glitch in our algorithm."

I was doing a TV thing, and I said, "Glitch in your algorithm. Well, what'd you put in the algorithm, the names Gates, Meadows, Nunez, Jordan?" I mean, do they think we're crazy? You just have to pick four conservative guys who were working on this whole FBI targeting and what was going on there.

Do you know how many searches a day happen on Google?

Five billion a day.

And what comes to the top of the search could have an impact on all kinds of things. I think it's important that we highlight the power that these big tech companies have, and understand the threat to liberty, the threat to freedom that is part of this.

Second is of course, what's happening on college campuses and universities.

This is the whole safe space, free speech zone issue. Some of you are living it. We did a series of hearings in Congress, when we were in control. In the oversight committee, we did these joint hearings where we focused on these issues. The first one,

we had Ben Shapiro and Adam Corolla come in and talk. Shapiro was typical -- great communicator and sharp guy. And Corolla was just hilarious.

They had this new thing called bias response teams.

It's like a bunch of tattletales who run around campus, and if you say something politically incorrect, you get in trouble. Maybe you could be disciplined for it. It could go on your official record.

It's scary. It's truly scary.

Some fancy name for what we would call tattletales. I'm old enough to remember. I thought you went to college to do politically incorrect things. I thought that's what it was about. But now you get in big trouble for it.

We had several professors at the hearing, and I said to this one professor, near the end of the hearing, "Professor, on a college campus, can a safe space and a free speech zone be at the same location?"

I said, "Or is it like one of those Venn diagrams where there's a little bit of overlap? So you can have one foot in a safe space, one foot in a free speech zone, and there's a little bit of real estate in between that's safe and free."

It gets crazy. I said to the other professor, "Professor in a safe space, on a college campus, could I say this sentence, 'Donald Trump is President,'" and his response began with, "Well congressmen, it depends."

So I interrupted him and I said, "He's the president. He was elected on November 8th, 2016. It's a fact. He won the Electoral College. He lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. There is no, it depends about it. It's a fact."

This is what happens when the left goes down this crazy trail that they want to take our country down.

I haven't even got to the biggest concern.

The biggest threat to freedom has always been government. Big government, federal government.



It was only about six, seven years ago where we learned that an agency that has the power and influence over people's lives that the IRS does, systematically -- for a sustained period of time -- targeted people just like all of us in this room. They did it. And they got caught. They were going after conservative tea party groups, conservative groups around the country.

I thought that was the worst thing I'd ever seen until the FBI.

The FBI took one party's opposition research document, dressed it up, made it appear to be legitimate intelligence, took it to a secret court, and got a secret warrant to take away the fundamental rights that American citizens have when they spied on an associate of the other party's campaign.

That is not supposed to happen in America, but it did. When I talk about freedom being under attack, it's serious. This is how crazy the left has gotten.

I would just encourage conservatives to think about how our task has never changed.

It's why Morton Blackwell and his team train folks at the Leadership Institute. Our task is to defend the things that make America special.



I love the verse where Paul the old guy is giving advice to Timothy, the young guy -- 2 Timothy 4:7 “Fight the good fight. Finish the course. Keep the faith.”

I like the verse because I feel like it's a verse written for America. When you think about those words -- “fight,” “finish,” “keep” -- you associate them with America. They're words of action, words of energy.

I always say, America, we're not wimpy timid people. We're Americans, we're people of action, we're people of energy. It's who we've always been. And so I think that's a verse written for us and I think it should be our challenge, our charge, as we do what we need to do to protect this great country.

When you fight for the things that matter, it'll be hard. It's never easy.



Our job is defending the principles that matter. It's not about offending anyone, but it is about standing strong and standing firm. Do it with a smile. I tell people all the time, "We got the truth on our side, we might as well smile about it."

Vice President Pence has a great line. He says, "I'm a conservative, and I'm not mad about it." So let's defend things that count, but do it with a smile on our face, recognize that it will be hard.

Don't talk about Socialism.
Talk about the loss of Freedom.



What we're seeing play out in Venezuela is the loss of freedom. When you take away free enterprise, and you take away capitalism, you take away liberty. There's a reason that we call it the House Freedom Caucus. In the end, it's about freedom.

I heard a man in a conference who worked for Mario Diaz-Balart. He got on a boat and got out of Cuba. And he said, "I was leaving free education and free healthcare because I wanted freedom." Big difference. We need to talk about the loss of freedom.

I was in the Soviet Union in 1987. I was in Cuba in '88 and '90. And I tell people, “You go to places like that, you thank the good Lord you live here in America.”

Understand this, it is not about the people. People are people. We're all in need of God's grace. It's about a system that takes away freedom. When you don't have capitalism, free markets, free enterprise, liberty, freedom, fundamental rights protected -- bad things happen. We are seeing it play out on TV right now in Venezuela. So our charge is talk about what the loss of freedom looks like, and how great we've had it in this country.

We do that, we'll be just fine.

- Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH)